

Excellence Recognition District Coordinator's Guide

Georgia Scholar Program
U.S. Presidential Scholar Program
U.S. Senate Youth Program



Table of Contents

Georgia Scholar Program	3
Program History	3
Georgia Scholar Board Rule.....	3
Georgia Scholar Annual Timeline	3
Georgia Scholar Selection Process.....	3
Georgia Scholar School System Requirements	4
Georgia Scholar Program Criteria.....	4
Georgia Scholar Application Components.....	6
School Verification Form	6
Parent/Guardian Signature Form	6
Selection Review Process.....	7
Georgia Scholar Recognition	7
United States Presidential Scholars Program.....	8
Program History	8
USPS Broad Academic Achievement Annual Timeline.....	8
USPS Broad Academic Achievement Application Process	9
USPS Broad Academic Achievement Application Criteria.....	9
Broad Academic Achievement Application Components	10
School Verification Form	11
Parent or Guardian Signature Form	11
Georgia’s USPS Application Review Process.....	11
United States Senate Youth Program.....	12
Program History	12
United States Senate Youth Program Annual Timeline	12
United States Senate Youth Program Eligibility Criteria.....	13
United States Senate Youth Application Short Responses.....	15
School Verification Form	15
Parent/Guardian Verification Form	16
Delegate Selection Process	16
United States Senate Youth Washington Week Guidance.....	17
United States Senate Youth Program National Rules and Expectations	17
Hearst Foundation Delegate Scholarship	18

Georgia Scholar Program

The Georgia Department of Education recognizes and honors high school seniors who excel in school and their communities as Georgia Scholars. Each Georgia Scholar receives an honoree seal for their diploma. Students eligible for Georgia Scholar recognition display excellence in all aspects of their lives, carrying an outstanding load of coursework during their four years of high school; excelling in all courses; participating in competitive interscholastic events at the school and in the community; and remaining actively involved as a leader in extracurricular activities sponsored by their school and outside organizations.

Georgia Scholar recognition is open to any high school senior who qualifies. Applicants should acknowledge that Georgia Scholar is a recognition-only program. **No scholarship funds are associated with this program.** Learn more about the Georgia Scholar Program [HERE](#).

Program History

Since 2004, the Georgia Scholar Program has recognized graduating high school seniors who have achieved excellence in the classroom and the community. In addition, the program provides recognition to those students who plan to pursue higher education and other pathways.

Georgia Scholar Board Rule

Georgia Scholar requirements are governed by state law, and exceptions are not permitted. Applicants are required to meet the specified criteria to receive recognition as a Georgia Scholar. Learn more about the Georgia Board Rule 160-4-2-.23 [HERE](#).

Georgia Scholar Annual Timeline

The Georgia Scholar Program application window opens in early January and closes on March 1 annually. High school seniors are eligible to apply. Submission of the Georgia Scholar application does not guarantee that the student is recognized as a Georgia Scholar. Dates for the annual program are posted on the Georgia Scholar Program webpage.

Georgia Scholar Application Window Opens	Early January
Georgia Scholar Application Window Closes	March 1
Application Review Period	March
Georgia Scholar press release and notification emails; diploma seals mailed to schools	Early April

Georgia Scholar Selection Process

The Georgia Scholar Program applications are due by **5:00 p.m. on March 1**. The Georgia Scholar Program is open to any Georgia high school senior who meets the criteria; completes

the online application; and secures signatures from their principal, counselor, and parent/guardian. Georgia Scholar applications may be found on the webpage [HERE](#).

Georgia Scholar School System Requirements

Local school systems and private schools are required to meet the following system requirements for Georgia Scholar recognition:

1. **Accreditation:** Participating schools shall be public schools, or private schools accredited by or holding provisional status from the Georgia Accrediting Commission and/or one of the accrediting agencies that is a member of the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council, and/or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and/or any other accrediting agency recognized by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.
2. Participating schools shall be accredited by the date the candidate graduates.
3. Local school systems or private schools that choose to participate shall designate an individual to coordinate the activities of the Georgia Scholar Program.

