



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Education & Early Development

DIVISION OF EDUCATOR & SCHOOL EXCELLENCE
Program Name

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Dear Parents, Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents:

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development is soliciting applications for the **2027 Arts Presidential Scholars** program to recognize excellence among Alaskan students in the Arts. The state may nominate up to five (5) exemplary secondary students for this prestigious award.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, and, since that time, the program has honored more than over 7,000 outstanding high school seniors. The mission of the program is to recognize and honor outstanding high school seniors and thereby encourage high attainment among all students. The program is open to all high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2027 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. Students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship and talent in the visual, creative and performing arts.

All 2027 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars. *This is not a scholarship program. It is a national recognition program;* however, Scholars will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at an expense paid ceremony in their honor in Washington, DC June 2027. To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, please visit the Web site at: www.ed.gov/psp.

Following this announcement is the 2027 application. Page two of the application includes a detailed checklist of required submission items. Please use this checklist to ensure your application is complete. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.

The Alaska application deadline is **4 November 2026 at 5:00pm**. Only two scholars per school may be nominated.

A committee at DEED will blindly review all applications and recommend up to 20 applicants across all presidential scholars programs as nominees. The names of those students will be formally announced by DEED in December 2026 and forwarded to the United States Department of Education (ED) for vetting. ED will invite students who meet the qualifying requirements to apply in February 2027, and applications must be returned to ED by mid-March 2027. All

applicants will be notified of the status in Summer 2027. For further information on the federal application process, please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/faq.html#applications>

For more information, interested students in Alaska should contact either their high school principal or me via the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Alaska State Council on the Arts
907-269-6610 and
asca.info@alaska.gov

State of Alaska
Arts Presidential Scholars Program
Information and Application Form for School Year 2026-2027

Information

Completed application packages must be emailed to the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development before 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, 4 November 2026. **Participating schools may recommend two candidates only.** All application fields must be completely filled out, and all required materials included.

Applications must include:

1. One official application form with the principal's **original signature**;
2. One copy of a current, **official** academic transcript, including unweighted GPA;
3. One essay;
4. Work Samples
5. One letter of support from the school principal or superintendent; and
6. One letter of support from a teacher, administrator, or industry representative in the student's Program of Study.

More detailed information about each of these requirements can be found in the Application Requirements Checklist section below.

Application Requirements Checklist

Official application form

- Completed form must be signed by your school principal.
- **Each school may recommend only two candidates.**

Transcript

- One copy of a current, **official** academic transcript and class rank.
- Transcripts must include the student's **non-weighted GPA**.

Essay (by students)

- The essay must be titled, typed, double-spaced and not to exceed two pages with one-inch margins all around.
- The essay must address the following questions
 - What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship in the Arts? Please explain your experience in the visual, creative and/or performing arts. (This might include visual arts, music, dance, theater, media arts, and literary arts.)
- Work Samples
 - Please submit a digital sample of your work. You can include up to five images or link to a portfolio or website of your work. Please make sure audio/video submissions are not longer than 5 minutes.

Two Letters of Support

- One from the school principal or superintendent
- One from a teacher, administrator, or industry representative in the student's Program of Study
- Send only the two requested letters

All above items must be submitted with the application package. **Do not send extra materials. They will not be considered.**

Application Qualification Rules

All high school seniors, graduating between January and June of 2027, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible to be nominated to the national program by the Commissioner of Education.

Selection Process

The selection panel will assess indicators of academic rigor, technical competence, employability skills, and ingenuity and creativity.

Application Submission Addresses

Digitally

Send a single PDF including your application, essay, work samples and letters of recommendation directly to Alaska Council of the Arts at asca.info@alaska.gov. For more information and to confirm your submission call 907-269-6610 by the due date. Your school principal or registrar must send your official transcripts separately to the same email address.

Arts Presidential Scholars Program Student Application Form

Student Data

Name: _____ **Age:** _____ **Gender:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Permanent U.S. Resident? _____

Parent/Guardian(s) Data

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ **Alt. Phone:** _____

High School Data

School Name: _____ **District:** _____

Principal: _____

CEEB Code: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Principal's signature: _____

As principal, I recommend this student as our school's nominee for the 2025-2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.