Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
October 16, 2025	Recognition Item 1

Title

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Requested Action

School Board Recognition of National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Summary Explanation and Background

Eight Cherokee County School District high school seniors have been named 2026 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists!

They are: of Cherokee High School, Grace Dai, Andrew Lockwood, and Ian Zeller; of Creekview High School, Levi Cone and Aiden Johnson; of Etowah High School, Dylan Fallin; and of Sequoyah High School, Matthew Chemmala, and Riley O'Neill.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which oversees the prestigious competition, named 16,000 semi-finalists chosen from more than 1.3 million students based on exceptional 2024 PSAT scores.

For the next level of competition, the students will complete an application detailing academic achievements, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors; an endorsement and recommendation from a high school official; and an essay. Students must additionally have earned SAT scores that confirm their PSAT performance.

National Merit then will announce the 15,000 finalists, who will compete for 7,500 scholarships worth about $30 million to be awarded in the spring.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

N/A

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

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