North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

North Carolina General Education Presidential Scholars

Rubric 2022-2023   *Student Candidate Number*: _____

Criteria and Performance Levels						
SECTION 1: Academic Rigor (10 points max)						
	5 Points	**4 Points**	**3 Points**	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
Cumulative Unweighted GPA	3.90 – 4.00	3.75 – 3.89	3.50 – 3.74	3.25 – 3.49	3.00 – 3.24	GPA below 3.0	
	5 Points	**4 Points**	**3 Points**	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
Class Rank	Ranking top 2% of class	Ranking top 2.1% - 5% of class	Ranking top 5.1% - 10% of class	Ranking top 10.1% - 15% of class	Ranking top 15.1% - 20% of class	Ranking below 20.1% of class	

SECTION 2: INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE in school and community (9 points max)					
	3 Points	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
The applicant provides a list of school and community activities that demonstrates active involvement in their school and/or community. This may include paid and unpaid jobs.	Includes a list of 4 to 5 or more school AND/OR community involvement activities.	Includes a list of 2 to 3 school AND/OR community involvement activities.	Includes a list of 1 school AND/OR community involvement activity.	Does not include a list of any school or community activities.	
	3 Points	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
The applicant demonstrates a commitment to school and community-based activities as evidenced by the number of hours and length of time devoted.	Demonstrates a strong commitment to more than 2 of the listed activities throughout high school as evidenced by 3 semesters (1.5 academic years) or more, and/or 5 hours or more per week of active involvement.	Demonstrates a moderate commitment to 2 listed activities throughout high school as evidenced by 2 semesters (1 academic year), and/or 3 to 4 hours per week of active involvement.	Demonstrates inconsistent commitment to fewer than 2 listed activities throughout high school as evidenced by fewer than 2 semesters (1 academic year) and/or fewer than 3 hours per week of active involvement.	Demonstrates no commitment to school or community activities.	
	3 Points	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
The applicant takes on leadership roles in listed activities.	Has held a leadership role in more than half of the activities listed.	Has held a leadership role in at least half of the activities listed.	Has held a leadership role in at least one of the activities listed.	Has held no leadership roles in any of the activities listed.	

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Section 3: Essay 1
LEADERSHIP and PROBLEM SOLVING
Prompt: *Describe what qualities make an effective leader. Include a specific example of when you took a leadership role to either solve a problem or to create something of value.* (12 points max)

	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points	Score
Responds appropriately to all aspects of the prompt, and provides a clear and focused response.	Addresses all aspects of the prompt and provides a clear and focused response.	Addresses most aspects of the prompt, but may wander off topic.	Addresses at least one aspect of the prompt, but fails to do so clearly and may wander off topic.	Fails to adequately address the prompt presented or responds inappropriately.	
	3 Points	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
Provides evidence to support their response and includes a personal example.	Provides two or more examples of leadership qualities with substantial support and includes a clearly illustrated personal example with pertinent details.	Provides one or more examples of leadership qualities with support as well as a personal example with some appropriate details.	Provides at least one example of a leadership quality with some support and includes a personal example with minimal details.	Provides no leadership qualities in the response and/or does not include a coherent personal example.	
	3 Points	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
Exhibits excellence in written expression.	Exhibits very few, if any, grammatical or structural errors in all aspects of the essay and conveys an exemplary vision of the author's response to the prompt.	Exhibits a few grammatical or structural errors. This includes repetition, abrupt transitions, and/or some organizational errors. While there are errors, the response conveys a comprehensive vision of the author's response to the prompt.	Exhibits multiple grammatical and structural errors. The response conveys a general vision of the author's response to the prompt.	Exhibits many grammatical and structural errors. Response fails to convey the author's understanding of the prompt.	
	3 Points	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
Demonstrates leadership characteristics through the ability to identify and find a solution to a problem and/or create something of value.	Demonstrates many characteristics of leadership. Deep, thorough, insightful (sometimes creative) reflective answer given. Student insightfully articulates what is relevant to the prompt. The ability to identify and find a solution to a problem and/or create something of value, using pertinent information and important details is very apparent.	Demonstrates some characteristics of leadership. Some important information may have been omitted but the student competently articulates what is relevant to the prompt. The ability to identify and find a solution to a problem and/or create something of value, using basic information and details is apparent.	Demonstrates a few characteristics of leadership. Important information may have been omitted and the student demonstrates minimal understanding of what is relevant to the prompt. The ability to identify and find a solution to a problem and/or create something of value using basic information and details is somewhat apparent.	Demonstrates no characteristics of leadership and Student fails to articulate an understanding of what is relevant to the prompt. Fails to attempt to identify and define the problem.	

