



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, Illinois 60201-4897 (847) 866-5100

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

Contact: Matthew Budreau
Public Information

Phone: (847) 866-5100
Email: mediainfo@nmerit.net
Website: www.nationalmerit.org

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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

KANSAS

ANDOVER

ANDOVER CENTRAL H. S.
Dalton, Evan
Kaufmann, Madeleine

ARKANSAS CITY

ARKANSAS CITY H. S.
Fang, Shihan

ATCHISON

MAUR HILL - MOUNT ACADEMY
Seymour, Matthew

BASEHOR

BASEHOR - LINWOOD H. S.
Bisson, Noelle G.

BLUE RAPIDS

ROCKET ONLINE SCHOOLS
Walker, Henry

CHENEY

CHENEY H. S.
Bergkamp, Brin

EMPORIA

EMPORIA H. S.
Beatty, Emma
Wen, Flynn

FORT SCOTT

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL
Shead, Benjamin

GARDNER

GARDNER EDGERTON H. S.
Williams, Sarah

GODDARD

GODDARD H. S.
Kiralylalvi, Kevin B.
Ochweri, Abigael
Pham, Aydan T.

HUTCHINSON

HUTCHINSON H. S.
Sublett, Nikon

JUNCTION CITY

JUNCTION CITY H. S.
Moore, Samuel

LAWRENCE

LAWRENCE FREE STATE H. S.
Coons, Connor
Jackson, Ben
Reynolds, Sadie
Yun, Sejun

LAWRENCE H. S.
Copeland, Davian
Sullivan, Rhett

BISHOP SEABURY ACADEMY
Ma, Ming
Maples, Charles
Pulsinelli, Alice J.

LENEXA

ST. JAMES ACADEMY
Bomhoff, Brett
Nguyen, Andrew
Wondra, Brock

MAIZE

MAIZE H. S.
Johnson, Josiah F.

MANHATTAN

MANHATTAN H. S.
Khan, Habib U.
Ward, Noah
Xia, Solon Z.

OLATHE

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Robertson, Rachel
Roethle, Thatcher

OLATHE EAST H. S.

Pallares, Luis
Patrao, Neil
Rood, Peyton
Stasko, Marcus

OLATHE NORTH H. S.

Amuseli, Benjamin
Hanna, George
Kailad, Sanjay
Kohli, Mahi
Krishnakumar, Anjali
Long, Ethan
Panditrao, Sanjit
Sripathi, Manu

OLATHE NORTHWEST H. S.

Chan, Noah
Gast, Katelyn
McEachen, Hunter
Parsai, Yash
Sontineni, Saanvi
Subramanian, Santosh
Yim, Keaden

OVERLAND PARK

BLUE VALLEY NORTH H. S.

Karim, Hannah
Keller, Cole
Kim, Jasper
Li, Benjamin C.
Lobert, Joshua
Newsom, Cameron
Petrikin, Soren J.
Tian, Lucas
Yang, Aidan

BLUE VALLEY NORTHWEST H. S.

Chowdhury, Aiden
Jung, Caleb
Kang, Minyoung
Murambadoro, Anotida
Wanamaker, Simon

BLUE VALLEY SOUTHWEST H. S.

Desai, Nandini
Dinger, Samantha
Heinen, Nicholas
Scalise, Luca

BLUE VALLEY WEST H. S.

Bhadriraju, Madhava
Chang, Wesley
Dashpuntsag, Urangoo
Ganne, Sloka
Goli, Rishi
Han, Chloe
Joshi, Aashay
Joshi, Neil
Khot, Smayan
Mounla, Amer
Musti, Ishaan
Nimmagadda, Karunya
Saxena, Addhyan
Seo, Ryan
Shah, Aarav
Shankar, Neena
Yang, Zhengyu

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL

Odegard, Kalina L.
Wadhwa, Aayush

HYMAN BRAND
HEBREW ACADEMY
Fine, Eric J.

SHAWNEE MISSION NORTH H. S.
Johnson, Lyra

SHAWNEE MISSION SOUTH H. S.
Beauchamp, Noah
Bucl, Carter

Coleman, Owen
Dodson, Bryan

SHAWNEE MISSION WEST H. S.
Aldridge, Bailey R.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS H. S.
Ryan, Alec

PRAIRIE VILLAGE

SHAWNEE MISSION EAST H. S.

Bansal, Avni
Batdorf, Carter J.
Head, Jordan D.
Lewis, Margo M.
Lien, Jacob J.
Moore, Charlotte
Pei, Grace J.
Rosen, Claire
Snyder, Gray
Yi, Michael N.

PRATT

PRATT H. S.
Clarkson, Cade

SENECA

NEMAHA CENTRAL H. S.
Nolte, Tyler

SHAWNEE

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL
Kurtz, Grace L.

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN

ACADEMY
Oglesby, Braden

MILL VALLEY H. S.

Long, Natalie
Peterson, Matthew

SHAWNEE MISSION

NORTHWEST H. S.
Candelario, Joseph

STILWELL

BLUE VALLEY H. S.
Aptilon, Leonardo
Chung, Alison
Coombs, Richard E.
Faulkner, Paige E.
Seck, Anthony
Wang, Olivia

TOPEKA

TOPEKA H. S.
Aulabayeva, Dana
Luttrell, Maxwell

WASHBURN RURAL H. S.

Chidambaranathan, Gopikaashri
Wright, Kennedy

VALLEY CENTER

VALLEY CENTER H. S.
Hollowell, Alla M.

WICHITA

BISHOP CARROLL CATHOLIC H. S.
Foster, Emily S.
Stockemer, Claire T.

HEIGHTS H. S.

Le, Adrian

HOMESCHOOL / ONLINE SCHOOL

Mayans, Clara

THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Sackett, Benjamin

MAIZE SOUTH H. S.

Ghosh, Meenakshi P.
Kelly, Paige M.

NORTHWEST H. S.

Bootsma, Jarrett
Bowers, Phillip

WICHITA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Basinger, Charles H.
Lee, Joshua C.
Rukes, Jackson F.

WICHITA H. S. EAST
Corpus, Elijah

Costa, Logan
Demovic Ahmed, Krishanu
Fox, Eli
Hungria, Simon
Jagadeesh, Ashwath