

About UIL High School Academics

The University Interscholastic League offers the most comprehensive literary and academic competitive program in the nation. It offers more than any other UIL division in terms of activities, with 22 high school and 18 elementary and junior high contests. More than a half million students participate in UIL academic contests.

These activities, which exist to complement the academic curriculum, are designed to motivate students as they acquire higher levels of knowledge, to challenge students to confront issues of importance, and to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of specific skills.

Elementary/Junior High Program

In 1913, the first year for which there are complete records of contests offered, the Interscholastic League offered declamation for the students (boys) ninth grade and below. This was the first junior high contest offered by the League. By 1914 girls under the age of 14 had been invited to take part in the declamation contest. Junior High and Sub-Junior (for students below the age of 10) spelling had been added to the program by 1920.

In 1923, music memory was offered for students below the eighth grade. Number sense contest began in 1924. The contest was open only to students in grades five through seven in the city, and to all rural school students.

Today modern oratory, oral reading and impromptu speaking have replaced declamation in the League's elementary and junior high speech program. Spelling, music memory and number sense have been retained and have been joined by contests in storytelling, ready writing and picture memory.