



West Virginia
**Governor's
School for the Arts**

2026 Student Application

Part II



Sunday, June 21-Saturday, July 11, 2026

West Virginia Wesleyan College
59 College Ave.
Buckhannon, WV 26201

QUALIFICATIONS

DO NOT COMPLETE PART II UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED PART I

Required Qualifications:

- Complete Part I of the Application online located here:
<https://forms.office.com/r/MsdF6QF4mY>
- **Attend high school in West Virginia** and plan to be in attendance next year
- A resident of West Virginia
- A **sophomore** at the time of application
- Have a grade-point average of at least **2.2**
- Have a recommendation from the school principal (within this application)
- Must satisfy all immunization requirements set by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). Nonpublic school and homeschool students must provide proof of immunizations.
- Two teacher recommendations: one of these recommendations **must** come from a teacher who has worked with you in your arts area. Letters should be submitted on professional letterhead. Please provide sufficient notice to your teachers prior to submitting the application.
- Exhibit a strong commitment to personal artistic development in one of the areas listed below:
 - Theatre Arts
 - Creative Writing
 - Dance
 - Instrumental Music
 - Studio Art
 - Vocal Music
 - Digital Art/Media
- Submit an audition piece as specified within this application.

General Information

- The state deadline for Part I and II of the application and the audition piece is **Friday, March 6, 2026 by 11:59 PM.**
- Part II of the application (this form and all supporting documents as required within the application) are submitted directly to the state file upload folder.
- A copy of transcripts is required with the application. This document will need to be provided by the school counselor.
- On the final page of this application, you will find a checklist of all required pieces. It is your responsibility as the student to scan all components into a **PDF** and submit the entire application file to the upload folder. We recommend asking a teacher or counselor to review all your information before you submit it.

If you have questions, please contact Dustin Lambert, WVDE State Coordinator of West Virginia Governor's Schools – dllambert@k12.wv.us or (304) 558-5325.

Student Demographic Information

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____ Preferred First Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ County: _____

School: _____

Student's Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Student's Preferred Phone Number: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Male Female

Are there lodging accommodations the college/university should consider? Please explain.

Student's K12 Email Address: _____

Student's Preferred/Secondary Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian First and Last Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Preferred Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 First and Last Name: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Preferred Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Email Address: _____

Current Cumulative GPA: _____

Area of Arts

Theatre Arts Creative Writing Dance Instrumental Music Studio Art

Vocal Music Digital Art/Media

If Instrumental Music, please name the instrument(s) _____



Parent and Student Verification Form

Student's First and Last Name: _____

This form is to be printed and completed by both the student and a parent/guardian using blue or black ink. Please attach this document to the application when submitting to the school counselor.

The following assurances must be initialed by both a parent/guardian and the student to participate in the Governor's Schools for the Arts (GSA) if selected by the state selection committee. Your initials confirm you agree with each statement.

West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts (GSA)		
Student Initials	Parent/Guardian Initials	Please carefully read each statement before initialing.
		If selected, we agree to provide all requested medical (including prescriptions) and educational information to the GSA Dean at West Virginia Wesleyan College.
		The GSA program requires concerted academic focus, preparation, and motivation from all students. Participants are expected to demonstrate professionalism, self-discipline, and respect for self, others, the program, and the host institution.
		I consent to my son's/daughter's likeness, name, school, and hometown to appear in public media including newspapers, TV, radio, and the internet. Addresses and phone numbers may be printed in the student directory and shared with fellow GSA scholars during the sessions.
		I certify that I am a resident of the state of West Virginia and that I attend a public, nonpublic, or homeschool within the state.
		I give permission to the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) to release my child's name, likeness, and contact information to institutions recognizing and/or supporting the GSA program.
		If selected for GSA, I agree to fully participate from June 21-July 11, 2026. Failure to fully participate in all programs means you forfeit your ability to apply for future Governor's Schools.
		We agree to abide by the regulations and protocols of the West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts and West Virginia Wesleyan College. Your initials also indicate an understanding that students who do not follow the rules will be sent home.
		Student records and applications are retained by the West Virginia Department of Education within a secure database. The applications of the selected students and/or the data in an electronic format will be transferred to personnel at the Governor's School for the Arts. Every precaution is taken to safeguard student records. I understand the selection committee will keep all information confidential and securely maintained.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date



Principal Certification

This form is to be printed and completed using blue or black ink by the school counselor. The principal or assistant principal must sign at the bottom to certify the information below. Please attach this form to the application before submitting to the online file submission folder.