Georgia Scholar Program Criteria

Georgia accredited schools shall nominate only those senior students who meet the following criteria to be recognized as a Georgia Scholar:

Criterion One: Carnegie Units

The student is required to earn at least 22 Carnegie units of credit for graduation, including:

- Three units in science, including one unit in physics or chemistry;
- Four units in mathematics, including one unit in Algebra II (or its equivalent);
- Three units in social studies, including economics, citizenship, world history, and U.S. studies;
- Four units in English language arts;
- Two units in a single foreign language;
- One unit in fine arts;
 - Fine arts are chosen from visual arts, music, dance, or dramatic arts (can be waived if your school district does not require Fine Arts)

Credit Equivalency: Courses taken prior to grade 9 that are taught using 9-12 Georgia Standards of Excellence shall be considered as meeting the units of credit requirements for the purpose of this program.

Criterion Two: SAT and ACT Reporting

The student is required to have a minimum combined score of 1360 on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) at one test sitting or a composite score of 31 at one test sitting on the American College Test (ACT).

Criterion Three: Grade Point Average

The student has a **non-weighted**, cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.75 on a 4.0 scale, where A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, and D = 1 in **core courses**.

- **Weighted GPA scores will not be accepted.**
- Core courses are chosen from English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign language for College Preparatory or College Preparatory with Distinction program students.
- For a Technology/Career-preparatory or Technology/Career-preparatory with Distinction program of students, four vocational units are also considered core courses.

Criterion Four: United States Voter Registration

If the student is a United States citizen and 18 years of age on or before **March 1** of the year in which their application for the Georgia Scholar Program is submitted to the Georgia Department of Education, they are required to be registered to vote.

Criterion Five: Community Reference

The student is required to obtain a letter of support from someone outside of the school or family that shows evidence of self-esteem and concern for others in day-to-day activities. Current or former teachers, administrators, counselors, and school-based organization sponsors are not eligible as a reference.

Criterion Six: Interscholastic Competition

The student is required to have participated in at least three (3) different competitive interscholastic activities during grades 9-12 (e.g., athletics, music, literary events, fairs, and exhibits).

- Interscholastic activity is any school-sponsored program involving competition between individuals or groups representing two or more schools.
- The student is required to enter the name of the school-sponsored competitive interscholastic activity, the year of participation, and the ranking earned.

Criterion Seven: School Leadership

The student is required to have been appointed by a school official, or elected to, positions of leadership in a minimum of two (2) different organizations **sponsored by the school**. Positions of leadership include, but are not limited to:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Captain
- Drum Major
- Lead Editor
- Advisory Board Chair
- Club Founder

Criterion Eight: Community Leadership

The student has shown evidence of leadership in a minimum of two (2) different youth organizations **outside the school**, including being appointed by an organization sponsor, or elected to a position of leadership or role of responsibility, in a minimum of one (1) of these activities. Note: This **does not** include paid positions.

Georgia Scholar Application Components

Students seeking recognition as a Georgia Scholar are required to submit the following documentation with their application:

1. **Official Transcript:** An official transcript of all high school work, including all transfer records and the schedule of courses being taken for the remainder of the applicant's senior year that are not shown on the transcript.
2. **Official SAT/ACT Score:** An SAT or ACT score sticker (or photocopy of the sticker) from the testing company if the score does not appear on the transcript.
3. **U.S Voter Registration Card:** A copy of the applicant's voter registration card if a United States citizen and 18 years of age on or before March 1 of the current program year.
4. **Resume of Activities:** A resume of all competitive interscholastic activities, school-sponsored activities, and youth activities outside the school in which the student has participated and held specific leadership or elected/appointed positions in each of these activities.
5. **Community Reference:** A letter of reference from someone outside the school or family. Former teachers, administrators, counselors, and school-based organization sponsors are considered ineligible references.

School Verification Form

The applicant's principal and counselor are asked to review the application for accuracy and verify that the student is enrolled as a senior who meets all the criteria for the Georgia Scholar Program as provided in this guidance document.

- Counselors should verify the student's **non-weighted GPA**, SAT score, and/or ACT score and provide the student with a copy of their transcript to upload with their application.
- Upon the principal's and counselor's review, the applicant will secure official signatures and upload the verification form to their application.
- Electronic signatures will not be accepted.

