

State of Alaska
CTE Presidential Scholars Program
Information and Application Form for School Year 2026-2027

Information

Completed application packages must be received by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development before 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, 4 November 2026. **Participating schools may recommend two candidates only.** All application fields must be completely filled out, and all required materials included.

Applications must include:

1. One official application form with the principal's **original signature**;
2. One copy of a current, **official** academic transcript, including unweighted GPA;
3. An essay;
4. One letter of support from the school principal or superintendent; and
5. One letter of support from a teacher, administrator, or industry representative in the student's Program of Study.

More detailed information about each of these requirements can be found in the Application Requirements Checklist section below.

Application Requirements Checklist

Official application form

- 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**.

Essay

- **Absolutely no artificial intelligence writing is allowed.** All essays will be checked for AI text. Any essay utilizing AI text will be disqualified.
- Your essay must be titled, typed, double-spaced, use no less than 10pt font, and not exceed two pages with one-inch margins all around.
- This original essay must highlight the students:
 - Technical competence in their area of CTE focus. Include any work-based learning completed, medals earned in state or national Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) skills competition, and any industry-recognized certifications.
 - Academic proficiency across content areas. To be considered competitive at the national level, students should have an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (unweighted), and a grade point average in their selected career pathway of 3.25 or higher with no grade below B-.
 - Leadership and employability skills. Include any work-based learning completed, leadership roles in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) at the local, state, or national levels, and any community service project or other student leadership activity in the student's career area of interest.

- Ingenuity and creativity in solving real-world problems of import to their community or area of CTE focus. This should be demonstrated by designing a solution to a real-world problem (e.g., developed electric car that goes faster than any before), and/or development of a new product/good or service (e.g., development of an app).

Two Letters of Support

- One from the school principal or superintendent
- One from a teacher or industry representative in the student's Program of Study
- 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.**

Application Qualification Rules

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 to be nominated to the national program by the Commissioner of Education.

Selection Process

The selection panel will assess indicators of academic rigor, technical competence, employability skills, and ingenuity and creativity.

Application Submission Addresses

Digitally

Send a single PDF including your application, essay, and letters of recommendation directly to Dr. Bjørn Wolter at bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov by the due date. Your school principal or registrar must send your official transcripts separately to the same email address.

CTE Presidential Scholars Program Student Application Form

Student Data

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Home Address:

City:

Zip:

Email Address:

Preferred Phone:

CTE Program of Study:

Permanent U.S. Resident?

Parent/Guardian(s) Data

Name:

Address:

City:

Zip:

Email Address:

Preferred Phone:

High School Data

School Name:

District:

Principal:

CEEB Code:

Address:

City:

Zip:

Email Address:

Phone:

Principal's signature:

As principal, I recommend this student as our school's nominee for the 2025-2026 CTE Presidential Scholars Program.