Date: August 23, 2019  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: Public and Nonpublic High School Principals, School Counselors, Social Studies Teachers and Supervisors, High School Advisors  
From: Linda P. Eno, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Academics and Performance  
Deadline: October 11, 2019

**58th Annual United States Senate Youth Program**

The New Jersey Department of Education is pleased to announce its participation in the 58th Annual [United States Senate Youth Program](https://www.usasenate.gov/senate/youth) (USSYP) sponsored by the United States Senate and the Hearst Foundations. Principals of public or nonpublic schools in New Jersey may nominate one outstanding junior or senior to be considered for this highly competitive, merit-based program.

Each year, two high school juniors or seniors from each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense schools are selected to participate in Washington Week (March 7-14, 2020) and receive a one-time $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship. Washington Week is an intensive week-long educational program held in Washington, D.C. and expenses are paid for by The Hearst Foundations.

During Washington Week, delegates will hear major policy addresses by Senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, and directors of federal agencies. The Department of Defense will provide specially selected men and women officers to serve as mentors for the student delegates while in Washington, D.C.

The United States Senate Youth Program is designed for students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities in their school and community and a strong commitment to public service. The type of student who thrives during Washington Week is one who is truly interested in government, history, politics, and leadership. The Hearst Foundations seek students who are confident and excel at public speaking since Washington Week provides the opportunity to speak directly with the highest-level elected and appointed officials in the country, including the President of the United States.

To be eligible, students must be residents of New Jersey and currently serving (through March 2020) in an elected or appointed capacity in an approved student government, civic, or educational organization (see Application Requirements). Students who attend this program are encouraged to pursue coursework in history and political science, as well as careers in public service. Students must be able to confirm proof of citizenship or legal permanent resident status in order to participate in USSYP. Additional information about USSYP and its scholarship rules may be found on the [USSYP website](https://www.usasenate.gov/senate/youth) and in its [2020 USSYP brochure](https://www.usasenate.gov/senate/youth). Information about New Jersey’s selection process may be found on the [NJDOE USSYP website](https://www.usasenate.gov/senate/youth).

Please note that in order to ensure consideration of your nominee, the application packet must be completed and received by mail no later than October 11, 2019. The application packet includes the completed application form with the principal’s signature, two-page essay, resume, transcript, press paragraph, and a letter of recommendation from the principal and advisor of the leadership organization.
A selection panel will choose two delegates and two alternates. Announcement of the two delegates that will represent New Jersey will be made by mid-December 2019.

Thank you for your assistance with the USSYP nomination process. In the past, the delegates from New Jersey have been extraordinary and we expect, with your help, to receive many exceptional applications again this year.

For more information, please contact Beverly Plein, program administrator at USSYP@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
   Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner
   NJDOE Staff
   Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
   Garden State Coalition of Schools
   NJ LEE Group