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Student Cumulative GPA: _____

Please confirm the information below is accurate within the application, or attached, by applying a checkmark or X.

- _____ A GPA of a least 2.2. The grade can be weighted or unweighted.
- _____ Two teacher recommendation letters are attached.
- _____ A record of regular attendance/acceptable discipline record (It is not necessary to send the record itself)
- _____ Photocopy of transcript of grades for grades 9 and the grade card for the **first semester** of the grade 10.
- _____ Photocopy of immunization records if the student is from a nonpublic school or homeschooled.

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I hereby certify that the above-named student and information is accurate. I further indicate with my signature a recommendation for the student to be considered for participation in the GSA program.

Principal or Assistant Principal Signature and Title

Date



Student Activities, Leadership, and Honors

Student's First and Last Name: _____

In the space provided, please highlight school activities, leadership, and honors throughout high school.

Activity/Club/Organization, Honor, Recognition	Leadership Position (if applicable)	Year(s)

If you need more space, please attach a second form.



Special Interests and Community Service

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Please discuss your special interests and hobbies.

Please list your community service involvement during high school.



Postsecondary Education Plans

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Please discuss your postsecondary education plans.



Student Essay Instructions

2026 GSA Theme: “Resonance”

Art is more than expression – it’s connection. Resonance happens when a story, a sound, or an image moves us deeply and stays with us long after the moment has passed. At GSA, we explore resonance in three ways: by reflecting on the art that has shaped us, by daring to create work that resonates with others, and by cultivating presence and connection in our artistic practice. Together, we will discover how resonance fuels creativity, builds community, and helps us find our place in the world as artists.

Write a short personal essay (400 - 500 words) that explores your experience of resonance in the arts. You might reflect on:

- A moment when a piece of art (music, theater, dance, writing, visual art, film, etc.) deeply moved or inspired you.
- An experience of sharing your own art with others, and how it resonated – through performance, collaboration, feedback, or impact.
- A time when creating or engaging with art helped you feel more connected – to yourself, to other people, or to the world around you.

Choose one or more of these approaches and use a specific example to show how resonance has shaped your artistic journey, your drive, or your vision as an artist.

Scan the completed essay with Part II of your application before submitting it to the submission folder (link on page 11).



Audition Instructions

Students applying for the Governor's School for the Arts are required to submit an audition piece. Each specific discipline has its own requirements.

The audition requirements for each discipline are located below. You may audition for multiple disciplines, but you must include a separate audition piece for each area. You will only be accepted into one discipline for GSA.

Links to audition requirements:

- [Creative Writing](#)
- [Dance](#)
- [Digital Art/Media](#)
- [Instrumental Music](#)
- [Studio Art](#)
- [Theatre Arts](#)
- [Vocal Music](#)

The file submission locations are located within the audition requirements above. Carefully read the instructions when uploading files.

Audition pieces must be submitted to the submission folders by 11:59 PM on Friday, March 6, 2026.



Application Specifications

Applications must include the following:

- Application Part II
- Parent and Student Verification Form
- Principal Certification
- Student Activities, Leadership, and Honors
- Special Interests and Community Service
- Postsecondary Education Plans
- Student Essay – formatted in Word and printed
- Transcript Record for grades 9 AND first semester grades of grade 10 (provided by counselor)
- Two Teacher Recommendations
- Immunization records for nonpublic school and homeschool students.
- The audition piece(s) are not submitted with the application – they are submitted to the upload file location as described on the audition page.

You may want to ask your school counselor to review all your information before you submit the application.

A state selection committee will determine students who participate in GSA.

The West Virginia Department of Education is not accepting paper submissions of applications. Once the student and school counselor have compiled the application and all required documents into one scanned PDF, students may upload the completed application to the file submission. Audition pieces are submitted at a separate file upload as outlined on page 10 of this application.

Application Part II File Submission Location: <https://tinyurl.com/uzv5zww8>

Application Deadline: **Friday, March 6, 2026 by 11:59 PM**



Division of Instruction & Career Engagement