



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Secondary School Principals

FROM: Stephen Armstrong
State Department of Education

DATE: August 18, 2017

SUBJECT: 2018 United States Senate Youth Program

The United States Youth Senate Program is a national initiative to provide a yearly opportunity for talented secondary school students with demonstrated leadership abilities to deepen their understanding of America's political processes and encourage them to pursue their interest in professions in public service. Each year, two students from Connecticut are selected to travel to Washington, D.C. (March, 2018) to represent the state at the annual United States Youth Program. The two students selected for this program will each receive a \$5,000 William Randolph Hearst Foundation scholarship.

Regulations for Eligibility and Selection

1. The student must be a secondary school junior or senior who has not previously been a delegate to this program and meets one or more of the criteria listed below:
 - a. Elected school organization officer (school wide organizations preferred).
 - b. Student representative (selected by a panel, commission, or board to district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organization).
 - c. Elected student officer of a statewide organization.
2. The student must be a permanent resident of the United States currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state in which either one of his or her parents or guardians legally resides.
3. The student must be interested in entering a public service profession or seeking public office in the future.
4. Only two candidates from each school may be nominated.
5. Each candidate must be endorsed by the high school principal.
6. Each student nominated must complete the STUDENT APPLICATION.
7. Each student nominated must provide an up-to-date resume (not to exceed 2 pages) that includes courses taken and grades from the last two school years, achievements, extra/co-curricular activities, offices held, and community, church or service organizations/activities.
8. Each nominated student must submit two one-page essays,
 - Essay 1: (Note: the USSYP is designed for students who aspire to enter careers in public service.)
Describe the area of public service profession you wish to enter and provide specific reasons why you are committed to this area of public service
 - Essay 2: **Describe a specific activity or event where you have provided "difference-making" measurable leadership.**

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Selection Process & Checklist

- Once selected and endorsed by the secondary school principal, the student will complete the:
Student Application
Two one-page essays; and
Resume (see specifics stated previously for content to be included).
- Applications packages must be postmarked no later than Friday, September 15, 2017.
- Return the completed Youth Senate application, essay and resume package to:
Stephen Armstrong
State Department of Education
450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 603
Hartford, CT 06103
- After the review of all submitted applications, 10-15 finalists will be selected for the Finalist Interview Session.
- The school principal will be contacted by telephone and E-mail should a student from a school be selected as a finalist. No communication relative to finalist selection will be sent to a student. All communication will be sent to the school principal, or designee.
- The Final Interview Session for the USSYP will be conducted the week of **October 16, 2017**, at CREC, Capitol Region Education Council, Hartford.
- The names of the two nominated students and two alternates (if either of the top two nominees is unable to comply with regulations) will be announced within two weeks of the interview session.
- No student will be considered unless all information has been submitted by the postmark date.

If you have any questions please call Mr. Armstrong at (860)713-6706 or email, stephen.armstrong@ct.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Armstrong

Stephen Armstrong
Academic Office
Connecticut State Department of Education