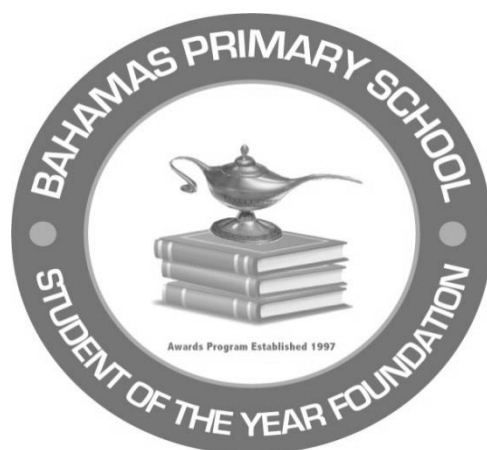


Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation



Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program Information Manual

Vision Statement

The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation is committed to recognizing and encouraging academic excellence and leadership development among the ***Who's Who in the Primary Schools*** in our educational system. Through this prestigious awards program, we seek to reward, encourage, and inspire these students in their pursuit of excellence.

Mission Statement

The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program recognizes outstanding 6th grade students in the Bahamian Educational system regardless of colour, creed, family heritage, island or school representation, nationality or religious affiliation.

Message from the Foundation President & CEO

It gives me great pleasure to present the *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Manual* for the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation. Since its inception in 1997 and the official establishment of the Foundation in 2004, our program has sought to recognize, celebrate, and empower the best and brightest of our nation's primary school students.

Over the past two decades, we have awarded more than **\$3 million in scholarships and prizes** and recognized over **3,200 outstanding students** from across the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Each year, this program serves as a beacon of hope, rewarding academic excellence, leadership, and community service.

This FAQ Manual provides important information on the mission, operations, and history of the Foundation. It also proudly records the names of our *Past Student of the Year Winners from 1997 through 2025*, each of whom continues to inspire a legacy of excellence.

As we look ahead, the Foundation remains committed to nation-building by investing in the intellectual capital of our young people. I salute every parent, teacher, administrator, and partner who has supported our journey, and I especially celebrate the students who remind us that the future of The Bahamas is indeed bright.

Together, we will continue to shape tomorrow's leaders today.

Ricardo P. Deveaux, B.Sc (Hon), M.Sc, CD, *LHD*

President & CEO

Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who are we?

The *Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation* was established in May 2004 and incorporated under the Laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas as a registered nonprofit foundation. The Foundation was born through the Nassau, Bahamas Council of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. In January 2021, it was formally registered as a Non-Profit Organization with the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

2. What is the mission of the Foundation?

The mission of the Foundation is to recognize and reward the academic excellence, leadership, and community service of primary school students throughout The Bahamas, thereby fostering a culture of excellence and nation-building.

3. When was the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program established?

The program was established in **1997** and has grown to become one of the premier student recognition initiatives in The Bahamas.

4. Who is eligible to participate?

Nominees must be graduating sixth-grade students from public and private primary schools across The Bahamas. Each participating school may nominate one outstanding student to represent their institution.

5. What schools are eligible?

Any **accredited private, public, or independent primary school** registered with the **National Accreditation and Equivalency Council (NAECOB)**.

6. What must the application package include?

- Completed **Application Form**.
- A **500-word essay** (Will be announced on November 1st, 2025)
- Copies of official report cards (**Grades 3–6**).
- **Three headshot photos** (for publication and program booklet).
- Newspaper clippings, certificates, awards (**Grades 3–6**).
- **Three recommendation letters:**
 - Principal / Vice-Principal
 - Classroom Teacher / Civic or Community Leader
 - Religious Leader / Extra-Curricular Coach

7. Are there special requirements for the portfolio/folder?

Yes. Guidelines include:

- Size: **No larger than 12" x 12"**
- Limit: **Maximum 50 pages (both sides)**
- Weight: **Not to exceed 10 lbs**
- Restrictions: **No mechanical apparatus, no 3D projects, no pop-ups or pull-outs**
- **Automatic Disqualification if guidelines are not followed.**
- All submissions become the property of the Foundation (parents should keep a copy).

8. What is the deadline?

- **Friday, February 6th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. EST**
- Late, lost, damaged, or incomplete applications will **not** be accepted.
- Application forms available on the Foundation's website by **November 2025**.

9. Who judges the applications?

An **Independent Distinguished Panel of Judges** reviews all applications and selects winners.

→ ☐ *The decision of the judges is final.*

10. When is the Awards Ceremony?

- The 2026 ceremony date will be announced in **February 2026**.

