



Louisiana Students of the Year

2026 Honorees

Overview

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) recognizes that many outstanding students are enrolled in public, nonpublic or charter schools throughout Louisiana. To acknowledge these accomplishments, the Department, in conjunction with the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), annually honors one incredible fifth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade student based on their leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship and service to the school and community.

This year, school systems across the state submitted Students of the Year candidates for the zone-level process. From this impressive group, the Department is proud to announce the 2026 Louisiana Students of the Year.

In addition to announcing the state-level honorees, all Students of the Year Finalists were celebrated and honored at the 2026 Students of the Year Award Ceremony at Louisiana State University's Lod Cook Alumni Center on May 18. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

2026 Overall Students of the Year

- Elementary School Student of the Year
 - Sanil Savita Thorat, Caddo Parish
- Middle School Student of the Year
 - Kaejha Mary-Anne Christine Stewart, Lincoln Parish
- High School Student of the Year
 - Melissa An Le, Lincoln Parish

2026 Students of the Year Finalists

- 2026 Students of the Year Grade 5 Finalists
 - Catherine Jane Harrison, Calcasieu Parish
 - Luke Joseph Bourgeois, Lafourche Parish
 - Jake Elliot Creel, Ouachita Parish
 - Akshay Elangovan Parasuraman, St. Charles Parish
 - Landon John Fenroy, St. Martin Parish
 - Brix Peyton LaFontaine, St. Tammany Parish
 - Lani Danielle Traylor, Tangipahoa Parish

- 2026 Students of the Year Grade 8 Finalists
 - Caroline Jolie Harrison, Calcasieu Parish
 - Olivia Yuyang Peng, East Baton Rouge Parish
 - Arivan Subramanian, Jefferson Parish
 - Jaxon Christopher Arnold, Lafourche Parish
 - Khloe Morgan Kaufman, Natchitoches Parish
 - Robert Elton Ryals IV, St. Tammany Parish
 - Betsi Kate David, West Feliciana Parish
- 2026 Students of the Year Grade 12 Finalists
 - Alex Cale Guillot, Ascension Parish
 - Kang-Sahn Joshua Noh, Bossier Parish
 - William Henry Vyas, Houma Christian School
 - Lincoln Trumps, Lafayette Parish
 - Erron Javon Hickerson Jr., St. James Parish
 - Beija Flor Lopes-Morgan, St. Tammany Parish
 - Charles Andrew Fountain, University View Academy