



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 1, 2021
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: Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance
Deadline: October 11, 2021

60th Annual United States Senate Youth Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) invites principals of public or nonpublic high schools to nominate one outstanding junior or senior to apply for the 60th Annual [United States Senate Youth Program \(USSYP\)](#). This highly competitive, merit-based program is sponsored by the United States Senate and the Hearst Foundations.

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 take place March 5-12, 2022. The USSYP is currently planning an in-person program in Washington, D.C., pending public health and safety guidelines for travel and indoor gatherings at that time; please consult the USSYP website for updates as they monitor the situation. 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.

Nomination and Application Process

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 (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 [2022 USSYP brochure](#).

Steps:

- 1) Principal selects the nominee and directs the nominee to review the [Application Process](#).
- 2) Nominee compiles application packet materials (i.e., two-page essay, one-page resume, transcript (official/unofficial), press paragraph and a letter of recommendation from both the principal and the advisor of the leadership organization).

- 3) Principal provides the completed Statement of Assurance in a digital format to the nominee. The Statement of Assurance can be found on the NJDOE's U.S. Senate Youth Program [webpage](#).
- 4) Principal provides the nominee with the link to complete the online [application form](#) and upload the documents identified in steps two and three. (Nominee should be instructed to have all application materials ready before beginning the application form because once the form is started, it cannot be saved.)
- 5) **The application packet must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 11, 2021.**

A selection panel will choose two delegates and two alternates. Announcement of the two delegates who will represent New Jersey will be made by January 2022.

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 Ashley Woolsey-Greene, program administrator at USSYP@doe.nj.gov.

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