11. Is there a website?

Yes. Visit www.bahamaspstoy.org for information on:

- Program history
- Patrons
- Board of Directors
- Past honourees
- Corporate sponsors

12. Will each child be recognized?

Yes! Every nominee is considered a **winner** and will receive:

- A **participant trophy** (Foundation)
- A **Medal of Honour** (Ministry of Education & Technical & Vocational Training)

2025 Breakdown:

- 118 nominees recognized
- Every nominee received a **minimum \$1,000 scholarship**
- 109 nominees received a Laptop
- 9 nominees received a Tablet
- Total scholarships: **\$254,000**
- Total technology awards: **\$65,760**
- **\$18,000** spent on air travel for Family Island nominees

14. Do Family Island students have a fair chance?

Absolutely! Judges assess each nominee's achievements **relative to opportunities available** in their community.

- Since 1998, Family Island students have been awarded Student of the Year, Runner-Up, and Finalist distinctions.

15. Who are the Past Student of the Year Winners and what schools did they represent?

Year	Winner	School / Island
1997	Vashti Darling	St. John's College – Prep, New Providence
1998	Andrea Moultrie	St. John's College – Prep, New Providence
1999	Tiffany Moncur	Carmichael Primary School, New Providence
2000	Sasha Bain	Walter Parker Primary, Grand Bahama
2001	Kenny Roberts	Spanish Wells All Age, Eleuthera
2002	Zachary Lyons	Queen's College – Elementary, New Providence
2003	Tanielle Curtis	Sts. Francis & Joseph Catholic Primary, New Providence
2004	Saul Salonga	Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary, Grand Bahama
2005	Shirdat Jadoo	Maurice Moore Primary School, Grand Bahama
2006	George Zonicle	Bahamas Academy SDA – Elementary, New Providence
2007	Taran Carey	Tarpum Bay Primary School, Eleuthera
2008	James Boyce	Hope Town Primary School, Abaco
2009	Khes Adderley	Temple Christian Academy, New Providence
2010	Jared Fitzgerald	Xavier's Lower School, New Providence
2011	Anna Albury	Hope Town Primary School, Abaco
2012	Nadja Simon	Genesis Academy, New Providence
2013	Lauryn Rolle	St. Thomas More Catholic Primary, New Providence
2014	Donovan Butler	Xavier's Lower School, New Providence
2015	Samaiya Lundy	Sunland Baptist Academy, Grand Bahama
2016	Lila Nottage	Lyford Cay International School, New Providence
2017	Hannah Edomwonyi	Clara Evans Primary School, Andros
2018	Remington Minnis	Eva Hilton Primary, New Providence
2019	Lauren Scriven	St. Francis de Sales Catholic Primary, Abaco
2020	Hayley Wilson	Summit Academy, New Providence
2021	Chelsea Smith	Windsor School at Albany, New Providence
2022	Jerlea Adderley	Sts. Francis & Joseph Catholic Primary, New Providence
2023	Matteo Davies	Bishop Michael Eldon School, Grand Bahama
2024	Abbigail Moss	Sts. Francis & Joseph Catholic Primary, New Providence
2025	Reagan Moxey	Summit Academy, New Providence

16. Have scholarships always been given?

- Yes. Since 1997, scholarships awarded total more than **\$2.5 million**.
- Since 2020, every nominee has received a **minimum of \$1,000 scholarship**.
- Scholarships support **secondary education** in The Bahamas (public or private).

17. Who covers Family Island travel?

- The **Foundation covers travel costs** for nominees.
- Funded through corporate and individual sponsorships.
- Travel and accommodation for **parents, guardians, or chaperones** is their personal responsibility.

18. How many nominees participated in 2025?

- **118 nominees:**
 - 48 private schools
 - 70 public schools
- Representing:
 - New Providence (54)
 - Grand Bahama (18)
 - Abaco (10)
 - Andros (10)
 - Eleuthera (10)
 - Exuma (5)
 - Other islands (11)
- **65 females, 53 males**
- 56 nominees had a GPA of **3.7 or higher**.

Important Information

Application forms will be considered incomplete and subject to rejection, if any sections of the application requirements are missing.

An independent Distinguished Panel of Judges will review application packages received and determine the overall winner and finalists. **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.**

Nominees will be judged on the following criteria: contribution to school life, academic achievement, extra-curricular achievement, community involvement and overall presentation of the portfolio submitted. **(Academic achievement alone does not guarantee placement in the Awards program.)**

Nominees will be competing for scholarships and prizes. All scholarships must be used for Bahamian secondary education purposes only.

