

LOUISIANA STUDENTS *of the Year*

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.

SELECTION PROCESS

Each school system or charter management organization may nominate one student for each of the three grade levels to compete at the zone level. Each of the zone selection committees will select the nominees to compete at the regional level.

TIMELINE

PHASE	TIMELINE	DESCRIPTION
Application Materials Released	August 26, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student application is available on the website along with the school system information and participation level survey.
Webinar	August 27 and 28, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist candidates, coordinators, and stakeholders with the application process, a webinar will be conducted to explain the selection process. School System Information and Participation Level Survey due September 30.
School System Nominee Selection	September-November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School systems select their system-level nominees and upload documents to the online portal for Zone reviews. Zone and regional coordinator information will be provided to school systems.
Zone Level Applications Due	November 14, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Zone-level Student of the Year applications are due in the online portal by November 14. Zone Selection Committees complete reviews in December.
Regional Honorees Announcement	January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names of the regional honorees are announced, and applications will be shared with the Regional Selection Committees.
Finalists Announced	February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By February 12, regional coordinators will submit the names of the state finalists. The Department announces the state finalists. Essay topics are sent to the school system coordinator of the finalists to administer and upload.
Finalists Interviews	Tentative- Week of March 2, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 24 finalists will participate in virtual interviews with the finalist review committees.
Awards Ceremony	TBD 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 24 finalists are formally recognized, and the overall Students of the Year are announced at an awards ceremony.

For questions, please contact exemplaryeducator@la.gov.