



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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**TO** LEA Superintendents  
Charter School Directors

**FROM** David Stegall, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation/Chief Academic Officer  
*On behalf of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Catherine Truitt*

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

**DATE** September 23, 2021

## 2022 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 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 (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 demonstrate excellence in CTE were included for recognition.

**Each LEA and Charter may nominate two students: one for the General Education category and one for the Career and Technical Education category. Submissions are due to NCDPI on or before November 8, 2021 on the forms provided by NCDPI.** A team from the NCDPI will score nominations and make recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Catherine Truitt. NCDPI may nominate ten female and ten male candidates in the General Education category based on their outstanding scholarship. Additionally, NCDPI may nominate up to five candidates who meet the U.S. Presidential Scholars candidacy requirements for Career and Technical Education. Nomination forms may be found at: [NCDPI US Presidential Scholars Information](#).

Nominations from each CSSO are due to the Presidential Scholars Program Office in the U.S. Department of Education by November 24, 2021. 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 2022. Please note that application for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is by invitation only. Semifinalists

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are announced in April with finalists announced the first full week of May, 2022. The recipients will be recognized in June through the U.S. Presidential Scholars, Scholar National Recognition Program.

Last year, there were 161 students recognized in the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Three of these scholars were from North Carolina. Those students are incredible examples of what the future holds. 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>.

### **GENERAL EDUCATION COMPONENT NOMINATION REQUEST: ONE STUDENT**

LEA Superintendents and Charter School Directors may nominate one student from your district/charter who demonstrates outstanding scholarship qualities as a candidate for the 2022 Scholars program. All high school seniors graduating between January and June 2022, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, are eligible. The candidates will go through the application process, and as in the past, the 2022 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.

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 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:

- 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: ONE STUDENT**

In addition to the general nominations, each LEA/Charter School may nominate one additional student 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 June of 2022, 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 and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC.

LEA Superintendents/Charter School Directors  
September 23, 2021

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

- General category: Dr. Crissy Brown, Advanced Learning and Gifted Education, [crissy.brown@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:crissy.brown@dpi.nc.gov)
- CTE category: Angela LeMay, Career and Technical Education, [angela.lemay@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:angela.lemay@dpi.nc.gov)