



USD 497 News Release

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Lawrence Public Schools Celebrates 2027 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Lawrence Public Schools is proud to celebrate six high school seniors who have been named Semifinalists in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) has announced the names of more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 72nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors now have the opportunity to continue in the competition for about 6,700 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$24 million that will be offered next spring.

This year's Lawrence Public Schools National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Ben Jackson

Connor Coons

Davian Copeland

Rhett Sullivan

Sadie Reynolds

Sejun Yun

These students now have the opportunity to advance to Finalist standing and compete for National Merit Scholarships offered in spring 2027.

More than 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. Semifinalists represent less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors and include the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition, including submitting a detailed scholarship application highlighting their academic record, participation in school and community activities, leadership experience, employment, and honors and awards. Semifinalists must also have an outstanding academic record, be endorsed and

recommended by a high school official, submit an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm their 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 spring 2027. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2,500 Scholarships 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 specified criteria. In addition, about 140 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 3,500 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend a 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 more than 395,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar® title.

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