



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

IOWA

ACKLEY

A. G. W. S. R. H. S.
Wood, Preston

AMES

AMES H. S.
Allman, Kelsey
Cai, Allen
Heidgerken, Liam
Lu, Claire
Mendelev, Elizabeth
Olsen, Derek
Que, Sunney
Singh, Anneka
Sun, Lynda
Tahir, Dania
Unser, Aspen
Wang, Laura
Zhu, Simay

ANKENY

ANKENY CENTENNIAL H. S.
Bredice, Alanna T.
Clark, Topher C.
Cogdill, Lincoln E.
Goff, Nathan G.
Sheesley, Alexandria

ANKENY H. S.
Braga, Sage
Pham, Jameson

BETTENDORF

BETTENDORF H. S.
Arnell-Liu, Linnea
Halfhill, Willa
Motwani, Ishika
Spector, Amos

RIVERMONT COLLEGIATE
Archer, Charles
Gleason, Lachlan
Ho, Nghi

BONDURANT

BONDURANT - FARRAR
COMMUNITY H. S.
Oppedal, Wyatt

CAMANCHE

CAMANCHE H. S.
Hartung, Braylon

CEDAR FALLS

CEDAR FALLS H. S.
Blanchard, Kyler
Du, Kevin
Sliwinski, Grace

CEDAR RAPIDS

THOMAS JEFFERSON H. S.
Gass, Brandon J.

JOHN F. KENNEDY H. S.
Copeland, Jacob E.
Guck, Austin J.
Hubbs, Katherine P.
James, Ann

ISAAC NEWTON
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Mosey, Noah R.

DAVENPORT

ASSUMPTION H. S.
Murphy, Declan

DES MOINES

ROOSEVELT H. S.
Grillot, Damian C.
Klassan, Karsten
Lazaro, Eleanor
Magill, Parker

McIver, Vaughn
Patterson, Harper C.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN H. S.
Rothfus, Natalie J.

DUBUQUE

HEMPSTEAD H. S.
Dolan, Addilyn

WAHLERT H. S.
Ernzen, Zachary

DYERSVILLE

BECKMAN CATHOLIC H. S.
Michel, Benjamin

EDGEWOOD

EDGEWOOD - COLESBURG H. S.
Perrinjaquet, Mack

ELDRIDGE

NORTH SCOTT H. S.
Azuela, Jorge

FORT DODGE

ST. EDMOND H. S.
Lawrence, Elijah N.

GILBERT

GILBERT H. S.
Jones, Wyatt
Zhang, Matthew

HULL

WESTERN CHRISTIAN H. S.
VanRoekel, Jenessa
VanVoorst, Lily

HUXLEY

BALLARD H. S.
Odden, Kolbe Y.

INDIANOLA

INDIANOLA H. S.
Bardwell, Eli

IOWA CITY

CITY H. S.
Claassen, Micah
Fischer, Madeline
Galloway, Harriet
Huynh, James
Huynh, John
Kumar, Vidya
Patrick-Ferree, Alexandra
Willard, Martha

WEST H. S.

Chen, Erin
Chen, Shannon
Donald, Benjamin
Geng, Hannah
Gooblar-Perovic, Alice
Gupta, Aahana
Hamzeh, Faisal
Kang, Aaron
Lawler, Henry
Liao, Sharon
Lin, Jensen
Lumetta, Mingmei
Rouwenhorst, Alexander
Shriver, Rial
Young, Broderick
Zhang, Aiden

JEWELL

SOUTH HAMILTON H. S.
Klaver, Kyle

JOHNSTON

JOHNSTON H. S.
Aggarwal, Syon
Kathman, Matthew
Keshwani, Maya
Mednick, Zoe
Shi, David
Talluri, Kovidh

MARION

LINN MAR H. S.
Devi Reddy, Manasvi
Nagarajan, Sahana

NEWTON

NEWTON H. S.
Alexander, Ian C.
Cope, Jeffrey A.

NORTH LIBERTY

LIBERTY H. S.
Bair, Adeline
Buckwalter, Joseph
Cho, Tayson
Coobs, Thea
Finch, Colin
Galvez, John

OSKALOOSA

OSKALOOSA COMMUNITY H. S.
Morris, Lilia

PELLA

PELLA COMMUNITY H. S.
Kisling, Sierra
Steenhoek, Isaac
Uitermarkt, Carson

PLEASANT HILL

SOUTHEAST POLK H. S.
Hoffman, Noah
Schulte, Dominic M.

PLEASANTVILLE

PLEASANTVILLE H. S.
Niceswanger, Beckett I.

RIVERDALE

PLEASANT VALLEY H. S.
Balaji, Kaushik
Beitzel, Lily
Bultmann, Evan
Luszczczyk, Carter
Schutte, Garrett

RIVERSIDE

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Foley, Riviera J.

SERGEANT BLUFF

SERGEANT BLUFF - LUTON H. S.
Herbst, Bryce D.
Philip, Zenita A.

SIOUX CITY

NORTH H. S.
Garcia Perez, Jackie M.

WEST H. S.
Lam, Andy

OLON

OLON H. S.
Steele, Alina

VINTON

VINTON - SHELLSBURG H. S.
Henkle, Loren J.

WAUKEE

NORTHWEST H. S.
Cao, Minerva
Crutchley, Ryan
Dietzenbach, Ethan
Gibbs, Paige
Ketterl, Justin
Pappala, Haarika
Sharma, Shaurya
Smith, Elise
Zhu, Ashley

WAUKEE COMMUNITY H. S.

Allen, Dylan
Mascharka, Naya

WAVERLY

WAVERLY - SHELL ROCK H. S.
Walbeck, Michael

WEST DES MOINES

DOWLING CATHOLIC H. S.
Beecher, Robert
Juric, David

VALLEY H. S.

Artikov, Isaac
Cin, Van
Corso, Jack
Larson, Natalie
Mundy, Silas
Peterson-Burch, Kelden
Vo, Linni