




PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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September 24, 2018

TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM Mark Johnson 

Trey Michael 
Director, Career and Technical Education

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

President Lyndon Johnson established the Presidential Scholars Program in 1964, which has honored almost 7,500 outstanding high school seniors since that time. The mission of the program is to recognize and honor superior high school seniors and thereby to encourage high attainment among all students.

Per the original Executive Order establishing the program, students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship. For most of the program's existence, nominees have been invited to apply for recognition based upon SAT or ACT scores. As the program has grown, candidates have been invited to apply in other ways as well. Beginning in 1979, outstanding students who demonstrated ability and accomplishment in the visual and performing arts or creative writing were added to the program. Since 2013, Chief State School Officers have been invited to nominate candidates from their states for the General component of the program. The program is also partnering with several recognition organizations that each nominate candidates for the General component of the program. And, beginning in 2016, outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in CTE were included for recognition.

GENERAL COMPONENT NOMINATION REQUEST

I am asking each of you to nominate one student from your LEA who demonstrates outstanding scholarship but might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT, Arts, or CTE recognition processes. All high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2019, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. The candidates will go through the application process, and as in the past, the 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC.

OFFICE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPERINTENDENT

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

It may be helpful to consider the following areas as you contemplate the selection of your nominee:

- What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
- Were there special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success?

In addition, it may be useful for you to know that the reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the semifinalist and Scholar evaluation levels:

- Involvement and Service (in school and community)
- Leadership and Character
- Writing samples
- Academic achievements
- Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) NOMINATION REQUEST

In addition to the above nomination, each LEA is asked to nominate one additional student to be included as a candidate for recognition for excellence in CTE.

All high school seniors who are participants of a CTE program, graduating between January and June 2019, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. Please see the attachment for suggested criteria.

In order for students to be considered for this recognition in 2019 at the state level, we need all nominations by **October 12**. Each state can nominate 20 students in the general component category and five additional students for the CTE recognition component. State-level nominees are due to the Commission on Presidential Scholars by November 21. The nomination form for the General Category is attached. The nomination form for the CTE Scholars will be sent to CTE Directors. State-level nominees will be notified that their information has been elevated to the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

We recognize that the turnaround for these nominations is quick; however, your assistance with this very worthwhile endeavor is appreciated, as it is important that we recognize and highlight the extraordinary talents of our outstanding North Carolina students. All 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC.

Please contact Susan Auton, Special Assistant, State Superintendent's Office, if you have questions concerning the application process via email at susan.auton@dpi.nc.gov or Felicia Gray-Watson, Section Chief, CTE Support Services, at felicia.graywatson@dpi.nc.gov.

MRJ:sma

Enclosures

c: Susan Auton, Special Assistant, Office of the State Superintendent
Felicia Gray-Watson, Section Chief, CTE Support Services

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
STATE-LEVEL STUDENT NOMINATION APPLICATION FOR 2018-19
GENERAL CATEGORY

Each LEA superintendent is invited to nominate one (1) student in the General Category who has achieved high academic success while overcoming obstacles to represent his/her school district for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. All high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2019 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible to be nominated. The Department of Public Instruction will submit the names of 20 nominees (10 males and 10 females) to the Commission on Presidential Scholars by November 21, 2018. All nominees will be added to the larger pool of nominees, announced, and then invited to apply in mid-January 2019. Completed applications will be due in February, and Scholars will be announced at the beginning of May 2019.

Weighted GPA _____ Unweighted GPA _____

Student Name: _____ Class Rank _____ out of _____ students

Home Mailing Address (include city, zip): _____

Student's Email Address: _____ Gender: _____

High School Name: _____

High School Mailing Address (include city, zip): _____

High School CEEB Code: _____

LEA Name: _____

LEA Mailing Address (include city, zip): _____

Name and Title of Person Submitting Nomination (Printed) and Signature Phone # Date

Principal's Name (Printed) and Signature Date

Superintendent's Name (Printed) and Signature Date

Your district nomination is restricted to this page and the following page. Completed nominations are due by

October 12, 2018 to: Susan Auton, Special Assistant
(Office of the State Superintendent)
NC Department of Public Instruction
6301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6301

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
STATE-LEVEL STUDENT NOMINATION APPLICATION FOR 2018-19
GENERAL CATEGORY

Student's Name: _____ LEA: _____

It may be useful for you to know that the reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the national Semifinalist and Scholar evaluation levels: Involvement and Service (in school and community), Leadership and Character, Student Writing Samples (not included in this round), and Academic Achievements. Discretionary points will be awarded for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities or obstacles to overcome. Answers are restricted to this one page.

Explain the nominee's background/history of academic achievement. In terms of leadership and character, what about the student makes him or her stand out in the community and/or school?

Explain the special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success