

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

Information

Completed application packages must be emailed to 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. Two essays;
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 (by students)

- **Absolutely no artificial intelligence writing is allowed.** All essays will be checked for AI text. Any essay utilizing AI text will be disqualified.
- Each essay must be titled, typed, double-spaced and not to exceed two pages with one-inch margins all around.
- Essays must address the following questions (please label essays 1 or 2)
 - 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 superintendent

- One from a teacher, administrator, 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, 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.

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Student Application Form

Student Data

Name: _____ **Age:** _____ **Gender:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Permanent U.S. Resident? _____

Parent/Guardian(s) Data

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ **Alt. 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 2026-2027 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.