

# Prodigy State Challenge™

★ 2025/2026 Manual



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# Welcome to the Prodigy State Challenge™

Welcome to the **2025–2026 Prodigy State Challenge™**, where math becomes a movement and your school becomes a team!

The **Prodigy State Challenge™** is a nationwide, school-based math competition designed to celebrate learning, boost engagement, and bring joy into the classroom. Over eight months, students work together to climb class, school, and state leaderboards by answering math questions in Prodigy. They compete for a share of more than \$10 million in total prize value, including over \$200K in tech grants.

## What's new (and what you should know)

We listened to your feedback from last year and made key improvements to make this year's experience more impactful, more equitable, and easier to participate in:

- ✓ **Tiered competition:** Schools are placed in one of three tiers based on enrollment: Heroic (small schools), Mythical (medium schools), and Titan (large schools). This ensures you're competing against schools of similar size. Schools cannot move tiers during the competition.
- ✓ **Top 5 advance:** Each month, the top 5 schools in each state and in each tier earn a spot in the Prodigy National Cup, held in May 2026, the final showdown for the ultimate title and grand prizes.
- ✓ **No repeat winners:** Each month offers a new opportunity to win. To ensure broader celebration and fairness, each school may win only one State Challenge. Once a school wins 1st place in a State Challenge, it will not compete in any remaining State Challenges that school year.
- ✓ **Celebration kits:** Only the 1st-place schools in each state and in each tier will receive a celebration kit containing Prodigy swag to recognize and reward their achievement. Digital in-game rewards will still be awarded to schools that place 2nd through 5th in each state and in each tier.
- ✓ **Simplified resources:** A one-stop-shop digital hub includes everything you need, from printable posters and social shareables to tracking tools and webinar support.
- ✓ **More visibility:** Look out for early emails, in-game updates, and student prompts to build excitement from day one.



As a reminder, if your class uses Prodigy, **you're already participating in the Prodigy State Challenge™!** Whether you're joining for the first time or returning from last year, we're excited to have you with us. Together, we're turning math into a team sport and a nationwide celebration.

# Competition timeline

The Prodigy State Challenge™ runs monthly from **September 15 to April 30**, giving schools eight monthly opportunities to climb the leaderboards, win prizes, and qualify for the Prodigy National Cup™!

Each month, schools compete in their size tier—Heroic (small schools), Mythical (medium schools), and Titan (large schools)—to be crowned monthly champions. **Each month is a fresh start, so even if you don't win, there's always another shot!**

Monthly Competition Windows	
Month 1	September 15 – September 30
Month 2	October 1 – October 31
Month 3	November 1 – November 30
Month 4	December 1 – December 31
Month 5	January 1 – January 31
Month 6	February 1 – February 28
Month 7	March 1 – March 31
Month 8	April 1 – April 30



**Important:** Monthly winners will be notified via email at the start of each month following the competition window.



## Prodigy National Cup™: May 1 – May 14

The top 5 schools each state and in each tier during any State Challenge will automatically qualify for the **Prodigy National Cup™**, the final competition for the ultimate titles, tech grants, and prizes.

Even if your school doesn't qualify for the Prodigy National Cup™, we'll still be running fun competitions with surprise rewards during this final period to keep the excitement going, because every student deserves a reason to celebrate their hard work.

# Understanding the tier system & competition structure

## Introducing: State Challenge tiers

Thanks to your feedback, we're making the State Challenge even more fair and fun. Schools will now compete in three tiers based on grades 1–8 NCES enrollment numbers:



Once your school is placed in a tier, it'll remain there for the entire school year including every State Challenge and the Prodigy National Cup™!

## Competition structure

To give more schools a shot at the top, here's how State Challenge and Prodigy National Cup™ results will work:

### 1st place schools (in each state, in each tier, each month):

- ✓ **Qualify** for the Prodigy National Cup™
- ✓ **"Graduate"** from State Challenges. These schools will not compete in future State Challenges this school year. Instead, they are encouraged to keep the fun going by hitting monthly milestones and unlocking additional in-game rewards while preparing for the Prodigy National Cup in May 2026!

### 2nd to 5th place schools (in each state, in each tier, each month):

- ✓ **Qualify** for the Prodigy National Cup™
- ✓ **Keep competing** in future State Challenges for a chance to finish 1st in their state!

### Prodigy National Cup™

- ✓ Schools that place in the top 5 in their state during any State Challenge will qualify for the Prodigy National Cup™, taking place from May 1–15, 2026. They will stay in the same tier to compete against other schools of a similar size.

# Prizing & recognition

The **Prodigy State Challenge™** rewards student effort and school spirit with **more than \$10 million** in digital and physical prizes throughout the year. From monthly State Challenges to the epic Prodigy National Cup™ in May 2026, here's what your school could win:



## Monthly State Challenge prizes

**1st Place Schools (in each state, in each tier, each month):**

- ✓ **A celebration kit** filled with Prodigy swag for students, teachers, and classrooms
- ✓ **In-game digital rewards** like pets and magicoin for participating students to claim
- ✓ Bonus opportunities for **additional prizes** if your school is featured in media

**2nd to 5th Place Schools (in each state, in each tier, each month):**

- ✓ **In-game digital rewards** like pets and magicoin for participating students to claim



## Prodigy National Cup™ prizes

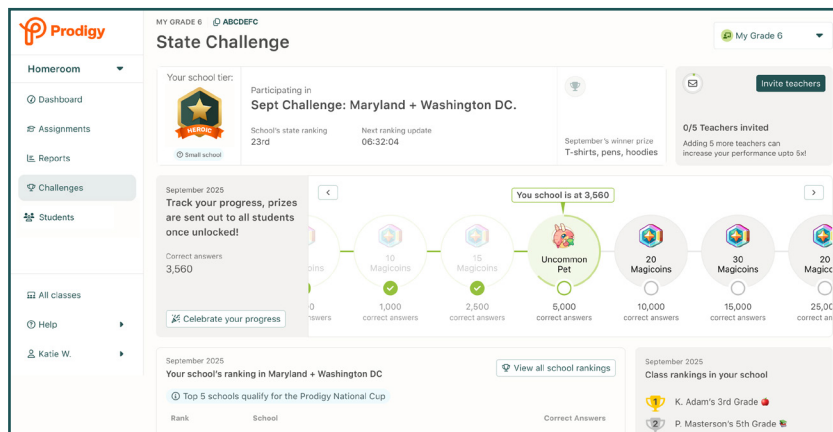
After the final State Challenge in April, all qualifying schools will compete within their tiers at the Prodigy National Cup for the grand prize: tech grants totaling over \$200K, plus Prodigy swag and other rewards!

Tier	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
<b>Titan</b> (Large schools)	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$10,000
<b>Mythical</b> (Medium schools)	\$50,000	\$15,000	\$5,000
<b>Heroic</b> (Small schools)	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$5,000

\* These grants are intended to fund technology upgrades, STEM initiatives, or student enrichment programs. [Click here for full terms and conditions.](#)

# Getting started & tracking my progress

The Prodigy teacher dashboard makes it easier than ever to track your class's progress and access everything you need in one place.



## With the teacher dashboard, you can:

- ✓ Track your class's State Challenge progress in real-time
- ✓ Monitor individual student performance
- ✓ Set goals, create assignments, and celebrate milestones
- ✓ Quickly access leaderboards and see how your school stacks up
- ✓ Get notified about key challenge updates and monthly results
- ✓ Invite other teachers to join



**Parents can access their own unique dashboard in the Prodigy Parent App to track their child's progress and support learning at home.**



# Teacher tips to win the State Challenge

These proven strategies come straight from top-performing classrooms across the country. Use them to spark engagement, build momentum, and lead your school to the top of the leaderboard.

## 1 Host power hours & jam sessions

Create dedicated Prodigy time during or before school (like “Prodigy Power Hours” or “Jam Sessions”). Gather students in a shared space to answer questions together!

## 2 Lead from the front

Don’t just assign, play! Join your students during Prodigy sessions, cheer them on, and show you’re in it with them.

## 3 Celebrate every win

Track progress publicly with classroom boards or hallway displays. Celebrate “most improved,” “daily MVPs,” or “milestones” not just leaderboard rankings.

## 4 Use simple incentives

Small rewards go a long way: shoutouts, printable certificates, or classroom perks. It’s about recognition, not cost.

## 5 Build cross-classroom energy

Host duals or triangulars between grades, and collaborate with other teachers to run joint sessions that build community and competition.

## 6 Integrate cross-curricular learning

Turn the Challenge into a geography or social studies opportunity. Have students research other schools, cities, and states they’re competing against.

## 7 Teach with purpose

Make sure students are doing purposeful practice. Set targeted assignments, check progress, and talk about the why behind every session.

## 8 Coach your fellow teachers

Host “coaches’ meetings” to train others on using Prodigy effectively — from understanding dashboards to setting quick quizzes. The more your school is aligned, the better you’ll perform.

## 9 Use the State Challenge Resource Hub

Check out our ready-to-use printables and resources:

- [Certificates to recognize effort](#)
- [Tournament kit templates](#)
- [Progress trackers](#)
- [Parent communication resources](#)
- [Printable graphics](#)





## 10 Stay connected

- Check your email for updates and leaderboard standings.
- Not receiving them? Re-subscribe or update your contact info.
- Questions? Reach out to support@prodigygame.com or 1-866-585-4655.

