United States Presidential Scholars

The U.S. Presidential Scholar Program, established in 1964, recognizes exceptional high school seniors in academics, visual and performing arts, and career and technical educational fields.

Each year, up to 161 students are named as U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. The U.S. Presidential Scholar is a recognition-only program, and no scholarship funds are associated with this award.

U.S. Presidential Scholars receive a presidential medallion commemorating their achievements during the national recognition program in June. Submission of the Georgia application does not guarantee that the student will be nominated for the federal program.



About Excellence Recognition Programs

The Georgia Department of Education Excellence Recognition Programs honors outstanding educators, schools, staff, and students throughout the state.

Find additional opportunities at:
bit.ly/GAexcellence

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APPLY TODAY!

Find the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program full requirements, application, and verification forms on our USPS webpage.

Georgia Department of Education

Georgia Department of Education

United States Presidential Scholars Program

General Component Application Guide

2027 USPS Key Dates

Application Deadline: **November 1 at 5:00 p.m.**

U.S. Department of Education Announces U.S. Presidential Scholars: **May 2027**

General Component Core Criteria

Georgia high school seniors are required to meet the following criteria to apply for the General Component of the program:

1. Must be a U.S. citizen or Legal Permanent U.S. resident at the time of application

2. Must graduate or receive a diploma between January and August 2027

3. Must demonstrate outstanding scholarship by scoring 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 2023 and runs through October of 2026

4. Students are required to identify their K-12 School Code. School codes can be found at: https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/k12-educators/tools-resources/k12-school-code-search

General Component Application Criteria

Students are required to provide the following application components:

1. Citizenship Status: Confirm U.S. citizenship or legal residency status at the time of application.

2. Anticipated Graduation Date: Graduate or receive a diploma between January and August 2026.

3. Grade Point Average: Provide GPA on 4.0 scale. The school counselor must verify the student's GPA at the time of application.

4. SAT and ACT Reporting: Provide a copy of the student's highest SAT combined and/or ACT composite score report.

5. Accomplishments, Honors, and Awards: List school-related honors and awards received within their high school career, including the date of the award or recognition was received, and a brief description.

6. School Organizations: List involvement in school organizations, including but not limited to subject-area clubs, hobby clubs, community service, charity clubs, or career interest clubs, including the dates of service and a description of their participation.

7. Community Organizations: List involvement in community-based organizations within their high school career, including the dates of service and description of their participation.

8. Student Essays: Answer two 500-word count maximum essay prompts.

General Component Application Essays

Essays are limited to a 500-word maximum with a 200-word minimum requirement. Essays will be judged on organization, clarity, depth of content, and ability to provide relevant responses.

1. What qualifies you as a U.S. Presidential Scholar? How does your academic performance and community service make you stand out from your peers?

2. What challenges or hurdles did you overcome while still achieving high success?

USPS Verification Forms

Students are responsible for printing the USPS verification forms and obtaining signatures from their principal, counselor, and parent or legal guardian. Electronic signatures will not be accepted. Verification forms are found on the USPS webpage.

