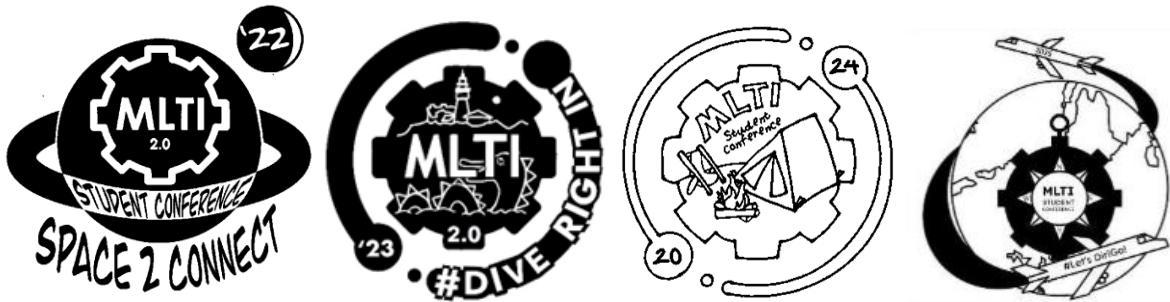# MLTI Student Conference "Full STEAM Ahead"
T-Shirt Design Contest Submission Guidelines

What is the MLTI Student Conference?
The MLTI Student Conference is a student-focused educational event hosted by the Maine Department of Education and the MLTI Program. It has been held since 2003, hosting over a thousand students and educators at the University of Maine in Orono. Students participate in breakout sessions about various technology topics as well as the "Global Session," a large-scale task or game that engages everyone in attendance.

Previous T-Shirt Student Designs from Previous MLTI Events

Eligibility:

- Open to any student who attends a participating MLTI school district during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Students may work in teams, but the design must be an original piece of artwork created by eligible students, without the assistance or use of Generative AI.

The MLTI Student Conference (5/21/26)
- This year's tag is "Full STEAM Ahead"
- The Conference will have themes based around Maine and the elements of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics)
- All submissions should include the text "MLTI Student Conference" and the year "2026" as a central feature of the design.
- Design elements may include (but are not limited to):
    - Maine imagery (the state, flag and popular symbols of Maine)
    - Retro video game and technology styles (8bit graphics)
    - STEAM aspects (tools, gadgetry, mathematical symbols, etc.)
- Designs **should not** include:
    - Artwork that is too detailed
    - Scenes that are "too busy"
    - Elements with colors, gradients, shading, etc.
    - AI generated content

Submissions for the virtual t-shirt design are due no later than March 2nd.

Submission Guidelines for both designs:
- *Optional:* Students may submit an artist statement (less than 200 words) with their design to help bring clarity to their adherence to the theme.
- ***Required***: Students must incorporate the MLTI logo into their design.
- Every submission **must** be an original artwork. Any use of any photo, drawing, images, or elements created by any other person or using generative AI (other than the MLTI or Maine DOE logo) is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.
- Please adhere to the guidelines for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards regarding copyright and plagiarism: Even if you have permission to use a work or if the work is in the public domain, the work that you submit to this competition must represent a new, original work. Additionally, changing the medium of an original work is not considered transformative. For example, a painting or drawing of a photograph taken from the Internet or a magazine is not considered original and should not be submitted.
- The artwork should be submitted as a high-resolution image file.
- The submission design should be one color.
- **Designs MUST be digital.**
- Designs should avoid fine lines and too much detail.
- Acceptable file types: PNG, JPG, JPEG
- Color: T-shirts are one solid color with one color ink, and the student can suggest the color for each.
- The t-shirt design must fit on the front of the t-shirt.
- Signed Release: Each student must sign this release and include it in their submission.

Judging Criteria
- **Guidelines:** Work clearly adheres to the submission guidelines.
- **Theme**: Work has represented the theme of the MLTI Student Conference
- **Principles of Design:** Work incorporated the following elements of art: balance, emphasis, movement, pattern, repetition, proportion, rhythm, variety, and unity.

If you have questions or would like assistance, please contact the MLTI Project Manager, Bethany Billinger, bethany.billinger@maine.gov