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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

September 11, 2023

() Action Required
Due date: October 20, 2023
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 060-23 SECONDARY EDUCATION AND PATHWAY PREPARATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
High School Building Principals
Career and Technical Education Directors
High School Counselors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2023–24 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Nominations

CONTACT: Maria Muto, Secondary School Counseling Program Supervisor
564-999-3916, maria.muto@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is seeking 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 solely on the basis of Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or American College Test (ACT) exam results, or for excellence in the Fine Arts.

This bulletin provides instructions and materials to assist high schools in submitting nominations for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, for both the overall achievement and Career and Technical Education (CTE) awards, which are two distinctly separate awards. All Washington state high school seniors graduating between January and August of 2024, 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 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, students are selected based on outstanding scholarship and promise of future success. For most of the program's existence, nominees have been invited to apply for the U.S. 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.

Each Chief State School Officer is annually invited to nominate students from their state for recognition of their overall scholastic and extracurricular achievements, especially in spite of challenges they may have faced, and to also nominate students for meeting the rigorous standards for excellence in CTE. For overall achievement, 10 students identifying as male and 10 students identifying as female are nominated, and up to five other students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in CTE fields are nominated as well.

High school staff members connected to these students are encouraged to nominate students who, while demonstrating outstanding scholarship, might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT processes or specifically for Fine Arts.

Note: The U.S. Department of Education does not inform the states about their selection process, nor what the potential ACT/SAT 'cut scores' are, for nominations based on exam scores alone.

Also, due to continued impacts from previous COVID closures, OSPI will continue to adjust our scoring process for the 2023 nominees so that students who do not have an ACT/SAT exam score are still eligible to apply and will not be penalized for a lack of exam score.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Overall Achievement Award Application

Each school may nominate one student identifying as male and one student who identifies as female. Candidates should have demonstrated leadership, school and community involvement, academic and extracurricular achievement, and writing skills. Nominees may receive discretionary points for extraordinary scholastic achievement, long-lasting commitment to community service, heavy workload, additional family responsibilities, or significant obstacles which they overcame.

To nominate a student, please complete the [Overall Achievement Nomination form](#), and include a one-to-two-page writing sample from each nominated student. Postmark or submit via email (preferred submission method) by **5 pm on Friday, October 20, 2023**, to:

Angel Martinez
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200
Email: presidentialscholars@k12.wa.us
Email Subject: Presidential Scholars Overall Achievement Nomination Form

Career and Technical Education Award Application

Each school may nominate high school seniors graduating between January–August of 2024 that have proved excellence in CTE programs. Qualified candidates will have demonstrated success in the evaluation categories of academic rigor, technical competence, employability skills, ingenuity, and problem solving. Nominees may receive discretionary points for accomplishments in state recognized Career and Technical Student Organizations, completion of high-quality work-based learning experiences, and earning industry recognized credentials or dual credit through their CTE experiences.

To nominate a student, please complete the [CTE Nomination form](#), and postmark or submit via email (preferred submission method) by **5 pm on Friday, October 20, 2023**, to:

Ellie Palmer
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200
Email: presidentialscholars@k12.wa.us
Email Subject: Presidential Scholars CTE Nomination Form

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on the Presidential Scholars, visit the [U.S. Department of Education](#).

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Maria Muto, Secondary School Counseling Program Supervisor, at 564-999-3916 or email maria.muto@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT
Deputy Superintendent

Rebecca Wallace
Assistant Superintendent
Secondary Education and Pathway Preparation

Kim Reykdal
Director
Graduation and Pathway Preparation

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Attachment(s):

- Attachment 1: Overall Achievement Nomination Form
- Attachment 2: Career and Technical Education Nomination Form

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.