

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 361

BY REPRESENTATIVES PHELPS AND TURNER

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Louisiana Department of Education 2026 Students of the Year Sanil Savita Thorat, Kaejha Mary-Anne Christine Stewart, and Melissa An Le

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Louisiana Department of Education 2026 Students of the Year Sanil Savita
3 Thorat, Kaejha Mary-Anne Christine Stewart, and Melissa An Le.

4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) honored twenty-four
5 regional finalists and named three Louisiana Students of the Year during a ceremony at The
6 Cook Hotel and Conference Center in Baton Rouge; and

7 WHEREAS, each year, the LDOE and the Louisiana Board of Elementary and
8 Secondary Education (BESE) recognize students who exemplify academic excellence,
9 leadership, and service; finalists include one fifth, eighth, and twelfth grader from each of
10 the state's eight BESE regions; and

11 WHEREAS, the 2026 overall honorees are Sanil Savita Thorat, Kaejha Mary-Anne
12 Christine Stewart, and Melissa An Le; and

13 WHEREAS, Sanil Savita Thorat is the Louisiana Elementary School Student of the
14 Year; he attends Fairfield Magnet School in Caddo Parish Public Schools and is an
15 accomplished speller who earned a place at the Scripps National Spelling Bee and received
16 top honors at the regional level; he also completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
17 challenge, has earned recognition in music competitions, competes as a runner, and performs
18 piano in recitals at nursing homes, churches, and other venues; he aspires to become a doctor
19 and volunteers with organizations focused on community wellness; and

1 WHEREAS, Kaejha Mary-Anne Christine Stewart is the Louisiana Middle School
2 Student of the Year; she attends A.E. Phillips Laboratory School in Lincoln Parish Schools,
3 served as student council president for the 2025-2026 school year, and represented her
4 school as an eighth-grade student ambassador during its back to school night; she is a leader
5 in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a member of the National Junior Honor Society, and
6 participates on the Science Olympiad and MathCounts teams; she is also active in choir,
7 music, and theater and performs as a national anthem soloist, Patriots Day Program soloist
8 and speaker, and pianist for her eighth-grade graduation; and

9 WHEREAS, Melissa An Le is the Louisiana High School Student of the Year; she
10 attends Ruston High School in Lincoln Parish Schools and was previously named Louisiana
11 Middle School Student of the Year; she is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a National
12 Merit Commended Scholar; she served as student body president, was elected state secretary
13 of Future Business Leaders of America, and earned all-state recognition in speech and
14 debate; she advocates for expanded access to science, technology, engineering, and math
15 education through speaking engagements and national initiatives and has reached thousands
16 through her "STEM to Bloom" video series; she also serves on the National Girls
17 Collaborative Project board; and

18 WHEREAS, the 2026 Louisiana Students of the Year are most deserving of
19 recognition for bringing great pride to the state of Louisiana through their outstanding
20 achievements.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Louisiana Department of Education 2026
23 Students of the Year Sanil Savita Thorat, Kaejha Mary-Anne Christine Stewart, and Melissa
24 An Le; does hereby recognize these students for building a strong foundation for the future
25 success of the state; and does hereby encourage them to continue their excellent work and
26 always strive for greatness.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Phelps

Commends La. Dept. of Education 2026 Students of the Year Sanil Savita Thorat, Kaejha Mary-Anne Christine Stewart, and Melissa An Le.