



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

## Department of Education & Early Development

DIVISION OF TEACHING & LEARNING SUPPORT

801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500  
Main: 907.465.2830  
Fax: 907.465.6760

Dear Parents, Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents:

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development is soliciting applications for the **2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars** program to recognize excellence among Alaskan students. The state may nominate up to twenty (20) 10 male and 10 female exemplary high school seniors for this prestigious award.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, and, since that time, the program has honored more than over 7,000 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. The program is open to all high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2017 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. Students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship. 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 for demonstrating academic excellence in other ways to include visual and performing arts, creative writing, leadership school community involvement/service and extraordinary achievement.

All 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars. This is not a scholarship program. It is a national recognition program; however, Scholars will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at an expenses paid ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC June, 2017. To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, please visit the Web site at: [www.ed.gov/psp](http://www.ed.gov/psp).

Following this announcement is the 2017 application. Page 2 of the application includes a detailed checklist of required submission items. Please use this checklist to ensure your application is complete. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.

The Alaska application deadline is **November 1st, 2016 at 4pm**. Only two scholars per school may be nominated.

A committee at EED will blindly review all applications and recommend five applicants as nominees. The names of those students will be formally announced by EED in mid-December 2016, and forwarded to the United States Department of Education (ED) for vetting. ED will invite students who meet the qualifying requirements to apply in January 2017, and applications must be returned to ED by the end of February 2017. All applicants will be notified of the status in May 2017. For further information on the federal application process, please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/faq.html#applications>

For more information, interested students in Alaska should contact either their high school principal or me via the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Sharon Fishel  
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development  
P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, Alaska, 99811-0500  
907.465.6523 (p)  
907.465.2713 (f)  
[Sharon.Fishel@alaska.gov](mailto:Sharon.Fishel@alaska.gov)

*State of Alaska*  
**U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM**  
**Official Student Application Form for School Year 2016-2017**

*The application package must be received by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development before 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 1, 2016. Participating schools may recommend two candidates only. All fields must be completely filled out and make sure all required materials are included.*

Student Data					
Name:		Age:		Gender:	
Address:					
City:		AK	Zip:		
Email Address:					
Home Phone:		Alt.:			
Permanent U.S. Resident?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Parent/Guardian(s) Data					
Name:					
Address:					
City:		AK	Zip:		
Email Address:					
Day Phone:		Alt. Phone:			
High School Data					
School Name:		District:			
Principal:					
CEEB Code:					
Address:					
City:		AK	Zip:		
Email Address:		Phone:			

**Application submissions must include:** Application form with the principal's *original* signature; one copy of a current, *official* academic transcript including unweighted GPA; an essay; one letter of support from the school principal or superintendent; and one letter of support from a teacher, administrator, or community representative. These items are described in greater detail in the **Application Requirements** section.

The nomination will be made on a competitive basis upon evidence of the following:

1. Academic rigor;
2. Leadership and Character;
3. Involvement and Service(in school and community);
4. Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome

It may be helpful to consider the following questions as you contemplate the selection of your 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?

As principal, I recommend this student as one of our school's nominees for the 2016-2017 CTE Presidential Scholars Program.

Signature of High School Principal

Date

## APPLICANT QUALIFICATION RULES:

All high school seniors, who are graduating between January and June of 2017, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible to be nominated to the national program by the Commissioner of Education.

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## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST:

- Official Application form (page 1 of this document):** Completed form must be signed by your school principal. Each school may recommend only two candidates.
- Transcript:** One copy of a current, official academic transcript and class rank. Transcripts must include the student's *non-weighted* GPA.
- 2 Essays:** Must be **titled**, typed, **double-spaced** and **not to exceed two pages**. (*Essays not adhering to these rules will disqualify the applicant.*)

Essays must address the following questions

Essay 1-What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?

Essay 2-Were there special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success?

These original essays must also highlight the students:

- Academic rigor;
  - Leadership and Character;
  - Involvement and Service(in school and community);
  - Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome
- Two Letters of Support:** One from the school principal or district superintendent, and one from a teacher, administrator, or industry representative. Send **only** the two requested letters.

**All above items must be submitted with the application package.**

**DO NOT SEND EXTRA MATERIALS. THEY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

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Applications must be **received** by EED no later than 4pm on Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

Submit the complete application package to:

### US Postal Service

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program  
**Attn: Sharon Fishel, Education Specialist**  
Alaska Department of Education & Early  
Development  
PO Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

### Express Delivery Service

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program  
**Attn: Sharon Fishel, Education Specialist**  
Alaska Department of Education & Early  
Development  
801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Juneau, AK 99801-1878