

Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey
in Cooperation with the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder and the NJ Dept. of Human Services

njba NEW JERSEY Broadcasters Association

WRAT 95.9 The RAT ROCKS!

Program Information & Rules

ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, February 19, 2027 (by 11:59 pm)

• Registration required on ShoutDownDrugs.com

• Song, soundtrack/instrumental, photo, lyrics and video must be uploaded when registering

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST:

- be a High School Student, in Grades 9 - 12, in good standing with their school.
  (For students enrolled in a New Jersey high school equivalency program, please contact the program coordinator for eligibility.)
- be a resident of New Jersey.
- Contestants can enter as an individual or a group. Groups cannot exceed six (6) students.

ALL SONGS MUST:

- be completely original music and lyrics with no copyright infringement violations.
- be no more than three (3) minutes in length.
- contain a ***message about preventing substance misuse and making safe, responsible choices behind the wheel***.

For copyright-protected songs: Please carefully read Paragraph 5 of the Copyright License, Assignment & Talent Release before entering the contest.

*All music genres are welcome – Rock, jazz, R&B, folk, hip hop, gospel, etc.

MUSIC/LYRICS/PHOTO/VIDEO

The following must be uploaded when registering:

- TWO VERSIONS of your song must be submitted in MP3 format.
  - One version must include your music and all vocals.
  - One version must contain music only (your soundtrack or instrumental) including background vocals, if any.
- TYPED LYRICS with a song title, copied and pasted into designated lyric field on the upload site.
- PHOTO: NO IMAGES PERMITTED IN PLACE OF YOUR PHOTO. Be as creative as you like, but you must follow copyright rules. Groups submit one group photo only. PDFNJ reserves the right to reject any inappropriate images.
- PERFORMANCE VIDEOS are encouraged but not mandatory. Must be in MP4 format. If you choose not to submit a video, if you are a finalist, your recorded song and photo will be used for the Virtual Prevention Concert.

*If you have technical problems, please contact the program coordinator for help – Matt@DrugFreeNJ.org.

REGISTRATION

Step 1: Registration must be completed and submitted at ShoutDownDrugs.com/register.
GROUPS: All group members must register.

If under the age of 18, registration must be submitted by parent/legal guardian. If over the age of 18, proof of age must be emailed to Matt@DrugfreeNJ.org (copy of birth certificate or driver's license).

Step 2: Recorded song, soundtrack/instrumental, photo, lyrics and video must be uploaded at the time of registration.

CONCERT

The April__6, 2027, PREVENTION CONCERT will be a pre-recorded virtual event, featuring the contest finalists' music videos (or a recording of the song if video is not submitted). One Grand Prize Winner will be announced at the conclusion of the event.

Groups: No substitutions are allowed for any group member who withdraws from the contest, but remaining group members may continue with the contest after contacting the program coordinator first for permission.

JUDGING

- An independent panel of judges will select One Grand Prize Winner who will be announced at the conclusion of the Concert.
- Participants will represent the county where they reside, not where they attend school. (For group entries, the group leader's residing county is the group's official county of entry.)
- Online Voting:
  During the voting period, entries that meet the contest criteria will be featured on ShoutDownDrugs.com.
  →Contestants' total online votes will be combined with Judges' scores to help select the Winner.
  →Contestant with most online votes will receive a cash prize and special recognition.

WINNER

Winner will be announced at the conclusion of the April 16, 2026, Prevention Concert live on air on 95.9-FM WRAT Radio and WRAT.com.

All decisions are final.

JUDGING CRITERIA ~ Emphasis will be placed on your Prevention Message

1. Prevention Message/Lyrics:
   - Is the message clear?
   - Does the song inform peers about the dangers of substance use and impaired driving?
2. Originality:
   - Does the song motivate and inspire peers to be substance-use free?
   - Does it connect teens to the message of the dangers of substance use?

GRAND PRIZE

One Grand Prize will be awarded to one winner (individual or group):

- Receive a $5,000 "Music Contract"
- Will be required to perform their winning song at five (5) separate events*, which shall be determined at a future date. These may include virtual events. The prize will be distributed in accordance with the terms of the music contract and contingent on performance at scheduled PDFNJ events.

IF A GROUP IS CHOSEN AS A WINNER, the prize money will be divided equally among group members.

*Winner is responsible for their own transportation to all in-person events and minors must be accompanied by an adult chaperone 21 or older.

EXCLUSIONS

- Contest is not open to employees or immediate family members of PDFNJ or any Sponsor of this contest.
- PDFNJ reserves the right to reject any entry that goes against its mission.