

New Mexico School Boards Association 2026 Scholarship Program Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the NMSBA Scholarship Program is to encourage and promote the attainment of higher education and career/technical education goals for students who have demonstrated a high level of leadership, academic achievement, community involvement and extra-curricular activity participation during high school.

Eligible Nominations

In order to maximize participation in the program all NMSBA member boards can participate in the program. However, priority will be given to boards whose nominees did not receive a scholarship in the previous year. The following boards nominations received awards in 2025:

Region I-Aztec, Central, Gallup; **Region II**-Cuba, Pecos, Pojoaque; **Region III**-Mosquero, Springer, West Las Vegas; **Region IV**-Belen, Jemez Valley, Socorro; **Region V**-Dora, Fort Sumner, House; **Region VI**-Artesia, Hobbs, Tatum; **Region VII**-Capitan, Cloudcroft, Ruidoso; **Region VIII**-Cobre, Lordsburg, Reserve.

Nominations

Each eligible NMSBA Board of Education may nominate one graduating senior planning to enroll in a postsecondary education or career/technical education institution.

Nomination Forms

Nominations must be submitted in electronic form by participating Boards of Education and must include the following:

1. Completed Scholarship Nomination Form in PDF format.
2. Color photo of nominee suitable for use in press announcements in JPEG format.

Nomination Deadline

The deadline for receipt of each Board's nomination electronically is 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 10, 2026.

Region Selection Committees

The Region Officers (President, Vice-President and Secretary) from each of NMSBA's eight regions will serve as the scholarship selection committee for the region.

Selection of Recipients

The Region Selection Committees will review and consider nominations received from each region and make selections for students going on to higher education or career/technical education based on the following criteria:

- ★ Demonstrated Leadership
- ★ Academic Performance
- ★ Community Involvement
- ★ Extra-Curricular Activities

Number of Scholarships and Amounts

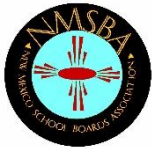
The number and dollar amount of scholarship awards per year is determined by the availability of funds and may vary from year to year. **For 2026 three scholarships per region will be awarded for a total of 24 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.**

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

Scholarship awards will be announced at the Annual NMSBA School Law Conference Luncheon which will be held Friday, June 5, 2026.

Use of Funds

Scholarship funds will be provided to the student and may be utilized by recipients to pay tuition, fees, books, or other education related expenses.



New Mexico School Boards Association 2026 Scholarship Program Timeline

March 3, 2026	Scholarship guidelines, nomination forms and timeline are emailed to all school board members & superintendents.
March 2-April 10, 2026 (6 Weeks)	School boards consider and select nominees and prepare scholarship nomination forms.
<u>April 10, 2026</u>	<u>Deadline for receipt of scholarship nomination forms from eligible school boards.</u>
April 17, 2026	Deadline for NMSBA staff to forward scholarship nominations to Region Officers for review and consideration.
April 17-May 8, 2026 (3 weeks)	Regional Officers review scholarship nominations based on established criteria. (Leadership, Academics, Community Involvement, Activities)
<u>May 8, 2026</u>	<u>Deadline for Region Officers to select Scholarship Recipients.</u>
May 28, 2026	Deadline for NMSBA staff to forward Scholarship Recipients to NMSBA Board of Directors for review.
<u>June 4, 2026</u>	<u>NMSBA Board of Directors officially concurs with Scholarship Recipients</u>
<u>June 5, 2026</u>	<u>Scholarship Recipients are announced at the NMSBA School Law Conference and press release is issued.</u>
June- 2026	Scholarship Awards are mailed to recipients or presented to recipients by Region Officers or Nominating School Board at a special or regular meeting.