

U.S. Presidential Scholars

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program?

A: A recognition program that allows students to exchange ideas and forge friendships with similarly motivated and accomplished peers. Bonds are formed over an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June. For more information, see: <http://doe.sd.gov/secretary/USPSP.aspx> and <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>

Q: Is this a scholarship program?

A: No. Students are not awarded scholarships but are bestowed the distinction and the experiences further described above.

Q: Who is eligible?

A: High school seniors graduating between January and June, 2019. The students must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and can attend public or private school, or homeschool. For more requirements, please see: <http://doe.sd.gov/secretary/USPSP.aspx>

Q: How can I apply?

A: Each Chief State School Officer (Interim Secretary of Education Mary Stadick Smith) may nominate students from his or her state. She can nominate up to 20 students (10 female and 10 male) through the traditional Scholar program and an additional five students who have demonstrated academic achievement in career and technical programs. Students themselves may not apply directly; students are nominated by their school.

Q: Can I nominate my child?

A: Nominations must be submitted on behalf of the student by the student's school. For more information, please contact your child's school.

Q: Can I nominate multiple students from my school?

A: Yes. Schools may nominate any student who meets the eligibility requirements. There is no limit to how many students may be nominated from a school or district.

Q: When are nominations due?

A: Nominations are due by 11:59pm on Friday, October 26. Please submit nominations through the portal: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STTSJBY>.

Q: When will the selected scholars be announced?

A: South Dakota will not release the list of names submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, due to the further review process. A nation-wide list of nominees will be announced in mid-January; nominees will then be asked to submit applications in February. Those selected as Scholars will be announced in May.