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Section 3: Essay 2
CHARACTER and PERSEVERANCE
Prompt: Describe what special challenges or hurdles you have overcome while still achieving high academic success.(12 points max)

	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points	Score
Responds appropriately to all aspects of the prompt, and provides a clear and focused response.	Addresses all aspects of the prompt and provides a clear and focused response.	Addresses most aspects of the prompt, but may wander off topic.	Addresses at least one aspect of the prompt, but fails to do so clearly and may wander off topic.	Fails to address the prompt presented or responds inappropriately.	
	3 Points	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
Provides evidence to support their response and properly connects the evidence to their response.	Provides two or more examples to support the answer and clearly explains the connection.	Provides two or more examples to support the answer, but does not always explain the connection.	Provides at least one example to support the answer and/or fails to explain the connection.	Provides no examples to support the answer and/or fails to explain the connection.	
	3 Points	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
Exhibits excellence in written expression.	Exhibits very few, if any, grammatical or structural errors in all aspects of the essay. The response conveys an exemplary vision of the author's answer.	Exhibits a few grammatical or structural errors. This includes repetition, abrupt transitions, and/or some organizational errors. While there are errors, the response conveys a comprehensive vision of the author's answer.	Exhibits multiple grammatical and structural errors. The response fails to properly convey a general vision of the author's answer to the prompt.	Exhibits many grammatical and structural errors and is difficult to understand the author's answer to the prompt.	
	3 Points	**2 Points**	**1 Point**	**0 Points**	**Score**
Demonstrates positive character traits and perseverance in overcoming obstacles is apparent.	Demonstrates extraordinary evidence of positive character traits and remarkable perseverance in overcoming obstacles.	Demonstrates adequate evidence of positive character traits and perseverance to overcome obstacles is apparent.	Demonstrates minimal evidence of positive character traits and perseverance to overcome obstacles is somewhat apparent.	Demonstrates insufficient evidence of positive character traits and perseverance to overcome obstacles is not apparent.	

Reviewer Comments: (optional)

NC General Education Judging Criteria

Criteria for Candidate Identification and Nomination:
Public School Units will use the following general guiding principles to develop a pool of U.S. Presidential Scholars in General Education nominees.

General Guiding Principles:
- Academic Rigor
- Involvement and Service (in school and community)
- Leadership and Problem Solving
- Character and Perseverance

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education looks at test scores in each of the states/jurisdictions. For each examinee, the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Math SAT score is compared to the ACT English, Reading and Math score. Each student's highest test score (in a single test administration) is identified and duplicates and/or lower scores are dropped.

NCDPI Specific Scoring Guidelines:

Academic Rigor based on high proficiency and achievement that is reflected in the State and District's academic assessments as demonstrated by:
- ✔ Maintaining an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (unweighted).
- ✔ Earning a class rank of 20 % or higher.

Involvement and Service in School and Community as demonstrated by:
- ✔ Providing a list of activities which include active participation. (These activities may include jobs that are paid and/or unpaid, extracurriculars, hobbies, and service to school AND community.)
- ✔ Maintaining commitment to school and community-based activities throughout high school.
- ✔ Holding leadership positions in listed school and community-based activities.

Leadership and Problem Solving as demonstrated by one or more of the following:
- ✔ Demonstrating leadership characteristics through the ability to identify and find a solution to a problem and/or create something of value.
- ✔ Providing a solution to a real-world problem (e.g., developed an electric car that goes faster than any before).
- ✔ Developing a new product/good or service (e.g., development of an app).

Character and Perseverance as demonstrated by:
- ✔ Exemplifying positive character traits.
- ✔ Persevering when confronted with obstacles.