

2026-27 Aspirations in Computing High School Award Application Scoring Guide

Your application will be assessed out of 99 total points. Of those, 18 points will be automatically scored based on your multiple choice and short-answer responses. The remaining 81 points will be awarded based on the qualities (below) from your open-ended responses.

Your open-ended responses will be scored 0-5 on how well your application exemplifies the following qualities:

Journey in Technology

[25 total points available]

We are interested in **whether you have an interest in computing** and we are looking for **examples of what you have been doing with technology** (for example, taking courses in computer science, creating an app, self-taught coding, robotics competitions, etc.).

A score of 5 will thoroughly discuss what sparked your interest in computing and what you have been doing with technology. The answer will also provide exceptional detail on your skills and activities related to technology.

Technology in Your Future

[20 total points available]

We are looking for answers that describe **technology as a central part of your future**. For example, creating technology, using computation and data analysis, teaching technology, or engaging in IT. Younger applicants may focus on hobbies or activities if they haven't yet begun career-planning.

A score of 5 will clearly describe, with appropriate detail, how computing and technology are central to your future pursuits.

Creative Use of Technology

[15 total points available]

We are interested in the **creative thought process applied** when solving a real-world problem using technology. Please describe the problem in detail and how you would solve it using technology. The problem could be a social problem, technical problem, world problem, or a local problem.

A score of 5 will clearly and thoroughly describe a problem you want to solve and compellingly explain how you could solve it with technology.

Ethical Technology Principles

[15 total points available]

We are interested in the **design values** for **ethical technology development** when creating new technologies. Please describe what principles you would incorporate in designing technology to avoid inadvertent harm

A score of 5 will clearly and thoroughly describe the principles you would include and why.

Evidence of Adversity

[6 total points available]

Did the applicant overcome challenges with computing access to pursue their technology journey? Examples may include financial barriers, lack of opportunity, or other challenges in the applicant's life.