

Sterling Scholar Eligibility/Qualifications

The Sterling Scholar Awards are open to Utah high school seniors. The selection process and nomination of students to compete on the region level is left up to each high school, but the students must meet the Sterling Scholar Standards listed below.

- Sterling Scholar officials consider a high school senior if he/she will be graduating with the senior class.
- High school seniors who attend college classes full or part time or are classified as foreign exchange students are eligible for the Sterling Scholar Awards. However, the program is designed to recognize scholastic achievement in Utah high schools. The student has to be still enrolled in high school.
- To be selected as a Sterling Scholar nominee, students must have extraordinary scholarship scores as well as service in leadership and citizenship opportunities in the Utah high school. It is up to each high school to determine if an individual has been in attendance enough to experience these leadership and citizenship opportunities.

Selection of winners and runners-up will be made on the basis of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship as demonstrated through activities and interests in an area of high school education characterized by one of the program. Each Sterling Scholar nominee's entire school experience will be considered, although emphasis will be placed on the high school years. High school officials are urged to nominate scholars for categories in which the students are genuinely interested and qualified. The general measurement will be defined and applied in this manner:

SCHOLARSHIP - 20 Points: A nominee's overall GPA, difficulty of class schedule, standardized test scores such as ACT and SAT, class ranking and similar scholarship items attained during high school will be used to establish points for Scholarship. ACT score of 17 or above (if a student does not have a 17 or above they will not be considered for the Sterling Scholar program)

CATEGORY EXPERTISE - 20 Points: Emphasis is placed on the nominee's ability and talent in their specific category. While judges seek evidence of growth and service in all activities, the nominee's talent and aptitude within their category will receive particular emphasis.

LEADERSHIP - 20 Points: The qualities of leadership in Utah public high schools can be measured in part by the responsibilities placed on a nominee by his/her teachers and fellow nominees. However, evidence of positive influence with fellow nominees also shall be considered an indication of leadership.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/CITIZENSHIP - 20 Points: Each Sterling Scholar nominee should exhibit a record of high standards of citizenship throughout his/her high school years. Service to school, community or other organizations will be considered. The

nominee's attitude toward the acceptance of responsibility in contribution roles, as well as seeking out service opportunities, will be especially important. Evidence of a long-term commitment to service will also receive particular attention.

INTERVIEW - 20 Points: Semi-finalist and Finalist Judging. During the interview, judges will evaluate the nominee's ability to answer questions pertaining to their category. Body language, technical knowledge, communication skills, professional appearance and plans for continued education in the category will all be included in the interview point assessment.