



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

September 9, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: United States Presidential Scholars Program

It is my pleasure to share with you the invitation from the United States (U.S.) Presidential Scholars Program. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. It was established in 1964, by executive order of President Lyndon Johnson, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education (CTE) fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars.

Every year, Chief State School Officers are asked to nominate candidates from their state to participate in the U. S. Presidential Scholars Program in the general component area and in the career technical education component area. After being nominated, if selected, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) will contact candidates to complete the application process late in January 2021. To assist with the state nomination process, each district is asked to submit one candidate to be considered as a nominee in either the general area or the CTE area. Students being considered as nominees must meet the following eligibility requirements:

For the **general component** of the program, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent U.S. resident who will attend public, parochial, or an independent school (home-schooled students are eligible).
- Graduate between January and June of 2021.
- Score exceptionally well on either the SAT of the College Board or the ACT of the American College Testing Program.

For the **CTE component** of the program, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent U.S. resident who will attend public, parochial, or an independent school (home-schooled students are eligible).
- Graduate between January and June of 2021.
- Demonstrate academic achievement in career and technical programs.

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I
Vice President

Tracie West
District II

Stephanie Bell
District III

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
President Pro Tem

Tommy T. Stewart, Ph.D.
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Jeff Newman
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

In addition to eligibility requirements, reviewers for the USDOE will evaluate nominees based on the following criteria:

- Involvement and service (community and school)
- Leadership and character
- Writing samples
- Academic achievements
- Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome

Once the district has identified a candidate for this prestigious opportunity, please submit your nomination via the link <http://bit.ly/ALPressScholars>. The deadline to submit nominations is **October 9, 2020**. If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Carolyn A. Jones via email at cajones@alsde.edu or at 334-694-4768 for the general category or Ms. Dawn Morrison via email at dmorrison@alsde.edu or at 334-694-4762.

EGM/CAJ/DSS

cc: Dr. Daniel Boyd
Dr. Elisabeth Davis
Dr. Jimmy Hull
Mr. Sean J. Stevens
Dr. Carolyn A. Jones
Ms. Dawn Morrison

FY20-2146