The contest is opened to any 6th Grade Student regardless of colour, creed, nationality or religious affiliation from any accredited private, public or independent primary school in The Bahamas. **The school must be registered with the National Accreditation and Equivalency Council (NAECOB).**

EACH SCHOOL CAN NOMINATE ONLY ONE (1) STUDENT. STUDENT MUST BE NOMINATED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL.

The deadline for submission of completed application packages for the 2026 Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year was Friday, February 6th, 2026 at 4:00pm EST. The Foundation will not be responsible for application packages which are late, lost, illegible, damaged, or incorrectly addressed. **All packages submitted will become the property of The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation and WILL NOT BE RETURNED.**

The Application Requirements

A completed application form

- (b) **A 500 word essay** on the topic: To be announced on November 1st, 2025

The essay must be legibly handwritten in black or blue ink.

Essays must be the student's original work and must not infringe upon any material protected by copyright laws.

- (c) An essay which was submitted and graded as a part of the applicant's school requirement **must be** attached to the application package. **(5th or 6th grade only)**
- (d) Copies of official report cards **(covering 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades only)**
- (e) **Two (2)** high quality headshot colour **4 x 6 photographs** (These photos are for the newspapers, website and souvenir awards booklet.) Photos will not be returned. **(Student attire: school uniform) Photos must be labelled with the nominee's name and school on the back of them.**
- (f) Newspaper clippings / copies of awards & certificates **(covering 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades only)**
- (g) Three (3) letters of recommendation:
School Principal / Vice-Principal (The letter from the Principal / Vice-Principal officially nominates the student for this award.
Please note that any application missing this letter will automatically be disqualified;

Classroom teacher / civic or community leader / former teacher;

Religious leader / extra-curricular coach (ie. Sports or Dance).

Nominee must have documented proof of length of participation in each organization listed on the application form;

The above items should be neatly attached to a portfolio or folder. **If your portfolio that is bonded, the original application form and essays must be enclosed.**

- (j) The portfolio / folder is limited to a maximum of 50 leaflet pages (**using both sides will be considered 1 page**) and **should not be larger than 12 x 12.** The nominee is requested to adhere to these requirements. **(Points will be deducted for portfolio / folder not following the guidelines outlined.)**
- (k) **200 – 250 word statement** on “Why I should be selected as the 2026 Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year?

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE 2026 BAHAMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE YEAR PORTFOLIO WILL HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED IN AN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.

ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE ON NOVEMBER 1ST, 2025

THE HISTORY

In November 1996, the idea of a Student of the Year program was submitted to the Council for acceptance. The competition immediately received its endorsements from four educators who were serving as Executive Council Members at the time: **Sharon Poitier (Alpha Kappa Alpha), Dr. Anastacia Brown (Delta Sigma Theta), Dr. Carolynn Hall-Knowles (Delta Sigma Theta) and Garnell Rolle (Zeta Phi Beta)** and the Nassau, Bahamas Pan-Hellenic Council. The program also received the endorsement of **Senator Dame Dr. Ivy Dumont** - Minister of Education (later Her Excellency Governor-General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.)

A committee was formed, and Ms. Anastacia Brown was selected as the Committee Chairperson. The Council selected June 9th, 1997 as the date for the first Student of the Year awards program. Thirty-one (31) students representing private and public-school students in New Providence were the first nominees in the awards ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Ballroom at Government House with **Their Excellencies Sir Orville Turnquest - Governor-General and Lady Edith Turnquest** in attendance. In his remarks, His Excellency challenged the Council to include the Family Islands in future contest. **Vashti Darling**, a ten-year-old sixth grade student of St. John's College was selected as the 1997 Primary School Student of the Year.

INTERNATION REGOGNITION

In October 1998, The National Pan-Hellenic Council - Southern Region selected the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program as the Most Outstanding Original Program. This was the first international award won by the Nassau, Bahamas Council.

