



2025 Louisiana Students of the Year Finalists

The Louisiana Department of Education proudly announces the 2025 Students of the Year Finalists. In conjunction with the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the Department recognizes outstanding fifth, eighth, and twelfth-grade students who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service to the school and community through the Students of the Year program. A regional review process selected one 5th, 8th, and 12th grade student from each of the state’s eight BESE regions as a finalist. From this outstanding group of students, one student per grade level will be announced as the overall 2025 Students of the Year during an award ceremony later this school year.

GRADE 5 FINALISTS

Region 1	St. Tammany Parish	Lauren Kay Singleton
Region 2	St. Charles Parish	Brynlee Elizabeth Perez
Region 3	St. Martin Parish	Anniston Elizabeth Guidry
Region 4	Caddo Parish	Mary Mack Thornton
Region 5	Ouachita Parish	Aly Lea May
Region 6	East Baton Rouge Parish	Zoey Olivia Jenkins
Region 7	Calcasieu Parish	Oliver Paul Richard
Region 8	West Baton Rouge Parish	Kai Ava-Jrew Butler

GRADE 8 FINALISTS

Region 1	The Willow School	Jayden Michael Gardere
Region 2	Algiers Charter School Association	Janiya Amani Belle
Region 3	St. Bernard Parish	Ramy D. Dali
Region 4	Bossier Parish	Lily Lynne Kees
Region 5	Lincoln Parish	Avery Bernadine Dixon
Region 6	Livingston Parish	Christopher James Godso III
Region 7	Vermilion Parish	Rylann Renee Viator
Region 8	Ascension Parish	Brielle Taylor Poche'

LOUISIANA
STUDENTS
of the Year

GRADE 12 FINALISTS

Region 1	Jefferson Parish	Neal Pramod Tandon
Region 2	Benjamin Franklin High School	Akshita Sridhar
Region 3	St. Bernard Parish	Trey Matthew Meyers
Region 4	Bossier Parish	Kylie Marie Small
Region 5	Ouachita Parish	Colton Charles Brasher
Region 6	Ascension Parish	Marlie Blair McLellan
Region 7	Lafayette Parish	Walker John Prejean
Region 8	West Baton Rouge Parish	Krishawndalyn Louise Rian Clark