



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 14, 2024  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Principals, Guidance Counselors, High School Staff Involved with Student Recognition  
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Teaching and Learning Services  
Deadline: October 21, 2024 (Application)

## 2024-2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Announcement

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) invites New Jersey school districts to nominate graduating seniors for recognition of their achievements as part of the United States Presidential Scholars Program, a national program administered by the United States Department of Education (USED). Each high school may nominate one Career and Technical Education (CTE) graduating senior for the CTE component. Students chosen as U.S. Presidential CTE Scholars receive a Presidential medallion in commemoration of their achievements during the National Recognition Program.

The United States Presidential Scholars Program has historically invited student nominees to apply based upon outstanding performance on the SAT/ACT or on demonstrated outstanding ability in the arts. Since 2015, the United States Presidential Scholars program has expanded to allow each state's Chief State School Officer to nominate five additional students who demonstrate excellence in CTE.

### Nominees for Excellence in Career and Technical Education

CTE nominees must be high school seniors graduating from a NJDOE approved CTE program of study between January and June of 2025 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. USED will consider the following when evaluating the nominees:

- Academic rigor – The student has demonstrated high proficiency on their State's academic standards, based in part on their high achievement reflected on their State's academic assessments in the core academic subjects.
- Technical competence – The student has demonstrated mastery of technical skills demanded by industry.
- Employability Skills – The student has demonstrated such professional skills as teamwork, decision-making, and problem-solving.
- Ingenuity and creativity – The student has solved a real-world problem through the application of technical skills they developed in their career area.
- Application pool – The student represents one of the multiple sectors that are viewed as the pillars of our nation's economic growth: Healthcare, Information Technology (IT), Advanced Manufacturing, Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), and Transportation, as well as the socioeconomic characteristics of our nation's high school graduates.

### Nomination Process

Each high school operating an approved NJDOE CTE program of study (POS) may nominate one graduating senior for the CTE component. The nomination form will be emailed to schools operating an approved CTE POS beginning September 1, 2024. Please complete the 2025 United States Presidential Scholars CTE Program Nomination Form no later than October 21, 2024.

For more information, please visit the [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#) website. If you have any questions, please contact [CTEpressscholars@doe.nj.gov](mailto:CTEpressscholars@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group