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

Atlantic Medical Insurance was the first major sponsor of the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Award Program from 1998 - 2005, donating a scholarship to Student of the Year Winner. In 2006, Mr. Basil Neymour became the Title Sponsor and served until 2008. Some of the other Title Sponsors have been Bahamas Office & School Supplies (BOSS), Bank of The Bahamas International, Bahamas Telecommunications Company and Royal Bank of Canada. In 2007, **Mr. Clarence N. Childs** - Retired Vice-President of Student Affairs at Bethune-Cookman College became the first international scholarship donor. Between 2007 – present, he has impacted the life of a Bahamian student. In 2015, **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Educational Research Foundation** became the second

international donor. In 2019, REV Bahamas became our Five Year commitment Title Sponsor partner with a total investment of \$75,000.00 in direct funding and additional in kind sponsorship. In 2023, Oaktree Medical Center, Fidelity Bank Bahamas, Bahamas Telecommunications Company, Scotiabank Ltd. and Lombard Odeir CIE Bahamas Ltd. joined as Major Sponsors with an investment of \$10,000.00 each. In 2024, Oaktree Medical Center began a two year Title Sponsorship with a \$16,000.00 annual contribution. The major sponsors for the 2025 Awards Program are: Lombard Odier & CIE Bahamas Ltd - \$20,000.00; Fidelity Bank Bahamas - \$12,000.00; His Excellency Raynard Rigby, C. G. Atlantic and Arawak Port Development Ltd. - \$10,000.00 each and Commonwealth Brewery and Insurance Commission of The Bahamas with a \$7,000.00 each. The Foundation is also the recipient of an annual \$5,000.00 Grant from The Ministry of Education.

THE FOUNDATION

Under the Presidency of **Mrs. Cyndi Williams-Rahming**, a proposal was submitted to the Nassau, Bahamas Pan-Hellenic Council for the Student of the Year Awards Program to be incorporated under a Foundation. The proposal was submitted and approved by the Council in May 2004 and incorporated under The Companies Act of 1992 of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas in June 2004. It was agreed that members of the 2004 Awards Committee would comprise of the Founding members of the Board of Directors of The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation.

Wednesday, August 4th, 2004 was a historic day for the officers and members of the Nassau, Bahamas Pan-Hellenic Council. The official launch was held in the form of a Luncheon at The Ballroom at Government House and it was hosted by **Her Excellency Dame Ivy Dumont** (then the Governor-General of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas). The thirteen-member Board of Directors were officially presented with their letters of appointments.

The founding Directors were **Cyndi Williams-Rahming - President, Ricardo P. Deveaux - Chairman, Tanya Woodside - Vice-Chair of Development, Carol L. Smith - Vice-Chair of Administration, Andre' A. Moss - Treasurer and Margo Adderley - Secretary. Directors were: L. Gerard Archer, Vaughn L. Culmer, CC LaFleur, Myra Mitchell, Eugene 'Geno' Nairn, Phenton Neymour and Steven G. Strachan.**

Attorney Debi Williams-Hancock of Williams Law Chambers completed the entire legal framework for the Foundation (gratis). Williams Law Chambers became the official registered office of the Foundation.

The Foundation was officially established with five hundred dollars (\$500) from the Nassau, Bahamas Pan-Hellenic Council and a six thousand-dollar (\$6,000) grant from the First Caribbean International Bank. The Bank awarded the Foundation with a grant in recognition of **Ricardo Deveau** being selected as the First Caribbean International Bank – 2004 Bahamas Unsung Hero. He was recognized for his work with the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program.

The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation, in partnership with the Nassau, Bahamas Pan-Hellenic Council looks forward to continuing to host this Awards Program for the benefits of primary school students in this country.

2025 - 2026 Foundation Board of Directors

CO-PATRONS

Sir Hubert A. Chipman, CPA

Mrs. Autherine Turnquest-Hanna

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

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Dr. Ricardo P. Deveaux, *LHD*, **President & CEO**

Dr. Cindy J. Dorsett, MBBS, **Senior Vice-President of Operations**

Mrs. Maureen Taylor, CPA, **Senior Vice-President of Finance**

Mrs. Stankisha Pinder, **Vice-President of Programs & Communications**

Dr. Shanel Adderley, MBBS **Vice-President of Administration & Corporate Secretary**

Mr. Samuel Evans, **Vice-President of Logistics**

Ms. Margo Adderley, **Vice-President of Development & Corporate Relations**

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Mr. Antoine Albury, CPA **NPHC Representative (NPHC President)**
(December 2025)

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Mr. Dave M. Forbes

Mrs. Margaret Johnson-Rolle

Mr. Leonard Sands

Mr. André A. Moss

Ms. Linda Wallace

Mr. Michael Wilson, CPA

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Dr. Davidson Hepburn, PhD

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Ms. Carol L. Smith, **Vice-President Emerita**

Ms. Tanya A. Woodside, **Vice-President Emerita**

Mr. Errol Bodie, **Director Emeritus**

Mr. Vaughn Culmer, **Director Emeritus**