



Nominator/Educator Guide

Welcome

Thank you for your commitment to celebrating student excellence in both the arts and academics. This guide is designed to help nominators, arts educators, and school administrators navigate the 2025–2026 Scholar-Artist Awards application process.

The Scholar-Artist Awards have honored over 750 Long Island high school seniors across five areas of the arts. This program is presented by Long Island Arts Alliance in partnership with *Newsday*.

Who Can Nominate?

- High school arts educators
- School arts administrators
- District arts coordinators

Each school may nominate **one student per discipline**:

- Dance
- Theater (Acting & Technical Theater)
- Music (Performance & Composition)
- Visual Arts
- Media Arts (Film/Video, Photography, and Graphic Art)

Eligibility Requirements

Nominees must:

- Be graduating seniors in the Class of 2026
- Have an **unweighted GPA of 90 or above**
- Demonstrate the **highest level of artistic excellence** in their discipline
- Submit a **student essay** and a **portfolio or performance video**
- Upload a **transcript** (PDF accepted) that includes:
 - All four quarters of 9th grade
 - All four quarters of 10th grade
 - The first half of 11th grade

What's New This Year?

- The application is now **fully digital**
- Nominators can **save progress and return** to the application later
- Discipline-specific requirements are built into the form for clarity

We hope this transition improves accessibility and streamlines the experience for all schools and students.

How to Prepare

Before beginning the online form, gather the following materials:

- Student essay (PDF or DOC)
- Student bio (PDF or DOC)
- Transcript (PDF)
- Signature Form signed by:
 - Nominating teacher
 - School principal
 - District arts administrator (if applicable)
- Discipline-specific materials:
 - Visual/Media Arts: portfolio + fact sheet
 - Music/Theater/Dance: performance video, supporting materials
 - Composition: scores and audio/video recording

Tip: Use the discipline-specific one-sheet guides ([available on our website](#)) to help students stay on track.

Submission Process

1. Visit the application portal: [Insert Link]
2. Select the discipline
3. Complete required fields and upload supporting materials
4. Submit the application **by June 1, 2026 at 11:59 PM** (portal will close automatically)

Recognition & Timeline

- **August 2025:** Scholar-Artists and Award of Merit recipients announced
- **September 2025:** Photoshoot for all honorees
- **April 2026:** Awards Ceremony at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts

Need Help?

Questions about the process? Reach out to us at: info@longislandartsalliance.org