



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, Illinois 60201-4897 (847) 866-5100

August 18, 2026

Dear Jalen Cai:

Congratulations! You have qualified as a Semifinalist in the 2027 National Merit® Scholarship Program. As one of more than 16,000 high school seniors who are Semifinalists, you have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,700 National Merit Scholarships to be offered next spring. Except for your family and your high school principal, this information is **confidential** until Wednesday, September 9, 2026, when National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) will release the names of Semifinalists to news media nationwide.

Qualifying as a Semifinalist is only the first step in the competition for National Merit Scholarships. To receive further consideration, you must advance to Finalist standing by fulfilling additional requirements; only Finalists can compete for Merit Scholarship® awards.

Please go to osa.nationalmerit.org and use the case-sensitive temporary credentials provided below to access your National Merit Scholarship Application.

Username:

Password:

Once you have logged in to the website and created your own username and password, be sure to navigate to the Competition Instructions page. Carefully review all of the Competition Instructions, paying close attention to all of the program deadlines. **We encourage you to print or save a copy of these materials for your future reference.** Please electronically submit your completed portion of the application to your high school official as soon as possible. The school official will finalize the application by completing the school's portion and transmitting it to NMSC by **October 7, 2026**.

Biographical information (residence, parental employment, and first-choice college) supplied by Semifinalists is used to identify candidates who may meet specified criteria for potential Merit Scholarship awards sponsored by corporations and colleges. Therefore, it is important for you to notify our office of any changes in this information that occur after your application has been transmitted to NMSC. It is imperative that you keep NMSC up to date on any change in your home address, email address, and/or telephone number.

As you review the application and the Competition Instructions, please contact us directly if you have any questions or concerns. All of us at NMSC offer you our very best wishes for success in the competition.

Sincerely,

James C. Wittenberg
Director of Scholarship Administration