## 11 Refer other teachers

The more classrooms involved, the more momentum your school has. Encourage your colleagues to join.

## 12 Join the Facebook group

Tap into the official [Prodigy Teacher Community Facebook group](#) to share tips, get inspired, and celebrate success with others.

## 13 Make it fun

Run teacher-vs-student challenges, post class goals, or play “beat the leaderboard.” Keep things light, exciting, and positive.

## 14 Encourage at-home play

Remind students (and parents) that playing Prodigy at home keeps the learning momentum going and every correct answer counts toward your school’s State Challenge score! Share our ready-made Parent Letter from the Resource Hub to make it easy for families to get involved.



Share your journey! Snap pics and post them with **@prodigygame** and **#ProdigyStateChallenge** for a chance to be featured.



Special thanks to former State Challenge winners, Mr. Scott Woller (Medford Elementary) and Mr. Edward Courtney (East Elementary), for sharing their State Challenge success tips!



# Frequently asked questions

## General participation

### Q: How do I join the Prodigy State Challenge™?

If your class uses Prodigy, you're already in! There's no separate sign-up required. Visit the State Challenge dashboard to track your progress.

### Q: When does the State Challenge start and end?

The competition runs from September 15 to April 30, with a new challenge restarting on the 1st of every month.

### Q: Who can participate?

The Prodigy State Challenge™ and Prodigy National Cup are available in the United States only. Schools must have grades 1-8 and be an NCES school to participate. Teachers must have their school [correctly attached](#) to their profile to participate.

### Q: My school is in Washington, D.C. Which schools will we compete against in the State Challenge?

Schools in Washington, D.C. will compete against schools in Maryland for the State Challenge.

### Q: Can a school change tiers during the year?

No. Schools are automatically placed in a tier and stay there for the full competition year.

### Q: What happens if my school wins first place?

Congratulations on becoming math champions! You will receive a celebration kit packed with Prodigy swag and in-game rewards to celebrate your win. In addition, your school qualifies for the Prodigy National Cup™ and will "graduate" from State Challenges, meaning you won't compete in future State Challenges this school year. Instead, you're encouraged to keep the fun going by continuing to hit monthly milestones and unlocking even more in-game rewards while getting ready for the Prodigy National Cup™ in May 2026!

### Q: Can schools win more than once?

No. Each school can only win 1st place once in the State Challenge, but 2nd–5th place schools can continue to compete in the following State Challenge.

### Q: What is the Prodigy National Cup™?

It's the ultimate finale after all State Challenges have finished for the school year! From May 1–14, 2026, qualifying schools will compete for epic prizes including over \$200,000 in tech grants.

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## Competition format

### Q: How are schools grouped in the competition?

Schools are placed into one of three tiers based on Grades 1-8 enrollment data:

- Heroic (small)
- Mythical (medium)
- Titan (large)

## Prizes & recognition

### Q: What do schools win each month?

1st Place: Prodigy celebration kits, in-game rewards for participating students, qualification for the Prodigy National Cup™

2nd–5th Place: In-game rewards for participating students, qualification for the Prodigy National Cup™

### Q: How do teachers and students claim celebration kits and in-game rewards?

Celebration kits will automatically be shipped to 1st place schools in each state and tier. No action is required from the teacher or principal.

In-game rewards will be available for participating students to claim in their Prodigy Math account until the end of the month following their win (i.e. if they win the October State Challenge, they have until the end of November to claim).

### Q: How will we know if our school won?

Teachers can check the State Challenge dashboard to see their standing anytime. Winners are also notified via email at the start of the month following the challenge period.

### Q: What can schools win at the Prodigy National Cup™?

Schools can win their share of \$200K in tech grants, Prodigy swag, and additional recognition.

### Q: Are there still gift cards and pizza party gift cards?

This year, we are awarding winners with Prodigy swag and in-game rewards. Gift cards are no longer part of State Challenge prizes.

### Q: What are Milestone rewards?

Milestone rewards are in-game prizes given to all participating students at a school once certain benchmarks (e.g. 1K, 5K, 10K correct questions) are reached during the month. Students automatically receive the reward through in-game mail. Milestones reset at the start of each new month.

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## Tracking & tools

### Q: How do I track our school's progress?

Use your State Challenge dashboard in Prodigy to monitor class and school performance on the leaderboard.

### Q: When does the leaderboard update?

The leaderboard updates at 7:00 AM ET every weekday.

### Q: Where can I find posters, social graphics, or other materials?

Visit the [State Challenge Resource Hub](#) for printables, shareables, and setup guides.