



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Education
& Early Development**

DIVISION OF INNOVATION &
EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

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Dear parents, teachers, principals, and superintendents:

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development is soliciting applications for the **2027 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Presidential Scholars** program to recognize excellence among Alaskan students in CTE. The state may nominate up to five (5) exemplary secondary students 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. President Obama added Career and Technical Education to the Presidential Scholars program via an executive order in June 2016. The program is open to all high school seniors who are participants of a CTE program graduating between January and June of 2027 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.

All 2027 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, 2027. To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, please visit their [web site](http://www.ed.gov/psp) (www.ed.gov/psp).

Following this announcement is the 2027 application, which 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 **4 November 2026 at 5pm**. Only two scholars per school may be nominated.

A committee at DEED will blindly review all applications and recommend five applicants as nominees. The names of those students will be forwarded to the United States Department of Education (ED) for vetting. ED will invite students who meet the qualifying requirements to apply in February 2027, and applications must be returned to ED. All applicants will be notified of the status in May 2027. 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 myself via the contact information below.

Sincerely,

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