



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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August 28, 2019

TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM Mark Johnson *MRJ*
Trey Michael *TM*
Director, Career and Technical Education

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, and, since that time, the program has honored over 7,500 outstanding high school seniors. The mission of the program is to recognize and honor outstanding high school seniors, and thereby 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.

During the 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholars General component student nomination process, 71 CSSO-nominated students were named semifinalists, and 23 CSSO-nominated students were named U.S. Presidential Scholars.

GENERAL COMPONENT NOMINATION REQUEST

I am asking each of you to nominate one student from your LEA who demonstrates outstanding scholarship as a candidate for the 2020 Scholars program. All high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2020, 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 2020 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 questions as you contemplate the selection of your nominees:

1. What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
2. 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 general nominations, we are also asking each of you to nominate additional students from your jurisdiction to be included as candidates for recognition for excellence in CTE. This year, we request your nomination of up to five students in CTE. Please see the attachment for suggested criteria.

We are proud this still new component of the program will honor students “on the basis of outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.”

All high school seniors who are participants of a CTE program graduating between January and June of 2020, 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. Candidates who are nominated and choose to apply, and whose applications are complete, will be reviewed by a committee of qualified individuals experienced in career and technical education. The committee will choose 60 applicants to be named as semifinalists. The 60 CTE semifinalist applications will then be reviewed by the Commission on Presidential Scholars. All 2020 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.

To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, please visit our Web site at <http://www.ed.gov/psp>.

Both the General and CTE Nomination requests are attached.

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 (general category) or Felicia Gray-Watson, Section Chief, CTE Support Services, at Felicia.graywatson@dpi.nc.gov (CTE category).

Enclosures

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
STATE-LEVEL STUDENT NOMINATION APPLICATION FOR 2019-20
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 20, 2019. All nominees will be added to the larger pool of nominees, announced, and then invited to apply in mid-January 2020. Completed applications will be due in February, and Scholars will be announced at the beginning of May 2020.

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
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Principal's Name (Printed) and Signature	Date
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Superintendent's Name (Printed) and Signature	Date
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Your district nomination is restricted to this page and the following page. Completed nominations are due by **October 04, 2019** 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 2019-20
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

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Student Nomination Application for CTE Scholars for 2019-20

Each LEA is invited to nominate one (1) student for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognition for CTE students. All high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2020 who are US 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 five nominees to the Commission on Presidential Scholars by November 20, 2019. All nominees will be added to the larger pool of nominees, announced and then invited to apply directly to the Commission on Presidential Scholars in mid-January 2020. Completed applications will be due in February, and Scholars will be announced at the beginning of May 2020.

Student Name:			Gender:	
Home Mailing Address (include city, state, zip)				
Student's Email Address:				
Student's Telephone number:				
CTE Concentration Area (must have at least three (3) credits earned in CTE cluster area):				
CTSO Affiliation:				
Unweighted GPA:		CTE Cluster GPA: (No grade shall be below B)		
Class Rank:		Out of		
High School Name				
High School Mailing Address (include city, state, zip)				
High School Phone Number:				
High School CEEB Code:				
LEA Name:				
LEA Mailing Address (include city, state, zip)				

Name and Title of Person Submitting Nomination	Phone	Date
Principal's Name (Printed) and Signature	Phone	Date
CTE Director's Name (Printed) and Signature	Phone	Date
Superintendent's Name (Printed) and Signature	Phone	Date

Your district's CTE nomination is restricted to this page and the following two pages. Completed nominations are due by **October 4, 2019** to: Felicia Gray-Watson, Section Chief, CTE Support Services
Career and Technical Education
NC Department of Public Instruction
6307 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6307

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Student Nomination Application for CTE Scholars for 2019-20

Student's Name: _____

The Commission will consider achievement in the following specific standards for CTE Scholars: Academic Rigor; Technical Competence; Employability Skills; and Ingenuity/Creativity/Problem Solving. Please refer to the Criteria for Candidate Identification for more details on each standard. Use the spaces below to describe the student's achievement in each standard area. Answers to all of the questions are restricted to two pages.

Describe how the student demonstrates or has demonstrated technical competence.

Describe how the student demonstrates or has demonstrated employability skills.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Student Nomination Application for CTE Scholars for 2019-20

Describe how the student demonstrates or has demonstrated ingenuity/creativity/problem solving.