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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

September 21, 2020

US Presidential Scholars Program – Nominations Request

This memo provides instructions and materials to assist high schools in submitting nominations for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. This nomination process is for students who might not otherwise be nominated through the additional U.S. Presidential Scholars recognition processes for recognizing excellence on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or American College Test (ACT) exams, in Career and Technical Education or in Fine Arts.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is seeking additional nominations for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. All Washington state high school seniors graduating between January and August of 2021, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and who attend a Washington state public or private high school, including those students who are experiencing homelessness, are eligible to be nominated.

Under the Executive Order establishing the Presidential Scholars Program, students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship and promise of future success. For most of the program's existence, nominees have been invited to apply for the Presidential Scholars recognition based solely upon SAT and ACT scores or on their demonstrated ability and accomplishment in the visual and performing arts or creative writing.

Beginning in 2014, the Presidentially-appointed Commission on Presidential Scholars expanded the nominee pool by inviting each Chief State School Officer to nominate up to 20 students, 10 male and 10 female, from his or her state.

You are encouraged to nominate students who, while demonstrating outstanding scholarship, might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT processes.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Each school may nominate one student identifying as female and one student who identifies as male. Candidates should have demonstrated leadership; school and community involvement; and may receive discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles which they overcame.

To nominate a student, please complete the nomination form, include an additional one to two page writing sample from each nominated student, and postmark or submit via email (preferred submission method) by **5 pm on October 16, 2020** to:

Ronnie Larson
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Post Office Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200
Email: ronnie.larson@k12.wa.us

An OSPI Bulletin will be sent out in November, as well as an email to all schools that submitted nominations, announcing the results of this process.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on the Presidential Scholars, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>.

For questions regarding this memo or the nomination process, please contact Kim Reykdal, Program Supervisor Lead for Secondary School Counseling, at kim.reykdal@k12.wa.us.

OSPI provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at 360-725-6162/TTY: 360-664-3631; or P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200; or equity@k12.wa.us.