**2025-2026 STUDENTS OF THE YEAR APPLICATION**

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that many outstanding students are enrolled in public, nonpublic and/or charter schools throughout the state. To acknowledge the accomplishments of students at three pivotal grade levels, the Department and the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, annually honors one incredible student at the **fifth, eighth, and twelfth grade levels**, based on their **leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service to the school and community**. This program provides an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding achievements and contributions of students from school systems across the state.

**School and School System/LEA Level Process:**

* Schools may use this application or a process selected by each school system/LEA for identifying their Students of the Year honorees to submit 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 by **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 file should be labeled using the following naming convention:
  + Grade Level Number\_Student First and Last Name\_SOY Application

**A** [**complete application**](https://doe.louisiana.gov/docs/default-source/awards/students-of-the-year-portfolio-checklist.pdf) **for Students of the Year includes:**

* Basic Information with signatures of the parent/guardian and nominee
* Autobiographical sketch, according to the guidelines
* List of Leadership, Activities, Recognitions and Awards
* A photocopy of the academic and attendance record, report cards and/or high school/college transcripts reflecting academic performance for the required previous years- including the first semester grades of the current grade level; scores for **all required statewide or nonpublic school annual assessments** taken prior to the current school year; scores for any regional and national tests (AP, CLEP, ACT, PSAT, SAT, IBCs); TOPS-aligned dual enrollment coursework; TOPS/TOPS Tech eligibility status; Industry-Based Credentials certifications; work-based experience documentation; associate degree coursework/status; other pertinent artifacts that document academic and CTE accomplishments. If scores are not available, please indicate the reason.
* Electronic current school photograph or similar kind of print. ([Suggested Photo Guidelines](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/awards/honoree-photo-guidelines.pdf))
* The file should be labeled using the following naming convention:
  + Grade Level Number\_Student First and Last Name\_SOY Photo

1. **BASIC INFORMATION:**

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| **School System/LEA Name:** | | | | [**BESE Region Number**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YpKBXZGJJaSfyDCDqLO6LkoQNbmKaFrn/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115233020746675087401&rtpof=true&sd=true)**:** |
| **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:** | **Second 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 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 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.**

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| **Date:** | **Parent or Guardian’s Name Typed:** | **Parent or Guardian’s Signature:** |

**STUDENT’S STATEMENT: I certify that the information on this application is correct and that all work submitted by me during this competition is indeed mine.**

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| **Date:** | **Applicant’s Signature:** |

1. **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

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| Nominees must submit information about themselves in narrative form. This initial writing sample should include information such as family history, interests, career aspirations, etc. The students should be encouraged to address at least three or more issues that are important to them and that have had an influence on their lives. **(This section must be typed.)** |
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1. **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.).

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| **School Organization Leadership Position** | **Year** | **Activity or Organization** |
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| **Extracurricular/Church/Community Leadership Position** | **Year** | **Activity or Organization** |
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1. **ACTIVITIES**

List all activities in which you have participated that demonstrate a contribution to the school, church or community: for example, clubs, teams, musical groups, etc., beginning with the most recent.

**SCHOOL-BASED**

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| **School-Based Activities/Organizations** | **Year** | **Major Accomplishment** |
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**ACTIVITIES CONTINUED**

**EXTRACURRICULAR**

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| **Extracurricular Activities** | **Year** | **Major Accomplishment** |
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1. **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**

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| **School-Based Service/ Citizenship Activities/Organizations** | **Year** | **Major Accomplishment** |
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**SERVICES/CITIZENSHIP CONTINUED**

**CHURCH OR COMMUNITY**

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| **Church or Community Service/Citizenship Activities** | **Year** | **Major Accomplishment** |
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1. **RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS**

List below any honors or recognitions that you may have received to support your applications for Student of the Year, beginning with the most recent.

**SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS/HONORS**

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| **School Recognitions/Honors/Awards** | **Year** | **Activity/Organization** |
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**RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS CONTINUED**

**ACADEMIC**

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| **Academic Competition/Awards** | **Year** | **Activity/Organization** |
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**RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS CONTINUED**

**COMMUNITY**

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| **Community Recognitions/Honors/Awards** | **Year** | **Activity/Organization** |
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