Parent/Guardian Signature Form

The applicant's parent or guardian is required to read and sign the parent/guardian signature form and acknowledge the following:

- If my student is named a Georgia Scholar, my student's name and school are released to the public for recognition purposes.
- Georgia Scholar is a recognition-only program.
- No scholarship funds are associated with the Georgia Scholar program.

- Submission of this application form does not guarantee that my student will be recognized as a Georgia Scholar.
- U.S. Voter Eligibility

The applicant will secure an official signature from their parent/guardian and upload the signed form to their application. Electronic signatures will not be accepted.

Selection Review Process

A panel of Georgia Department of Education employees assess all applications based on a standardized rubric according to the criteria and attached documents. Georgia Scholar recognition is denied if criteria are not met.

Georgia Scholar Recognition

District superintendents, principals, coordinators, and Georgia Scholar honorees are notified in early April through the official Georgia Department of Education press release and email. A Georgia Scholar diploma seal is awarded to each honoree. Diploma seals are mailed to the honoree's high school following the official press release. Honorees are posted on the Georgia Scholar Program's website.

United States Presidential Scholars Program

Program History

The United States Presidential Scholars (USPS) Program was established in 1964 by the President's executive order to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional visual, creative, and performing arts talent. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students from across the nation are named Presidential Scholars, one of the highest honors for high school students.

Since 1964, this unique federal program has honored over 8,000 U.S. Presidential Scholars who have demonstrated scholarship, leadership, artistic excellence, and selfless service to others. The work of the Commission on Presidential Scholars, on behalf of the President and his administration, reflects recognition of the immense value and potential of our Nation's youth and a deep commitment to ensuring that every child in America receives the benefits of a world-class education.

Students can become USPS based on three paths of accomplishment:

- **Broad Academic Achievement**
- **Accomplishments in Career, Technical, Agricultural Education (CTAE)**
- **Academic and Artistic Achievement** in the visual arts, the performing arts, or creative writing

Learn more about the United States Presidential Scholars Program [HERE](#).

USPS Broad Academic Achievement Annual Timeline

The Georgia nomination window for the **Broad Academic Achievement** path opens in August and closes in late October each fall. Under this component of the program, Georgia may nominate 20 candidates. Submission of an application does not guarantee the student will be nominated for the USPS Program.

United States Presidential Scholars Application Window Opens	Mid-August
United States Presidential Scholars Application Window Closes	Late October
Application Review Period	November
U.S. Department of Education Candidate Announcement	January
U.S. Department of Education Semifinalist Announcement	April
U.S. Department of Education Presidential Scholars Announcement	Early May

USPS Broad Academic Achievement Application Process

Georgia seniors seeking USPS recognition are required to submit candidacy materials, including essays, self-assessments, secondary school reports, and transcripts to be considered for the Broad Academic Achievement component. Candidates are evaluated on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and analysis of their essays.

USPS is open to any high school senior schedule to graduate between January and August of the program year, who meets the criteria, completes the online application/nomination form, and secures signatures from their principal, counselor, and parent or guardian.

Georgia's **Broad Academic Achievement** application materials may be found [HERE](#).

Career, Technical, and Agricultural Educational field nominations are by invitation only. For more information, contact the GaDOE CTAE Team. [Career, Technical, & Agricultural Education](#).

Academic and Artistic Achievement nominations in the visual arts, performing arts, and creative writing, are by invitation only. For more information, visit www.youngarts.org.

USPS Broad Academic Achievement Application Criteria

Georgia high school seniors are required to meet the following criteria to apply for the **Broad Academic Achievement** component of the program:

- **Residency:** Must be U.S. citizens or Legal Permanent U.S. residents by the application deadline
 - Students who were not U.S. citizens or legal permanent U.S. residents on the day they took the SAT or ACT exam, or who requested that The College Board or ACT not release their scores to outside entities, should contact the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program at 507-931-8345 to ensure their scores are considered in the determination of the candidate pool.
- **Expected Graduation Date:** Must graduate or receive a diploma between January and August of the current program school year.
- **Exceptional SAT or ACT Scores:** Must score exceptionally well on either the SAT of the College Board or the ACT of the American College Testing Program, based on tests taken during the three-year window that begins in August through October of the program year.

