

# MISSOURI HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START 2025-26 AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Nominations/applications are now being accepted for the **2025-26 MHSA Awards & Scholarships**. Please take time to recognize the outstanding work and partnerships that help demonstrate the Head Start advantage in Missouri. **Completed submissions are due to MHSA by February 1, 2026.**

Nominees and recipients will be contacted on or before March 1, 2026 and recipients will be recognized by the Missouri Head Start Association on May 14, 2026.

Recipients will then compete for Regional Awards & Scholarships and be recognized at a regional recognition ceremony at a date and location to be announced.

## HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS:

- **HEAD START ALUMNI  
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR\***

\* MHSA scholarship recipients will compete for additional Region VII \$1,000 Scholarships.

The National Head Start Association accepts nominations for NHSA awards at [nhsa.org/scholarships-and-awards](http://nhsa.org/scholarships-and-awards).

### Direct MHSA Awards questions to:

**TINA BERNSKOETTER**,  
Director – Executive Services  
Missouri Head Start Association  
573.884.5078 |  
Tina@MOHeadStart.org

### *Additional details:*

- State award and scholarship recipients' regional nominations are due to R7HSA by March 15, 2026. Please include a head shot photo of each regional nominee.
- Applications are to be submitted using Smartsheet form links in the Awards packet.
- Regional winners will be contacted by April 30, 2026.
- Regional awards will be presented by R7HSA designated representatives.
- R7HSA will provide the tangible awards presented at the conference, and assistance in handing out awards on stage.



# 2025-26 HEAD START

## ALUMNI - HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

### SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA:

1. The nominee must have attended Head Start for one or more years.
2. The nominee must be scheduled to graduate from high school, be pursuing a post-secondary education, and submit name of institution of higher education that they are enrolled in or have the desire to attend. These funds may be applied to the documented cost of tuition and/or books.
3. Candidate must submit **two letters of reference**. (20 points)
  - *Letter of reference from someone who knows the candidate as a student (school personnel preferred).*
  - *Letter of reference from someone who knows the candidate as a community volunteer.*

***Applications that do not include two references will not be considered for this scholarship.***

1. **Please share key details about the candidate and family connection to Head Start and current educational environment.** (20 points)
2. **Describe candidate's volunteer contributions to Head Start, Early Head Start, or the community.** (30 points)
3. **Provide a description of candidate's educational and professional goals.** (30 points)

Please include a head shot photo of nominee.

Submit online application here: [Missouri Alumni Scholarship](#)