TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Non-Public School Administrators

FROM: David C. Hespe
Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Announcement-
Candidates Nominated by Chief State School Officer
DUE DATE: November 3, 2014

Overview

The United States Presidential Scholars Program has historically recognized students for their exceptional performance on the SAT/ACT and in the arts. Since 2012, the United States Presidential Scholars program has expanded to allow candidates nominated by each state’s Chief State School Officer for consideration as a U.S. Presidential Scholar (Scholar) by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). These nominees, while demonstrating outstanding scholarship, might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT or arts recognition process. This year, ED has authorized the New Jersey Department of Education to nominate up to five male and five female New Jersey graduating seniors. These students must be U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. legal residents. At this time, I would like to invite you to submit nominations for one male and one female senior who meet the qualifications, referenced herein.

The New Jersey Department of Education has assembled a panel to review the nominee packages. A selection of five male and five female nominees will be submitted to ED. These nominees will be added to the pool of Scholar nominees in both the SAT/ACT scores category and in the arts category. ED will announce the students who are invited to apply for consideration as a Scholar in January 2015 and will provide information regarding its application process.
Nominee Submission Package to New Jersey Department of Education

In order for your school’s student(s) to be considered as a New Jersey nominee in the Chief State School Officer nominee category, please submit the following information, to the address listed in the Submission of Nominee Names and Nominee Submission Package section, below:

- Student’s name
- Home mailing address
- High School name and mailing address
- High School CEEB code
- Student’s transcripts
- Student’s SAT/ACT scores and

Information considered by ED, set forth below:

- What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding character?
- What special challenges or hurdles has this student overcome while still achieving high academic success?
- Involvement and Service in school and community
- Leadership and Character
- Writing samples
- Academic achievements
- Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.

Submission of Nominee Names and Nominee Submission Package

Please submit the names of your nominees to me, along with their Nominee Submission Packages, by mail, postmarked no later than November 3, 2014:

David C. Hespe, Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ  08625

For more information about the U.S. Presidential Scholars program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, please visit www.ed.gov/psp and http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/faq.html.

Please find accompanying this broadcast, a Nominee Submission Package Checklist for your convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact Denise Parkinson Vetti at 609-292-6038.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

DCH/PM/BH/DPV
c: Members, State Board of Education
   Senior Staff
   Executive County Superintendents
   Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
   Executive County Business Officials
   NJ LEE Group
   Garden State Coalition of Schools
Nominee Submission Package Checklist: these items are to be submitted to the Acting Commissioner by **November 3, 2014**

1. Student’s name
2. Home mailing address
3. High School name and mailing address
4. High School CEEB code
5. Student’s transcripts
6. Student’s SAT/ACT scores
7. Student’s involvement and service in school and community
8. Information regarding student’s leadership and character
9. Student’s writing samples
10. Student’s academic achievements
11. Other information demonstrating
   - Extraordinary achievement
   - Heavy workload
   - Family responsibilities
   - Obstacles overcome