



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

DATE: August 17, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: 2019 U. S. Presidential Scholars Nomination Process for Students in Career and Technical Education**

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964 and since that time, the program has honored more than 7,500 outstanding high school seniors. As the program has grown from the initial recognition based upon SAT or ACT scores, additional Scholars candidates have been invited to apply for accomplishments in the visual and performing arts or creative writing. Beginning in 2016, outstanding students who demonstrate excellence in Career and Technical Education (CTE) were included for recognition.

The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education is accepting nominations of Virginia candidates for 2019 recognition “on the basis of outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.” The Criteria for Candidate Identification and Nomination provides detailed information and lists the categories that will be used by the Commission on Presidential Scholars selection committee.

School divisions are invited to nominate an outstanding CTE student for the 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The following information must be submitted for nominees through the Virginia Department of Education secure Single Sign-on for Web Systems (SSWS) drop box to the attention of Judith P. Sams:

- Student's name, gender, home mailing address, and email address
- High school name and mailing address
- Nominator's name and contact information
- High School College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) code
- Strong and relevant supporting nomination documents (Use the Criteria for Candidate Identification and Nomination to select supporting nomination documents.)

Candidates who are nominated and choose to apply, and whose applications are complete, will be reviewed by a committee of qualified individuals experienced in career and technical education. Nominations must be received by October 15, 2018. Five state semifinalists will be selected by the Virginia Selection Committee. The U.S. Presidential Scholars program office

will invite those nominees to apply in mid-January 2019, completed applications will be due in February 2019, and the Scholars will be announced in May 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact Judith P. Sams, CTE Presidential Scholars Coordinator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, at [CTE@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:CTE@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 371-0196.

JFL/GRW/aab

Attachment

- A. [Criteria for Candidate Identification and Nomination](#) (WORD)