

## 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars – General

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by executive order of President Lyndon Johnson to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. The program was extended in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. Since 2013, chief state school officers (CSSO) have been invited to nominate candidates from their states for the program. This allows the nomination of up to 10 male and 10 female students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship and might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT, Arts, or CTE recognition process.

### All high school seniors who meet the following requirements are eligible:

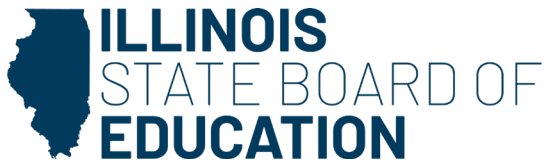
- Attends a public, parochial, or independent school. Home-schooled students are also eligible.
- Is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.
- Graduates between January and June of 2025.

The Commission on Presidential Scholars will select all 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars, and they will be recognized at the National Recognition Program, which is tentatively scheduled for June 2025. However, this date is subject to change and will be confirmed after U.S. Presidential Scholars are announced.

### CSSO Nomination Process:

1. Schools will self-nominate students and submit applications to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).
2. All student eligibility requirements must be met; **schools may nominate up to five male and five female students.**
3. Complete the attached Nomination Form for each student to be nominated.
4. All nominations, including the forms and supplemental documentation must be submitted to [presidentialscholars@isbe.net](mailto:presidentialscholars@isbe.net) **no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2024.**
5. ISBE will review the submitted nominations and select the top 10 male and top 10 female nominees from Illinois to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (ED).
6. In January 2025, selected nominees and their respective schools will receive an invitation and an additional application from ED. The application must be filled out and submitted by the student as specified by ED.
7. ED will announce the finalists in May 2025.

Visit the [ED U.S. Presidential Scholars Program webpage](#) to learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars. Please contact [presidentialscholars@isbe.net](mailto:presidentialscholars@isbe.net) or 217-782-5270 if you have questions about the CSSO nomination process.



100 North First Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

2025  
ILLINOIS NOMINATION FOR  
THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL  
SCHOLARS GENERAL COMPONENT

PRINCIPAL / COUNSELOR /  
TEACHER NOMINATION FORM

**Instructions:** Please submit this nomination form along with completed student application. Application must be completed by the nominee and principal/counselor/teacher with original signatures and submitted via electronic email. **Nomination form and application must be emailed to [presidentialscholars@isbe.net](mailto:presidentialscholars@isbe.net) by no later than 5 p.m. on September 30, 2024.**

NAME OF STUDENT (Last, First, Middle)	HOME ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP Code)	
NOMINATED BY (Last, First, Middle)	TITLE	
NAME OF INSTITUTION	TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)	CEEB CODE (Six digits)
INSTITUTION ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP Code)	EMAIL (PREFERRED)	

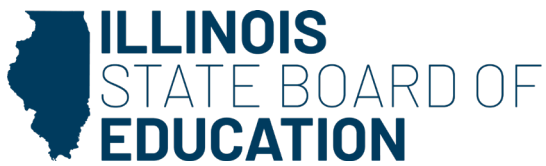
**Recommendation of Student.**

**Instructions:** To be completed by principal or guidance counselor. Please indicate how student demonstrates outstanding scholarship. The response should address the following:

- 1) What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
- 2) Were there special challenges or hurdles this student has overcome while still achieving high academic success?

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Digital or Original Signature of Person Nominating Student*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*



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2025  
ILLINOIS NOMINATION FOR  
THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL  
SCHOLARS GENERAL COMPONENT

STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please submit the application form along with completed student application. Application must be completed by the nominee and principal, teacher or guidance counselor with original signatures and submitted via electronic email. **The nomination form and application form must be emailed to [presidentialscholars@isbe.net](mailto:presidentialscholars@isbe.net) by no later than 5 p.m. on September 30, 2024.**

NAME OF STUDENT (Last, First, Middle)	TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)	
HOME ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP Code)	EMAIL ADDRESS OF STUDENT	
NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL	NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL	
SCHOOL ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP Code)	SCHOOL TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)	EMAIL ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL
NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN	PARENT TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)	

**Confirmation of Eligibility:**

**Instructions:** Please check boxes to confirm that you have met all eligibility requirements

- ☐ U. S. Citizen or Legal Permanent U. S. Resident by the application deadline  
☐ Graduate or receive a diploma between January and June 2024; the current program year  
☐ Nominated by School District Teacher or Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name of Student Nominee*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Digital or Original Signature of Student Nominee*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Selection Criteria:**

1. Academic Rigor – Please indicate GPA scale used ☐ 4.0 ☐ 5.0

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please use unweighted GPAs)

2. Involvement and Service

Please describe specifically with detail in 500 words or less your involvement and service in your school and community.

**3. Leadership and Character**

Please explain in 500 words or less how you demonstrate leadership and character.

**4. Extraordinary Achievement and Overcoming Obstacle**

Please describe in 500 words any extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome that demonstrate your scholarship, character, and service.

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*Printed Name of Guidance Counselor*

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***Digital or Original*** Signature of Guidance Counselor

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*Date*