



Students of the Year Application

2026-2027

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that exceptional students are enrolled in public, nonpublic, and charter schools throughout the state. To celebrate their accomplishments, the Department and the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education annually honor one fifth-grade, one eighth-grade, and one twelfth-grade student whose leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service exemplify excellence. The overall honorees of the three categories are selected by a state selection committee.

The Students of the Year program provides an opportunity to highlight the achievements, accomplishments, and positive impact of students from public, nonpublic, and charter school systems across Louisiana.

School and School System/LEA Level Process:

- Schools may use this application or a process selected by each school system/LEA to identify their Students of the Year honorees for submission to the School System/LEA Level competition.
- For the School System/LEA Level Process, candidates should complete all fields on the form and submit the required attachments for their portfolios.
- Candidates may complete the information below **electronically** or in **print**.
- All applications submitted **should not exceed 50 pages**. Pages, including artifacts, should be numbered.
- All **application materials**, along with an **electronic version of a current school photograph**, are to be submitted to the **school system** electronically by the date designated by each school system/LEA.
- The school system will submit the applications for its overall honorees to an online portal for state-level review.
- The file should be labeled using the following naming convention:
 - Grade Level Number_Student First and Last Name_SOY Application

Please refer to the [Application Portfolio Checklist](#) to ensure that all required elements are included.

I. Basic Information

School System/LEA Name:

[BESE Region Number](#):

School System Superintendent/CEO: *(Prefix, First and Last Name)*

Applicant's Name: *(First, Middle, and Last)*

Grade: *(5, 8, or 12)*

Parent/Guardian First and Last Name(s) with Prefix(es):

Preferred Phone Number:

Optional Phone Number:

Parent Email:

Optional Parent Email:

School Name:

Type of School: *(Public, Charter, or Nonpublic)*

Principal's Name: *(Prefix, First and Last Name)*

Principal's Email:

School Phone Number:

Parent or Guardian's Statement

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (34 CFR Part 99) and La. R.S. 17:3914 (Louisiana Student Privacy Act), I hereby grant permission for my child to participate in the Louisiana Students of the Year Awards Program. I further authorize access and use by the Louisiana Department of Education and the review committee of any of my child's school records and demographic information necessary for this competition. I also authorize information regarding my child's name, school/school system, and grade level to be included in press releases to universities and to the news media. I further acknowledge that all notes, scores, and reviews regarding my child are confidential and will not be provided to me.

Date:

Parent or Guardian's Name Typed:

Parent or Guardian's Signature:

Student's Statement

I certify that the information in this application is correct and that all work I have submitted during this competition is indeed mine.

Date:

Applicant's Signature:

II. Autobiographical Sketch

Nominees must submit information about themselves in narrative form. This initial writing sample should include information such as family history, interests, and career aspirations. The students should be encouraged to address at least three issues that are important to them and have influenced their lives. (This section must be typed.)

III. Leadership

List all elected or appointed leadership positions held in the school and community. Only those positions in which you were directly responsible for directing or motivating others should be included (e.g., elected student body, class or organization officer [BETA, NHS, FFA, Skills USA, JAG, FBLA, FCA, Drama, etc.], committee chairperson, team captain, community leader, etc.).

School Organization Leadership Position	Year	Activity or Organization

Extracurricular/Church/Community Leadership Position	Year	Activity or Organization

IV. Activities

List all activities in which you have participated that demonstrate your contributions to your school, church, or community (e.g., clubs, athletic teams, musical groups, volunteer organizations, or other extracurricular activities). Begin with the most recent activity.

School-Based

School-Based Activities/Organizations	Year	Major Accomplishment

Activities Continued

Extracurricular

[illegible]

V. Services/Citizenship

List all volunteer service/citizenship activities in which you have participated that demonstrate a contribution to the school, church or community: for example, volunteering with Boy or Girl Scouts, work-based leadership, internship or experience, school organizations, school beautification activities, library or clerical volunteer without credit, peer model or leader in a substance abuse prevention program, etc., beginning with the most recent.

School-Based

School-Based Service/ Citizenship Activities/Organizations	Year	Major Accomplishment

Services/Citizenship Continued

Church or Community

[illegible]

VI. Recognitions and Awards

List any honors, awards, or recognitions you have received, beginning with the most recent.

School Recognitions/Awards

[illegible]

Recognition and Awards Continued

Academic

[illegible]

Recognition and Awards Continued

Community

[illegible]