Broad Academic Achievement Application Components

Applicants are required to complete the following application components: academic achievements, school-sponsored leadership experience, and community involvement.

1. **Anticipated Graduation Date:** Applicants are required to confirm that they are expected to graduate between January and August of the program year.
2. **SAT and ACT Reporting:** Applicants are required to provide a copy of their official Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) combined score and/or their American College Test (ACT) composite score.
3. **Grade Point Average:** Applicants are required to provide their **non-weighted** Grade Point Average (GPA) based on a 100-point scale verified by the school counselor.
4. **Class Ranking:** Applicants are required to provide their class rank verified by the school counselor and principal.
5. **Academic Accomplishments:** Applicants are required to provide a list of their academic achievements and awards.
6. **School Leadership:** Applicants are required to hold leadership positions in school-sponsored activities. Leadership positions include, but are not limited to:
 - Student council president or vice president
 - Class president or vice president
 - Captain of a sports team
 - Editor-in-chief of the school newspaper
 - President of the yearbook club
 - Founder of a new club
 - Treasurer or secretary in student government
7. **Organizations Involvement:** Applicants are required to list their involvement in school and community organizations. School and community organizations include, but are not limited to:
 - Subject-area clubs
 - Hobby clubs
 - Community service
 - Charity clubs
 - Career interest clubs
8. **Essays:** Applicants are required to complete two 500-word count maximum essays.

School Verification Form

The applicant's principal and counselor are asked to review the application for accuracy and verify that the student is enrolled as a senior who meets all the criteria of the United States Presidential Scholars Program.

- Counselors are asked to verify the student's **non-weighted GPA**, class rank, and SAT and/or ACT scores.
- Electronic signatures will not be accepted.
- The annual signature form is located on the U.S. Presidential Scholars webpage.

Parent or Guardian Signature Form

A parent or guardian must read, verify, and acknowledge the following:

- If my student is named a U.S. Presidential Scholar, the student's name and school are released to the public for recognition purposes.
- U.S. Presidential Scholars is a recognition-only program.
- No scholarship funds are associated with the U.S. Presidential Scholars program.
- Submission of this application form does not guarantee that my student will be nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, as the state is only allowed to nominate 20 students.

Print, sign and scan the signature form for electronic upload. Electronic signatures will not be accepted. The annual parent/guardian signature form can be located on the U.S. Presidential Scholars webpage.

Georgia's USPS Application Review Process

A panel of educational leaders from the Georgia Department of Education reviews all applications based on a standardized rubric. The Georgia Department of Education may nominate up to 20 Broad Academic Achievement candidates and up to five CTE achievement candidates for consideration by the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

Georgia nominees are invited to apply for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program in January by the national program coordinator. National program applications are due at the end of February, and the selected U.S. Presidential Scholars are announced by the U.S. Department of Education in May.

United States Senate Youth Program

The U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP), established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, is a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service. The program selects two delegate students from each state to visit Washington, D.C., and learn about government from a perspective few people ever see. The delegates will meet their peers from across the nation, be immersed in a premier leadership experience, and receive a \$10,000 college scholarship in the name of the United States Senate.

Learn more about the United States Senate Youth Program: <https://ussenateyouth.org/>

Program History

For 61 years, an agreement has existed between the United States Senate, the state Departments of Education nationwide, and The Hearst Foundation, created to nurture a passion for excellence and public service in a competitively selected group of the brightest young students in the nation.

The U.S. Senate Youth Program was initially envisioned by William Randolph Hearst's sons, George R. Hearst and Randolph A. Hearst, who worked closely to develop the idea with the visionary and bipartisan Senate Leadership of the day – Senator Tom Kuchel of California, Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois, and Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota. The U.S. Senate Youth Program was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962, as stated in supporting Senate testimony from that year, “to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world.”

Every year since that time, the program offers 104 of the most outstanding high school students -- two from every state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity - an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. Each state's Department of Education manages the highly competitive and merit-based selection process, with the chief state school officer responsible for selecting delegates and alternates. The two students serving as delegates to Washington Week also receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in history and political science.

