

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 361

BY REPRESENTATIVES PHELPS AND TURNER

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Kaejha Mary-Anne Christine Stewart is the Louisiana Middle School Student of the Year; she attends A.E. Phillips Laboratory School in Lincoln Parish Schools, served as student council president for the 2025-2026 school year, and represented her school as an eighth-grade student ambassador during its back to school night; she is a leader

in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a member of the National Junior Honor Society, and participates on the Science Olympiad and MathCounts teams; she is also active in choir, music, and theater and performs as a national anthem soloist, Patriots Day Program soloist and speaker, and pianist for her eighth-grade graduation; and

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES