

2026 IJEA NEWSPAPER & DIGITAL NEWS MEDIA CONTEST

DIVISION 3 BEST PUBLICATION WINNERS — Enrollment 1,300 to 2,099

The results for Best Publication are determined by the number of points accumulated in the 30 individual categories of the IJEA Newspaper & Digital News Media Contest.

- 1st place in a category = 5 points
- 2nd place in a category = 4 points
- 3rd place in a category = 3 points
- Honorable mention (HM) in a category = 1 point

BEST OVERALL PUBLICATION

(Most points regardless of publication type)

- 1st: Wildcat Chronicle — West Chicago Community H.S., Leslie Fireman, adviser
- 2nd: The Inkspot — Normal Community H.S., Brad Bovenkerk, adviser
- 3rd: Westerner — Maine West H.S., Laurie McGowan, adviser
- HM: The Advocate — Washington Community H.S., Jennifer Reiser, adviser
- HM: The Paw Print — Normal Community West H.S., Natalie Spath, adviser

BEST DIGITAL-ONLY PUBLICATION

(Most points by publication that appears online only)

- 1st: Wildcat Chronicle — West Chicago Community H.S., Leslie Fireman, adviser
- 2nd: The Inkspot — Normal Community H.S., Brad Bovenkerk, adviser

BEST PRINT-ONLY PUBLICATION

(Most points by publication that appears in print only)

- 1st: Westerner — Maine West H.S., Laurie McGowan, adviser
- 2nd: The Advocate — Washington Community H.S., Jennifer Reiser, adviser

BEST HYBRID PUBLICATION

(Most points by publication that appears both in print and online)

- 1st: The Paw Print — Normal Community West H.S., Natalie Spath, adviser