

The [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#) was established to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school students selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship. This is a recognition program, not a scholarship program. The 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

Seniors who graduate or receive a diploma between January and August of 2021 have the opportunity to become Presidential Scholars based on three paths of accomplishment:

1. [General Component](#) – In addition to the students who are automatically considered for participation due to exceptional performance on ACT or SAT, the LDOE can nominate up to ten (10) males and ten (10) females who scored exceptionally well based on their outstanding scholarship.
2. [CTE Component](#) – The LDOE will nominate up to five (5) candidates who meet the U.S. Presidential Scholars candidacy requirements and are initially selected based on their accomplishments in career and technical education fields.
3. [Arts Component](#) – Students must register and participate in the [YoungArts™](#) program to be eligible. Upon completion of the YoungArts™ program, YoungArts will nominate up to sixty students who meet the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program's eligibility requirements.

School systems can submit, for consideration, up to two students in the General Component and up to two students in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Component. The LDOE requests that school systems submit one male and one female student in each component. Application for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is **by invitation only**. Students may not apply individually to the program or be nominated by a school system. Only the Chief State School Office or YoungArts™ can submit nominations to the USDOE.

In order to recommend students for nomination to the program, the following elements should be submitted:

1. [A parental release form for each nominated student](#)
2. A nomination letter for each nominated student not to exceed one page for each student. The nomination letter must be sent on school or school system letterhead and signed by the school system leader. The following information is required as part of the nomination letter:
  - a. Student's full name
  - b. Student's home mailing address
  - c. Student's gender
  - d. Student's primary email address
  - e. High School name and mailing address
  - f. High School College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) Code

Nomination letters are due to LDOE by **4:00 p.m. November 13**. School systems should submit nominations to [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) using the subject line: US Presidential Scholar Program. Submissions that do not include the completed parental release form will not be accepted. It is recommended that school systems review the [LDOE evaluation rubric](#) prior to nominating students.

Once the LDOE has evaluated the school system submission and submits nominations to the USDOE, the USDOE will invite nominated students (who meet the [qualifying requirements](#)) to apply to the program. To confirm their interest, all candidates complete and submit candidacy materials, including essays, self-assessments, secondary school reports and transcripts for review. For more information, visit the [Eligibility Rules](#), [Eligibility FAQs](#) and [How are Scholars Selected](#) pages of USDOE Presidential Scholar website.