



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
City of Albuquerque

City of Albuquerque
Department of Senior Affairs
714 7th Street, SW., Albuquerque, NM 87102



Albuquerque Public Schools

December 11, 2025

Attention: Grade Level Chairperson

As part of the Older Americans' Month celebration during May, the City of Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs and Albuquerque Public Schools are sponsoring the 44th Annual "A Senior I Know" Essay Contest for **first through fifth grade students in the APS school district boundaries only**.

The "A Senior I Know" Essay Contest supports Language Arts standards in Strand III for grades 1 -5 in Writing Strategies, Conventions and Applications.

The purpose of this contest is to promote positive relationships between elementary school students and seniors. Each student who enters the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation and a coupon from a participating merchant. We hope you will encourage your teachers and students to participate in this intergenerational activity. *(Please copy and distribute this information to teachers at your grade level).*

Contest Rules and Entry Forms are available on the City of Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs' website <http://www.cabq.gov/seniors/> and the Albuquerque Public School's website.

Listed below are the rules, selection process and judging criteria for the contest.

RULES: All rules must be followed or essays will be DISQUALIFIED!

1. Essays must be submitted through the child's school; APS Elementary Schools, Parochial, Private, Charter or Home School within the Albuquerque Public School district boundaries. No on-line entries will be accepted.
2. All essays must be the original work of the student.
3. Essays may be up to 300 words in length.
4. Essays written in a foreign language must also submit a translated English copy.
5. Essays must be typed or hand written by contestant on the Official Entry Form. The information box on the entry form **must** list the child's:

Name

Grade

Age

Gender

Teacher

School

Title ("A Senior I Know" is the subject)

Email

SELECTION PROCESS:

1. Preliminary judging will be the responsibility of each school.
2. Each grade level is to be judged separately.
3. Suggestions for judges at each school include: PTA members, UNM students, seniors, and non-participating teachers and/or students.
4. Essays from **one boy and one girl** in each grade will be selected at each school.

A total of ten winning essays (two per grade level) from each school can be sent to any of the following locations by 5 p.m. on February 11, 2026.

Hoover Middle School

Attn: Kessick Blech

12015 Tivoli NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center

Attn: Esperanza Molina, Center Supervisor

501 Elizabeth SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123

North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center

Attn: Amber Maestas, Center Supervisor

7521 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113

Santa Barbara Martineztown Multigenerational Center

Attn: Matthew Montoya

1825 Edith NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

A note must accompany the entries stating the total number of students who wrote essays for the contest. Based on the numbers submitted, the appropriate number of Certificates of Participation and coupons will be forwarded to each school by May 2026.

5. A panel of judges will select the 30 city winners.
6. Selected winning essays will be on display on the city website, social media and will also be published in a booklet.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. The message about the senior should be clear.
2. The impact of the message should be appealing.
3. The contest rules must be followed.
4. The essay should demonstrate skills appropriate for the grade level.

Thirty city winners will be chosen from APS, private schools, parochial schools, charter and home-schooled students in Albuquerque. The winners and their families may be invited to an awards reception to be determined at a later date, dependent on the public health order regarding the pandemic. Teachers and principals of the winning students will also be recognized on that date.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the contest, please contact Esperanza Molina, Center Supervisor, (505) 768-2407, esperanzamolina@cabq.gov.

Sincerely,

Kent Vigil

Kent Vigil
Recreation Division Manager
City of Albuquerque
Department of Senior Affairs