



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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TO Superintendents High School Principals and Counselors
Charter School Administrators EC Program Directors
Headmasters of Non-Public Schools AIG Coordinators

FROM Dr. Beverly R. Emory *BRE*
Deputy Superintendent for District Support

Sherry H. Thomas, Director *SHT*
Exceptional Children Division

THE 2020 SESSION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is pleased to announce plans for the 2020 North Carolina Governor's School. Administered by the Exceptional Children Division, Governor's School has provided a unique and innovative residential educational experience for many of the state's brightest and most talented high school students each summer since 1963. The *Nomination Packet* and forms will be posted soon at www.ncgovschool.org. All information will be available to download and print; forms will allow for electronic completion, saving and printing. **Please direct all interested students to the Nomination Packet.**

The person in your school/system responsible for working with the Governor's School program should coordinate all nominations. Follow the procedures carefully, screen closely, and nominate students who can handle the freedom and responsibility of a residential school and will **commit to attending the entire session**. Please strive to adequately and fairly reflect the racial, ethnic, gender and socioeconomic diversity of your tenth and eleventh grade population.

Important Dates/Events

- **September/October 2019:** Informational Meetings – see below for details.
- **Friday, November 15, 2019:** Deadline (postmark) to submit nominations.
- **February 2020:** Auditions in all Performing/Visual Arts areas; specifics to be announced.
- **March 2020:** Selection/non-selection notices are sent to schools/systems and nominees.
- **Friday, April 5, 2020:** Deadline for schools/systems to accept/decline selection.
- **Sunday, June 21, 2020:** Opening Day of 2020 Governor's School (both campuses)
- **Tuesday, July 28, 2020:** Closing Day of Governor's School West
- **Wednesday, July 29, 2020:** Closing Day of Governor's School East

Informational Meetings

The Exceptional Children Division is holding informational meetings throughout the state in September and October to inform and answer questions about Governor's School. More information soon will be sent to local Governor's School contacts and posted on the website.

Selection/Acceptance

Teams of professionals select students during winter 2020. Students in academics are selected

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according to their applications; those in performing/visual arts are selected by a combined process of application review and audition. In March 2020, all nominees and their *Nominating Entity* (i.e., the public-school unit or non-public school that submits nominations) will be notified of their selection/non-selection to attend Governor's School. **The Nominating Entity is required to reply by April 6 with the names of accepting students.** At that point, the Nominating Entity is obligated to pay those students' tuition charges.

Funding/Tuition Update

The North Carolina Governor's School efficiently uses its limited resources to provide an innovative and outstanding residential education program each year. Fortunately, it appears the program will receive a significant increase in public funds beginning with the 2020 session. Still, a tuition charge of \$500 per student will remain to augment the public funds and reach as many students as possible.

The Nominating Entity must submit the tuition for all its students attending Governor's School but can decide how to access and collect tuition-related funds. They may use any appropriate, compliant strategies, including requesting families to contribute all or some tuition charges; however, they are encouraged to first explore other local funding sources (e.g., internal operating budget, local civic and charitable organizations, etc.). Governor's School seeks out and welcomes students from every county, population and income level. Working with schools, families and other entities, its aim is to ensure that no student is dissuaded from nomination or selection due to finances.

Scholarships

Scholarships will be available through the North Carolina Governor's School Foundation. The application process will begin after selected students are notified in March. Information about the scholarship program will be available at www.ncgsfoundation.org/apply/. All selected students who may need financial assistance are encouraged to apply.

Tuition Payment Procedures

- Tuition will be collected by **direct payment** from the Nominating Entity to the Department of Public Instruction. More specific instructions will be sent in March 2020.
- Full tuition payments for all initially accepting students are due **April 27, 2020**. No student may attend Governor's School unless his/her tuition is paid in full.
- If alternate students are selected as the spring progresses, tuition payment for those students will be due on **July 13, 2020**.

Refunds

Tuition for the North Carolina Governor's School is non-refundable. If tuition has been submitted and then, even with advance notice, the student does not attend Governor's School, the tuition will not be refunded, except under extreme circumstances.

Contact Information

The State Board of Education, the Department of Public Instruction and the Board of Governors for the North Carolina Governor's School express their sincere appreciation for the interest and support that you have shown for Governor's School. If you have any questions, please contact: Tom Winton, Coordinator, at 919/807-3767 or tom.winton@dpi.nc.gov, or Tish Bynum, Special Assistant, at 919/807-3582 or tish.bynum@dpi.nc.gov.