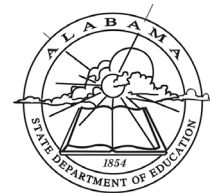




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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 25, 2025

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## 2026 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM APPLICATION SEASON OPENS

*“Two Outstanding High School Students from each State are selected for Premier Leadership Educational Program and will Receive a \$10,000 College Scholarship”*

**Montgomery, Ala.** – The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) has announced state departments of education nationwide are now accepting applications for the **64th annual Washington Week to be held March 7 – 14, 2026.**

A total of 104 students, two from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity will be chosen to attend this comprehensive education, leadership, and public service program.

They will participate in an intensive week-long study of the federal government and its leaders, meeting with their U.S. Senators, the President, Cabinet Secretaries, a Justice of the Supreme Court, senior members of the national media and other key policymakers. Each delegate will also receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship given in the name of the United States Senate, with encouragement to pursue studies in history, government, and public affairs.

The **2026 USSYP Senate Co-Chairs are Senator Katie Britt of Alabama and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts.** Each will have keynote events with the students during Washington Week.

“The United States Youth Program attracts the best and brightest young leaders, and I’m thrilled to support this program as a co-chair this year. I look forward to meeting the outstanding students who are selected, including the two Alabamians who I know will represent our state exceptionally. This week will surely create memories that last a lifetime and provide lessons and opportunities that will shape the futures of these young men and women in meaningful ways,” said Senator Katie Britt.

The **2026 USSYP Senate Advisory Committee** includes the Vice President of the United States and the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders who annually serve as the program’s Honorary Co-Chairs, and an eight-member bipartisan Senate panel, four Senators from each party, who lend their names in support.

The delegate selection is administered by each state’s chief school officer in cooperation with high school principals. Applicants must be:

—more—

*THE 2026 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM APPLICATION SEASON OPENS*

- High School Juniors or Seniors.
- Elected or appointed officers in student government or other school-based organizations for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- Reside in the state where they attend school to qualify.

*For more information about eligibility*, application procedures and deadlines, students should contact their high school principal, school counselor, or [United States Senate Youth Program](#) for state specific applications and deadlines.

This merit-based program was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962.

Military officers who serve as elite mentors to the student delegates throughout the week are competitively selected through the Office of the Secretary of Defense, representing one of the longest-standing partnerships between a youth program and the Department of Defense.

USSYP alumni now number over 6,300 and many go on to build legacies in public service.

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