United States Senate Youth Program Annual Timeline

The U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP) application window opens in mid-August and closes in late September annually. High school seniors and juniors are eligible to apply. Submission of the U.S. Senate Youth application does not guarantee that the student will be recognized as a

delegate. The USSYP delegates are required to attend all Washington Week events in-person to receive the scholarship.

USSYP applications are due **by 5:00 p.m. on the posted due date**. The USSYP is open to any Georgia high school junior or senior who meets the criteria; completes the online application; and secures signatures from their principal, counselor, parent or guardian.

USSYP program dates and applications may be found at www.gadoe.org/USSYP

U.S. Senate Youth Program Application Window Opens	Mid-August
U.S. Senate Youth Program Application Window Closes	Late September
Application Review Window	Early October
U.S. Senate Youth Program Annual Public Affairs Exam for Selected Candidates	Late October
U.S. Senate Youth Program Finalist Interviews	Early November
U.S. Senate Youth Program Delegates and Alternates Selected	December
U.S. Senate Youth Program Washington Week	March

United States Senate Youth Program Eligibility Criteria

Any high school junior or senior student is eligible for the program, provided they have not previously been a delegate to Washington Week and have not received a U.S. Senate Youth Program scholarship.

Qualified high school juniors or seniors are required to demonstrate leadership by serving in elected or appointed positions in which they actively represent a constituency in organizations related to student government, education, public affairs, and community service. Students are required to be actively serving in qualified leadership positions, enrolled in high school, and living in Georgia for the entire academic year.

1. School Leadership:

Applicants are required to hold a year-round, officer-level leadership position in any one of the following student government, civic, or educational organizations during the entire program academic year:

- a. Student Body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
- b. Class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
- c. Student Council representative
- d. Officer in a National Honor Society chapter
 - including discipline-based Honor Societies such as the National English and Social Studies Honor Societies that include service components
- e. JROTC Officer-level leadership positions
 - including Cadet Corps Commanders

- f. Student representative elected or appointed (by a panel, commission, or board) to a local district, regional, or state-level civic, service, and/or educational organization whose primary purpose is public/community service and constituent representation in a year-round capacity. Such positions will be subject to approval by the Georgia Department of Education.

Non-Eligible Leadership Positions: Participating or holding an officer position in academic clubs, educational programs, conferences, or organizations designed primarily for the student's personal development and enrichment **do not qualify** a student for the U.S. Senate Youth Program, including but not limited to the following:

- Attendance or officer position at Boys State, Girls State, Boys Nation, or Girls Nation summer conference
- Member of the National Honor Society (serving as an elected officer for the organization for the entire school year is acceptable)
- Member or leader of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or a sports team
- A founder or chairperson of a self-created group
- A participant, captain, or officer in Mock Trial, Debate Team, Model U.N., or another academic club, mock legislature, conference, or competition where the primary engagement is for the individual educational enrichment or benefit.
- A general JROTC cadet

2. **Residency:**

Students are required to be a legal permanent resident or citizen of the United States at the time of application. Students are required to be enrolled for the entire academic year in a public or private/independent high school in Georgia where at least one of their parents or guardians currently resides. Home-educated students are not eligible to apply in Georgia.

Exceptions to the residency requirement will only be made in the following cases:

- a. Students from DoDEA overseas will represent the state(s) of which the parents/guardians are U.S. legal voting residents. Students attending DoD schools in the U.S. or students enrolled through U.S. military bases in local schools are required to reside in the state in which their school is located for the entire academic year.
- b. Students may reside in a state other than the state in which they attend school if they are enrolled in the only designated public high school available to them in a school district that crosses contiguous state borders through legal interstate agreement. Students in these schools shall make applications to the program through the state where the high school is located and shall represent that state if selected.

3. **Washington Week:**

Selected students are required to attend all Washington Week activities and events, in person, to serve as a delegate and receive the scholarship.

United States Senate Youth Application Essays

Each applicant is required to answer the following essays involving offices held and academic and community involvement. Essays 1 and 2 are limited to a 250-word maximum with a 100-word minimum requirement. The persuasive essay has a 500-word maximum with a 200-word minimum requirement.

