



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 14, 2022  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Nonpublic School Administrators  
Route To: Public and Nonpublic High School Principals, School Counselors, Social Studies Teachers and Supervisors, High School Advisors  
From: Jordan Schiff, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Teaching and Learning Services  
Deadlines: Principal Statement of Assurance: September 30, 2022  
Student Application: October 10, 2022

## 61<sup>st</sup> Annual United States Senate Youth Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) invites high school principals of public or nonpublic schools to nominate one outstanding junior or senior to apply for the 61st 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 be held in person or virtually this year (March 4-11, 2023). 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 [2023 USSYP brochure](#).

### Steps

- 1) Principal selects the nominee and directs the nominee to review the [Application Process](#) to confirm eligibility.
- 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) Submit the completed and signed [Principal's Statement of Assurance](#) by uploading the document to [USSYP Principal's Statement of Assurance Submission Form](#) between September 15th – September 30th, 2022.
- 4) Once reviewed, nominees will receive the USSYP Student Application link no later than October 1, 2022 to complete the online application form and upload the application documents. (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 10, 2022.**

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 2023.

Thank you for your assistance with the USSYP nomination process. In the past, the delegates from New Jersey have been extraordinary. We look forward to the many exceptional applications again this year.

If you have questions, please contact Ashley Woolsey-Greene, program administrator at [USSYP@doe.nj.gov](mailto:USSYP@doe.nj.gov).

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