

**MEMORANDUM**

To: School Superintendents, Principals, and CTE Directors

From: Dr. Jennifer Jensen, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Shannon Dick, Innovation Specialist

Date: September 18, 2020

Re: 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program - Local Nomination Process & Submission

**Background:**

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 7,500 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.

**Guidance:**

We are asking each public high school or accredited nonpublic high school to nominate three students as candidates for the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars program. We encourage each high school to nominate one male and one female for the general component of the program, and an additional one student as a candidate for recognition for excellence in CTE. **All high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2021, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are homeschooled, are eligible. In order for students to be considered to apply for recognition in 2021, please submit your local student nominations by Friday, October 30, 2020, via the appropriate online nomination form ([General](#)) ([CTE](#)).**

A committee will review all locally nominated students and make a final selection of 10 male and 10 female students from across the State for the general component and 5 students for the CTE recognition component. Selected Indiana nominees will then be notified and their names will be submitted to the U.S. Commission on Presidential Scholars for consideration and invited to apply for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program in mid-January 2021 by the U.S. Presidential Scholars program office. Completed final applications will be due in February 2021, the names of the semi-finalists will be posted in mid-April, and Scholars will be announced in early May 2021.

Awarded 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion. To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, please visit [www.ed.gov/psp](http://www.ed.gov/psp). If you have any questions, please contact [Shannon Dick](#).