



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 22, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Nonpublic School Administrators

Route To: Public and Nonpublic High School Principals, School Counselors, Social Studies Teachers and Supervisors, High School Advisors

From: Diana M. Pasculli, Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

Deadline: November 30, 2020

59th Annual United States Senate Youth Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce its participation in the 59th Annual [United States Senate Youth Program](#) (USSYP), sponsored by the United States Senate and the Hearst Foundations. **Principals of public or nonpublic schools in New Jersey may nominate one outstanding junior or senior** to be considered for this highly competitive, merit-based program.

Each year, two high school juniors or seniors from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense schools are selected to participate in Washington Week and receive a one-time \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship provided by the Hearst Foundations. Washington Week, an intensive educational program, will be held virtually this year (March 14-18, 2021). During Washington Week, delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, and directors of federal agencies and participate in question and answer sessions.

USSYP is designed for students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities in their school and community and a strong commitment to public service. The type of student who thrives during Washington Week is one who is truly interested in government, history, politics, and leadership. The Hearst Foundations seek students who are confident and excel at public speaking, since Washington Week provides the opportunity to speak directly with the highest-level elected and appointed officials in the country, including the President of the United States. Students who attend this program are encouraged to pursue coursework in history and political science, as well as careers in public service.

To be eligible, students must be residents of New Jersey and currently serving in an elected or appointed capacity in an approved student government, civic, or educational organization. Due to COVID-19, students who are unable to serve in qualifying leadership positions for the 2020-2021 academic year may use positions held the previous year (see [Application Requirements](#)). Students must confirm proof of citizenship or legal permanent resident status to participate in USSYP and must sign a Code of Conduct. Additional information about USSYP and its scholarship rules may be found on the [USSYP website](#) and in its [2021 USSYP brochure](#). Information about New Jersey's selection process may be found on the [NJDOE USSYP website](#).

The [application](#) must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2020. The application packet includes the completed application form, the [principal's statement of assurance](#), two-page essay, resume, transcript, and a letter of recommendation from both the principal and the advisor of the leadership organization. A selection panel will choose two delegates and two alternates. Announcement of the two delegates who will represent New Jersey will be made by mid-February 2021.

Thank you for your assistance with the USSYP nomination process. In the past, the delegates from New Jersey have been extraordinary and we expect, with your help, to receive many exceptional applications again this year.

If you have questions, please contact Beverly Plein, program administrator at USSYP@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group