

2026-2027 TASSP Academic Excellence Award Application

Application & Guidelines

What is the All-State Academic Team?

The TASSP Academic Excellence Recognition Program was established to honor and recognize high school seniors who have demonstrated excellence in areas of academic achievement, test scores, and writing skills. The program will recognize twenty graduating Texas seniors with an unrestricted scholarship of \$500. In addition, these twenty winners will be introduced at the general session of the TASSP Summer Workshop at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas in June and honored at a luncheon with their parents and principals. In addition, thirty finalists will be recognized locally with plaques donated by Jostens.

Who is Eligible?

Each Texas high school whose principal is a member of TASSP may nominate **ONE graduating senior** for this recognition.

What is the Selection Process?

- Each nominee will receive a score based on their **GPA, SAT, or ACT** score. This score will account for 65 points of the nominee's total score.
- The essay portion of the application will be scored by the Academic Excellence Committee and will account for the remaining 35% of the total score.
- Scoring of the essays is done without knowledge of authorship.
- The top twenty will be selected as the All-State Academic Team. The next thirty will be selected as Finalists.
- One essay will be selected to be published in the TASSP May Newsletter.

What is the Procedure for Completing the Application Packet?

- All Sections of the application form must be completed.
- Allow at least 2-3 weeks to complete the application package and upload it to the TASSP website as EARLY as possible.
- Do not send any documents or materials other than those requested.
- **The student's essay should not include any reference to the school, school district, city, or town in which he or she lives.**
- **The student's essay must be proctored and monitored by a counselor or administrator.**
- **Students should not receive the essay prompt before the scheduled writing session.**

Checklist for the Application Packet

Please assemble the Application Packet and **SCAN ALL PAGES TOGETHER AS ONE DOCUMENT** in the following order:

1. The Academic Excellence Application Form.
2. High School Transcripts (must have official school seal).
3. Essay.
4. Wallet-size photo uploaded to the 'image upload' button within the online form.

DEADLINE: Submit to the TASSP.org website by Friday, March 5, 2027, 11:59 PM [CST]

*Applications become the property of the TASSP Academic Excellence Program and will not be returned.

Sponsored by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals
305 E. Huntland Dr., Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78752
Phone: (512) 443-2100

2026-2027 TASSP Academic Excellence Award Application

Deadline: March 5, 2027

OFFICE USE ONLY: Grade Level: _____ Student No.: _____

General Instructions: Answer all questions to the best of your ability and follow the instructions completely. The selection of Academic Excellence Award recipients will be influenced by the completeness of replies, neatness, and legibility. Please type or print, using black ink. The application must be submitted on this form with no attachments except the transcript and essay. Questionnaires not signed by the applicant, school counselor or registrar, and principal cannot be considered. When you have completed this questionnaire, please review it and ensure you have answered all questions accurately and completely and obtained the proper signatures. Retain a copy for your records. Decisions of the TASSP Academic Excellence Committee are final. **(Seniors only as of Sept. 1, 2026)**

1. Personal Information

Last Name		First Name/M.I.	
Gender	☐ Male ☐ Female	Home Address	
City/State/Zip		Student's Personal E-mail	
Home Phone		Parent/Guardian	
Guardian Address		City/State/Zip	
Guardian Phone		Parent's Personal E-Mail	
School Name		ESC Region	
Principal		School Address	
Principal Email		School City/State/Zip	
School Phone		Counselor's Name	
Class Rank		Number in Class	

2. Academic Information

To figure GPA, use seven (7) semesters of the student's work, including the fall semester of the senior year. Be sure to use ONLY courses in the subject areas listed. If in doubt, use TEA subject area definitions.

Entry Points:

(a) GPA (convert to 4.0 scale: A=4pts., B=3pts., C=2pts., etc. **Do not use any weight for accelerated courses.**)

Use only Math, English, Science, Social Science, and Foreign Language grades. Carry to two decimals.

Transcript supporting this GPA and the ACT/SAT scores must be attached.

GPA: _____ X 250 = _____

(b) SAT or ACT

Use either SAT or ACT combined score. Choose one only.

Use the highest/best score available.

Combined SAT (reading + math): _____ ÷ 1.6 = _____

OR

Composite ACT: _____ X 27.778 = _____

(Highest possible score is 2000; round off at two decimals.) **TOTAL SCORE:** _____

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Student Name: _____

3. Verification

Verification must be completed for consideration.

A. I certify that my responses are true and factual and that I have received no assistance in writing my essay.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

B. I have also reviewed the applicant's responses and certify that they are correct, insofar as the official school records indicate. I also certify that the applicant has written his/her essay under the conditions specified and that the essay meets the requirements of length and legibility.

Signature of Registrar or Counselor: _____

Printed Name of Registrar or Counselor: _____

4. Principal's Recommendation

I recommend this student for consideration as a TASSP Academic Excellence Award recipient.

I certify that this student has been and is a student in good standing.

Signature of Principal: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Principal: _____

Include:

1. Official transcript, which includes **Fall semester 2026 grades** and **SAT or ACT scores**.
2. Essay.

Academic Excellence Award Application continues on the next page.

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Student No (TASSP office use): _____ Student Score: _____

5. Essay

PROCTOR GUIDELINES:

1. **Essay writing must be proctored and monitored by a counselor or administrator.**
2. Essay should not contain any references to the student's school name, district, city, or town.
3. Essay should be **handwritten in ink**. Legibility will be taken into consideration in determining the final essay score. **NO** additional aids (dictionaries, computers, pre-written outlines, notes, drafts, etc.) are permitted.
4. High school and middle school principals will be reading and scoring the essays.
5. Essay length is limited to the 2 ½ pages provided.

Write an essay on the following topic:

Identify a problem facing Texas, the United States, or the global community that you believe can be addressed through education, innovation, or research. What role do you hope to play in creating solutions?

The essay will count for 35 points of the final total score.

Please write your essay on this form using the 2 ½ pages provided (front only)

Blank lined paper for writing.

Lined writing area with horizontal ruling lines.