



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 28, 2021

**TO:** Career Education Planning District (CEPD) Administrators and Directors of Career and Technical Education (CTE)

**FROM:** Brian L. Pyles, Ph.D., Director   
Office of Career and Technical Education

**SUBJECT:** 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program – Michigan CTE Nominations  
**Time Sensitive – Documents due by November 10, 2021**

The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education (MDE-OCTE) is seeking nominations for the CTE component of the [2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#). The Program was created in 1964 and was expanded in 2015 to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in CTE fields. Please forward this memo to your high school counselors and CTE teachers to nominate exemplar CTE students. The deadline for nomination submission is November 10, 2021.

The [White House Commission on Presidential Scholars](#) selects up to 20 CTE scholars annually based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals. Selected CTE scholars are recognized at the state level as well as nationally. CTE scholars are invited to Washington D.C. to attend an awards ceremony sponsored by the White House where they are presented with the Presidential Scholar Medallion.

CTE teachers, high school counselors, and administrators are encouraged to nominate two state-approved CTE program students per school who have demonstrated the *general guiding principles* and *specific standards* described in the attached Criteria for Candidate Identification and Nomination document which was provided by the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Office. The Michigan Perkins V state plan for career and technical education supports [Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan](#) to: Expand secondary learning opportunities for all students.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT  
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER  
JUDITH PRITCHETT – NASBE DELEGATE • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON  
NIKKI SNYDER • JASON STRAYHORN

**To qualify, each student must meet all of the following requirements:**

- High school seniors who are participants of a CTE program graduate between January and June of 2022
- U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident
- Attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, and
- Demonstrates the general principles and specific standards identified in the [U.S. Presidential Scholars CTE Criteria](#).

Nominations will be reviewed by members of the Office of Career and Technical Education. The top five scorers on the attached rubric will be submitted for formal nomination to the White House Commission. A committee, appointed by the Commission, of qualified individuals experienced in CTE, will review the CTE component nominations. The committee is tasked to select 60 CTE candidates from across the nation to be named as semifinalists.

In Mid-January 2022, the semifinalists are invited by the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Office to apply as a U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Semifinalist. Semifinalists must fully complete and submit the application directly to the Commission in February of 2022 (exact day has not yet been announced). Applications for all the program components received by the deadline date will then be reviewed by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars for the selection of the Class of 2022 Scholars which are announced in early May 2022.

It is important to note that an application for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is **by invitation only from the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Office**, not MDE or the OCTE. Students may not apply individually to the program or be nominated outside of the above process.

**Instructions for submitting a Michigan Nomination Form and Narrative to the MDE/OCTE**

1. Each high school may nominate up to two students.
2. With the student's permission, complete the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Nomination Form and Narrative.
3. The [Nomination Form](#) must be signed by the CTE Teacher, School Counselor, or Administrator. By signing the form, the individual is certifying that the student meets the qualifying requirements.
4. The completed Nomination Form and Narrative must be:
  - a. Submitted via **email to** [mde-octesubmissions@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-octesubmissions@michigan.gov)
  - b. Received no later than **5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

Please direct questions to Ms. LeAnn Reyes, Secretary, Career Readiness Unit, Office of Career and Technical Education at [reyesl1@michigan.gov](mailto:reyesl1@michigan.gov)