



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

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**SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2027
NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
September 9, 2026 Announcement**

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Note to editors: Semifinalists in your state are listed alphabetically by city and high school following this press release.

This material is prepared solely for news media to announce the names of Semifinalists; its use for any other purpose is prohibited.

Caution: Using numbers of Semifinalists to compare high schools, educational systems, or states will result in erroneous conclusions. The National Merit® Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The program does not measure the quality or effectiveness of education within a school, system, or state. For more information about the competition, please visit www.nationalmerit.org.

Semifinalists in the 2027 National Merit® Scholarship Program

(Evanston, Illinois) Today officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) announced the names of more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 72nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 6,700 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$24 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by about 260 business organizations, higher education institutions, and individual donors that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Steps in the 2027 Competition

Over 1.2 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools entered the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2025 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

National Merit Scholarships

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2027. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 700 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 120 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 140 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 3,500 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2027 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join over 395,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

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Semifinalists: 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program

ALASKA

WRANGELL
WRANGELL H. S.
Carney, Jackson A.

ANCHORAGE

ALASKA MIDDLE
COLLEGE SCHOOL
Dobler, Max O.
Roark, Maia L.
Seeman, Avery T.

HOLY ROSARY ACADEMY
Bird, Francis J.

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL
Schierling, Josiah L.

ROBERT SERVICE H. S.
Casillas Ruvalcaba, Diana Y.
Olson, John T.

SOUTH ANCHORAGE H. S.
Anderson, Harris
Graham, Nora

WEST H. S.
Berens-Taylor, Zander
Frederick, Atlin L.
Hulse, Lachlan F.
Lester, Quinn P.
Nesvick, Mariona C.
Oistad, Noah K.
Price, Ruby E.
Williams, Elias B.
Zhang, Kevin C.
Zhen, Jinbao

EAGLE RIVER

EAGLE RIVER H. S.
Dwyer, Madilynn O.

FAIRBANKS

AUSTIN E. LATHROP H. S.
Jiang, Anna S.
Peng, Jason Y.

NORTH STAR COLLEGE
Stewart, Clairice M.

GALENA

SIDNEY C. HUNTINGTON SCHOOL
Bodony, Ida A.

JUNEAU

JUNEAU - DOUGLAS H. S.
Elfers, Amelia
Hood, Atagan

PALMER

MAT - SU MIDDLE
COLLEGE SCHOOL
Hastings, Paul A.
Rowland, Abel W.

SELDOVIA

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL
McKittrick, Katmai

SOLDOTNA

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL
Cassidy, Braze

STERLING

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL
Blough, Aliya

UNALASKA

UNALASKA H. S.
Bivol, Crina

WASILLA

MAT - SU CAREER AND
TECHNICAL H. S.
Davis, Drake D.
Prevost, Eli J.
Rogers, Marina J.