



Governor Mikie Sherrill
Lt. Governor Dr. Dale G. Caldwell

* 2026 *

NEW JERSEY
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Commission Presents

Reflecting on Dr. King and the 250th Anniversary of the US

MLK SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY COMPETITION

APPLY NOW!

DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 16th 12PM

**Ten \$5,000 SCHOLARSHIPS will be offered
to New Jersey high school seniors.**

ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP

- The New Jersey Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission is proud to offer ten (10) scholarships to current high school seniors who are NJ residents in the amount of \$5,000 per student.
 - The scholarships will be awarded based on review of application by the independent reviewers appointed by the Commission.
 - Applications will only be accepted via online form.
 - Only one (1) entry per student.
 - Funds are disbursed directly to schools/institutions.
 - TIP: Write **all three essays** in word processing program, then copy and paste finished essays into application.
- **Applicants selected for final review will be asked to provide:
- Two (2) letters of reference from teachers, advisers, clergy and/or representatives of community-based service programs.
 - Official High School Transcript from 11th Grade.

QUESTIONS?

- Please email: MLKCommission@sos.nj.gov

ESSAY TOPICS

How does the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspire you as you think about your future?
(100 to 300 words)

Please tell us about your service to others during your high school years.
(100 to 300 words)

In 1963 Dr. King gave his famous I Have a Dream speech. In it he said "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." This year, as we mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, what are your thoughts on Dr. King's words today?
(100 to 300 words)

All applicants are required to answer all three essays to be considered.

Application opens Feb 11th <https://www.nj.gov/state/mlk.shtml>