1. Describe your current elected or appointed student leadership position. What impact has your role had on your school or community? In what ways has your experience as a student leader cultivated a strong sense of civic responsibility?
2. Describe your involvement in civic community service initiatives or programs outside of your school. Share ways in which you think being chosen for the U.S. Senate Youth Program will help you explore some of the most important questions you have about the challenges facing the country.
3. Submit a persuasive essay researched and written on a topic of social significance related to a contemporary state, national, or world event. Select a topic important to you, take a stand, relate its importance to you, and defend your position. The essay will be judged on organization, ideas and content, evidence of personalization, and writing conventions including citation of sources.

School Verification Form

The applicant's principal and counselor are required to review the application for accuracy and verify that the student is enrolled as a junior or senior who meets all the U.S. Senate Youth Program criteria as provided in this guidance document.

- Principals are asked to provide an assessment of the student's character based on the following:
 - Commitment to Service
 - Leadership Skills
 - Contributions to Class, School, or Community
 - Respect for Others
 - Self-Discipline
 - Responsibility
 - Integrity
 - Ability to Interact and Communicate Effectively
 - Ability to Understand Multiple Perspectives
- Counselors are asked to verify the student's elected/appointed leadership position and class rank, student and parent residency, student enrollment, and U.S. citizenship.

Upon the principal's and counselor's review, the applicant will secure official signatures and upload the verification form to their application. Electronic signatures will not be accepted. The annual signature form is located on the U.S. Senate Youth webpage.

Parent/Guardian Verification Form

Parents or legal guardians are asked to read and sign the parent/legal guardian signature form to acknowledge the following:

- I verify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the above-named student, and I am a Georgia resident.
- I understand that should my student be selected as a Georgia USSYP delegate, full participation at the Annual USSYP Washington Week is required in order to serve as a delegate and receive the \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation. My student must adhere to the conditions set forth in the rules and regulations of the program brochure: <https://ussenateyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/USSYP-2024-Official-Brochure.pdf>
- I understand that all scholarship funds will be sent directly to my student's undergraduate college from the Hearst Foundation and no funds will be provided directly to my student or family.
- I understand that should my student be selected as a Georgia USSYP delegate, they will be required to provide proof of U.S. citizenship to the national program before attending Washington Week events.
- I understand that should my student be selected as a Georgia USSYP delegate or alternate, their name and school will be released to the public for recognition purposes.
- I understand that should my student meet all the criteria of the USSYP, found at www.gadoe.org/USSYP and at <https://ussenateyouth.org/>, and advance through the selection process, they will be required to attend an in-person civics exam in Atlanta.
- I understand that if my student is a top-scoring candidate and advances to the final round of the selection process, they will be required to attend an in-person interview in Atlanta.

The applicant will secure an official signature from their parent/legal guardian and upload the signed form to their application. Electronic signatures will not be accepted. The annual parent/legal guardian signature form can be located on the U.S. Senate Youth webpage.

Delegate Selection Process

1. Application Review:

A panel of education leaders from the Georgia Department of Education review applications based on a standardized rubric according to the criteria and required documentation. Qualified applicants move forward and are invited to participate in the Public Affairs exam.

2. Public Affairs Exam:

Qualified applicants are invited to participate in the Public Affairs exam as the second phase of the selection process. Exams are given face-to-face at the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta.

The Public Affairs examination is prepared annually by a college professor of Political Science and Constitutional Law. The exam is designed to test knowledge of the United

States government and the Constitution, American history, knowledge of public affairs, and current political events. The exam includes multiple-choice, true and false, and essay writing components.

3. Finalist Interviews:

Top-scoring exam candidates are invited for a panel interview as the final phase of the selection process. A panel of state officials look for students highly interested in government who demonstrate strong public speaking skills to represent Georgia during Washington Week.

4. Delegate Notification:

Two student delegates and two alternate delegates are designated by the State School Superintendent no later than December 1. Delegates and alternates are notified by phone and email. Applicants not selected for the U.S. Senate Youth Program are notified by email.

United States Senate Youth Washington Week Guidance

The Hearst Foundations provides all expenses for Washington Week, including transportation, hotel, and meals. The Department of Defense (DoD) annually provides a team of competitively selected men and women officers to serve as mentors and chaperones for the student delegates, and a registered nurse, licensed physician, and professional security team are always in place throughout an in-person week.

