

Population Education Launches the 2027 World of 8 Billion Student Video Contest

Students in grades 6–12 are invited to explore Extreme Weather, City Planning, or Fresh Water Use for a chance to win cash prizes.

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, September 2, 2026 / Population Education today announced the launch of the [World of 8 Billion student video contest](#). Middle and high school students around the world are invited to create a 60-second video proposing a sustainable solution to one of today's most pressing challenges connected to population growth.

Each year, the contest highlights three timely topics. This year's topics are **Extreme Weather, City Planning** and **Fresh Water Use**. More than \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded to winning students. Entries are due **March 3, 2027**.

Since the contest began, tens of thousands of students in grades 6–12 from all 50 states and more than 100 countries have participated in the student video competition sponsored by Population Education, a program of Population Connection.

Past entries have tackled everything from food and agriculture, ocean health, energy, urbanization, biodiversity, and more. Through research, creativity, and storytelling, students explore the connections between population and some of the most consequential issues facing communities and the planet.

The contest is designed to complement classroom learning across subjects while building students' skills in research, critical thinking, communication, and media skills. A panel of more than 30 judges, including educators, filmmakers, and subject-matter experts, will evaluate entries and select the winning videos.

"This contest gives teachers a hands-on way to connect classroom learning to the challenges students see in the world around them," says Pam Wasserman, Population Connection's Senior Vice President for Education. "Students aren't just learning about these global challenges — they're researching solutions, forming their own ideas, and using their voices to share them."

Educators can also apply for \$100–\$500 mini-grants to help bring the World of 8 Billion contest into their classrooms. Apply online by October 30, 2026, at worldof8billion.org/grant.

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