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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

November 9, 2026

( ) Action Required
Due date:
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 036-26 PATHWAY PREPARATION AND TITLE PROGRAMS

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
CTE Directors
High School Building Principals
High School Counselors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2026-27 U.S. Presidential Scholars Request for Nominations

CONTACT: Amber De Villers, Operations Program Supervisor
360-725-6144, presidentialscholars@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is seeking nominations for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 to recognize and honor our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars across the nation, and each Chief State School Officer can nominate graduates for Overall Achievement and Career and Technical Education (CTE) recognition. Superintendent Reykdal considers school-based nominations in the state's selection process. These nominations are in addition to the Scholars selected at the federal level on the basis of Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or American College Test (ACT) exam results, or for excellence in the Fine Arts. Students who do not have an ACT/SAT exam score are eligible for nomination and will not be penalized for a lack of exam score.

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 CTE awards, which are two distinctly separate awards.

Eligibility

All Washington state high school seniors graduating between January and August of 2027, 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. For overall achievement, ten (10) students identifying as male and ten (10) students identifying as female are nominated, and up to five (5) students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in CTE fields are also nominated.

Overall Achievement Award Application

Each school may nominate one (1) student identifying as male and one (1) student who identifies as female graduating between January and August of 2027. Candidates should have demonstrated leadership, school and community involvement, and academic and extracurricular achievement. Nominees may receive discretionary consideration 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.

Arts Award Application

Each school may nominate one (1) high school senior graduating between January and August of 2027 that have proved excellence in the fine arts. Qualified candidates will have demonstrated success in the evaluation categories of technical rigor, creative execution of an idea, motivation to create, and ability to explore a cohesive idea, technique or theme. Nominees may receive discretionary consideration for extraordinary scholastic achievement, heavy workload, additional family responsibilities, or significant obstacles which they overcame.

To nominate a student, please complete the Arts Nomination form.

Career and Technical Education Award Application

Each school may nominate one (1) high school senior graduating between January and August of 2027 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 consideration 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 Career & Technical Education Nomination form.

Application Submission Process

To nominate a student, please complete the appropriate nomination form, and submit via email no later than **Friday, December 11, 2026, by 3 pm** to:

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Email: presidentialscholars@k12.wa.us
Email Subject: Presidential Scholars [Overall Achievement or Arts or CTE] Nomination Form

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Amber De Villers, at 360-725-6144 or email presidentialscholars@k12.wa.us. The OSPI Telecommunication Relay Services number is 711 or 1-800-833-6384.

This bulletin is also available on the Bulletins page of the OSPI website.

Susan Lathrop
Chief Education Officer

Becky Wallace
Assistant Superintendent
Pathway Preparation and Title Programs

CR:ad

Attachment1: Overall Achievement Nomination Form
Attachment2: Arts Nomination Form
Attachment3: 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/Telecommunication Relay Services: 711 or 1-800-833-6384; or P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200; or equity@k12.wa.us.