United States Senate Youth Program National Rules and Expectations

The following are the national program official expectations and rules for selected delegates. Failure to comply will result in dismissal from the program and forfeiture of the scholarship.

1. All delegates must agree to fully participate in all activities and events, including arrival and departure travel days, to participate in Washington Week.
2. No tours or trips will be permitted by individual delegates while traveling to or from Washington, D.C., or while in Washington, D.C. This policy includes any other outside activity, conference, scholarship competition, or event of another organization that is conducted in Washington, D.C. or the surrounding area during the timeframe of the U.S. Senate Youth Program Washington Week and includes any outside appointment or event during the program week.
3. All travel provided by The Hearst Foundations is round-trip only and scheduled within provided time frames.
4. The chief state school officer from each state, the District of Columbia, and DoDEA must submit, in writing to The Hearst Foundations by December 1 of the current program year, the names of the two delegates and two alternates. Upon confirmation of

qualifications, the program requires each delegate to submit a statement of participation, including a code of conduct agreement to be signed by students and parents/legal guardians. All program rules apply to the group as a whole, defined as minors.

5. **Code of Conduct:** Delegates will be the guests of the United States Senate and The Hearst Foundations throughout the program, whether in-person or online, and are required to conduct themselves with civility, dignity, and professionalism. Debate and discussion are actively encouraged in an environment of tolerance, respect, and inclusion. Students selected for the program serve as large public representatives of their states, communities, and schools and attend the program to learn from the speakers and one another. Students are prohibited from engaging in lobbying, petitioning, protest, or overt political activism during Washington Week. Cyberbullying and bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. Delegates must comply with all program health and safety policies.
6. It will be the responsibility of the parents/ legal guardians to transport (at their expense) each delegate to the nearest commercial airport or train station that provides round-trip travel to Washington, D.C., from their hometown. All itineraries will be designed for the least travel time and most direct routing.
7. No arrangements for individual religious practices or services other than dietary guidelines will be made during an in-person Washington Week. This policy will be strictly observed from when the student delegates arrive at the Washington area airports, train station, and program site until they return home.
8. The program does not allow individual or group athletic activities outside the hotel facility.
9. Failure to abide by the rules and requirements of the program will result in dismissal from the program and forfeiture of the \$10,000 scholarship award. Rules related to the U.S. Senate Youth Program and scholarship award shall be construed, interpreted, and applied by The Hearst Foundations, whose action and determination shall be final and binding.

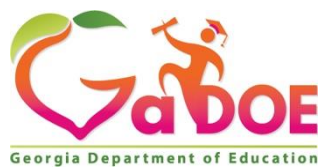
Hearst Foundation Delegate Scholarship

The Hearst Foundations believe it is in the public interest to encourage these outstanding young people to continue their educational development. The \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship award is subject to the conditions and requirements specified below. Additional detailed scholarship information will be provided to the delegates after Washington Week. Certificates representing the award will be presented to the delegates during their visit to Washington, D.C., often personally signed by their senators.

1. The \$10,000 college scholarship and Washington Week program attendance are inseparable awards. Therefore, delegates must participate in the Washington Week

program in accordance with all program rules and policies to receive the financial scholarship.

2. The U.S. Senate Youth Program scholarship is designated for undergraduate college study only at an accredited United States college or university. All students are encouraged to include history, political science, or related subjects in their undergraduate program.
3. The \$10,000 scholarship is designated for the specified student's education expense and must be used within four years after enrollment. Funds are paid directly to the college or university on the student's behalf. No funds may be given directly to a student. The scholarship will be issued in either one payment of \$10,000 or increments of \$5,000 or \$2,500.
4. Students attending military academies (U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard) may draw the U.S. Senate Youth Program scholarship per the guidelines to purchase required military uniforms, books, computer equipment, and other educational materials.
5. A student will automatically forfeit eligibility for a scholarship award by failure to abide by all rules and requirements pertaining to the program and the scholarship or in the event of misconduct as a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program.



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Richard Woods, State School Superintendent
Educating Georgia's Future