Virginia Student Councils Association
2026 Achievement Award Application – Project Checklist

Each year, the Virginia Student Councils Association honors member schools who promote leadership and community service through their school's Student Council activities by presenting the **Achievement Award**. The Elections and Awards Committee will review award applications and designate the recipients.

To be recognized, schools must apply and submit documentation of completing a variety of activities. The required and additional projects must be assembled in a portfolio and reviewed by the school principal, who will sign the application to verify that the requirements have been met. All member schools that complete the criteria will receive the Award. Including photos and videos in the portfolio for your principal is encouraged, but optional.

Schools must complete at least one (1) required project from the first category and additional projects of their choice from the second category for a **total** of six (6) for elementary schools, seven (7) for middle schools, or nine (9) for high schools. All projects must have occurred within the current calendar year. Any of the listed projects may have been conducted in person or virtually, by the whole council or by individual members on behalf of the council.

REQUIRED Project Related to State Theme (Each school must select one.)

	In Portfolio
1. Conducted a school project with community, state, national, or international impact based on the 2024–25 theme"*Leadership in Overdrive*" if conducted January–June or the 2025–26 theme, *Lights, Camera, LEAD!* if conducted July–December.	☐
2. Planned, hosted, and conducted a Leadership Workshop.	☐
3. Organized a leadership development initiative that involved elementary, middle, and/or high schools in your community.	☐

Additional Project Ideas (From this section, each school must select: five (5) for elementary schools, six (6) for middle schools, or eight (8) for high schools.)

	In Portfolio
4. Organized a school-wide service project	☐
5. Organized a community-based service project	☐
6. Organized a food drive	☐
7. Volunteered at a nonprofit	☐
8. Conducted an awareness campaign	☐
9. Conducted a campus beautification project	☐
10. Conducted a service project in collaboration with another school (elementary, middle, or high school)	☐
11. Conducted an activity that contributes to the development of positive school climate	☐
12. Participated in the orientation of new students	☐
13. Created a school-wide mentoring activity	☐

14. Conducted an appreciation activity for the local school board or principal	☐
15. Conducted an appreciation activity for faculty and/or staff	☐
16. Sponsored an activity that fosters positive relations between faculty/staff and students	☐
17. Held an “Administrator for the Day” event	☐
18. Conducted at least ten Student Council meetings during the year (5 must be executive council and 5 must be general council. Include one agenda.)	☐
19. Reviewed and revised the SCA/SGA bylaws	☐
20. Recruited a school to join VSCA	☐
21. Held an SCA/SGA installation ceremony	☐
22. Held a county/division meeting of Student Councils	☐
23. Conducted an officer training program for council and/or club officers	☐
24. Established or helped facilitate a student council at a middle or elementary school	☐
25. Conducted a school-wide fundraising project	☐
26. Held a Student Council-sponsored assembly	☐
27. Sponsored an educational or academic project or that promotes academic achievement	☐
28. Participated in voter registration drive/mock election	☐
29. Collaborated on a council project with a parent group connected to the school (PTSA, booster club, etc.)	☐
30. Provide evidence of responsible and active use of technology to engage students and serve as the student voice	☐
31. Submitted NatStuCo National Council of Excellence Award application	☐
32. Submitted a newsletter article to VSCA featuring a student council project or event	☐
33. Participated in a VSCA regional workshop or state meeting	☐
34. Other (school/theme related project). Explain.	☐

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This form must be completed and submitted with signatures to be considered.

Full Name of School _____ Region _____

Address _____ Division _____

City _____ Zip Code_____ School Phone _____

❑ Elementary ❑ Middle ❑ High **Required:** Current Bylaws submitted to State Office? ❑ Yes ❑ No

Have you received the VSCA Achievement Award before?

❑ Yes ❑ No

Do you need a year plate for a perpetual plaque?

❑ Yes ❑ No

State your **School/Council Theme:** _____

State your **Council Objectives:**

(1)

(2)

(3)

- Projects for the 2026 Achievement Award must have been completed *between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025*. The award is based on a **calendar year**, not a school year.
- Compile a portfolio documenting your participation in the required number of projects. Indicate in the checkbox column which projects are included in the portfolio.
- Schedule a meeting with your building principal to review the portfolio. The principal will review the portfolio and sign this application acknowledging your completion of all the required elements to earn this award.
- Make certain your Student Council's bylaws are on file with the VSCA State Office. In lieu of bylaws, you may submit ***for one year only*** a rough draft, any completed section, or minutes from a meeting that reflect work on bylaws.
- Submit ONLY the three pages of the application. DO NOT submit the portfolio or any other items.
- **All required signatures must be on the application. Applications without signatures will not be considered.**
- **Scan the completed application with signatures and return to VSCA by the stated deadline.**

_____ _____ _____

Student Council President's Name Signature Date

_____ _____ _____

Student Council Advisor's Name Signature Date

❑ Yes, as principal I have reviewed the projects listed in this application and can confirm that all checked projects have been completed by our school's student council.

_____ _____ _____

School Principal's Name Signature Date

Return a digital copy of the application with required signatures to: LFiscus@scaleader.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 28, 2026