



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO District Chief Academic Officers
Career and Technical Education Directors/Administrators
Charter School Directors

FROM Dr. Michael Maher, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards,
Accountability, and Research on behalf of
Superintendent of Public Instruction, Catherine Truitt

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Sneha Shah-Coltrane, Director, Office of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education
Trey Michael, Senior Director, Office of Career and Technical Education

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DATE September 15, 2023

2023-2024 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 8,000 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 based on outstanding scholarship qualities. For most of the program's existence, nominees have been invited to apply for recognition based on 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 (CSSO) 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 demonstrated excellence in CTE were included for recognition.

Each PSU may nominate one to three students, based on senior student enrollment* for both the General Education category and the Career and Technical category. Submissions are **due to NCDPI on or before November 3, 2023**. A team from the NCDPI will evaluate PSU nominations and make recommendations to the CSSO based on those scores. Superintendent Truitt may nominate ten male and ten female candidates in the General Education category based on their outstanding scholarship. Additionally, Superintendent Truitt may nominate up to five candidates who meet the U.S. Presidential Scholars candidacy requirements for Career and Technical Education.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Trey Michael, *Director* | trey.michael@dpi.nc.gov
6307 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6307 | (984) 236-2760
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Nominations from each CSSO are due to the Presidential Scholars Program Office in the U.S. Department of Education by November 30, 2023. Candidates will receive a letter of invitation from the Presidential Scholars Program Office to apply for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program by the end of January 2024. Please note that application for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is by invitation only. Semifinalists are announced in April with finalists announced the first full week of May 2024. The recipients will be recognized in June through the U.S. Presidential Scholars, Scholar National Recognition Program. There were 161 students recognized in the 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Three of these scholars were from North Carolina. Those students are incredible examples of what the future holds.

GENERAL COMPONENT NOMINATION REQUEST:

PSU Chief Academic Officers may nominate one to three students*, based on senior enrollment from your district/charter, who demonstrates outstanding scholarship qualities as a candidate for the 2023- 2024 Scholars program. All high school seniors graduating between January and August 2024, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. The candidates will go through the application process, and as in the past, the 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

It may be helpful to consider the following questions during the selection of nominees:

1. What about the student makes him or her stand out as having an 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 to know that the national (and state-level) reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the semifinalist and scholar evaluation levels:

- SAT and/or ACT scores
- Involvement and Service (in school and community)
- Leadership and Problem solving
- Character and Perseverance
- Writing samples
- Academic achievements

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) NOMINATION REQUEST

In addition to the general nominations, each PSU may nominate one to three students*, based on senior enrollment additional to be included as candidates for recognition for excellence in CTE. This component of the program will honor students “on the basis of outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.” Please see the CTE criteria attachment for guidance

All high school seniors who are participants of a CTE program graduating between January and August of 2024, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents are eligible. Candidates who are nominated and have completed applications will be reviewed by a committee of qualified individuals experienced in career and technical education. The Presidential Scholars Program CTE 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 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

In addition, it may be useful to know that the national (and state-level) CTE reviewers will be considering the following categories when evaluating the nominees at the semifinalist and Scholar evaluation levels:

- Academic Rigor
- Technical Competence
- Employability Skills
- Ingenuity and Creativity

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

*Please visit the [NCDPI Presidential Scholars](#) webpage for the allotted number of nominations accepted per LEA/Charter based on senior student allotment.