



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Education & Early Development

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR & SCHOOL EXCELLENCE
Program Name

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Dear Parents, Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents:

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development is soliciting applications for the **2027 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 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. 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 2026 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 the Web site at: www.ed.gov/psp.

Following this announcement is the 2027 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 **4 November 2026 at 4pm**. 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 formally announced by DEED in mid-December 2026 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 2027, and applications must be returned to ED by the end of February 2027. 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 me via the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Bjørn Wolter, Ph.D.

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