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2026-2027 U.S. Presidential Scholars in CTE Program
Application Guidelines Overview

- National U.S. Presidential Scholars Program will recognize up to 20 outstanding CTE students
- Each State Superintendent can nominate 5 candidates
- All high school seniors are eligible to apply if they are:
  - participants of a CTE program or have completed a CTE program (students who have completed a full sequence of a CTE program, or are enrolled in the last course of the sequence of a CTE program) **and**
  - graduating between January and August of 2027 **and**
  - U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents **and**
  - attending a public, parochial, or independent schools or are home-schooled

- 2026-2027 AZ U.S. Presidential Scholars in CTE Student Application
  - Parts One and Two
    - must be composed by the student, not by anyone else
    - all blanks must be filled in and typed or neatly written enough to be easily read
    - must contain student, parent, and District CTE Director signatures
  - Part Three
    - Essay must:
      - be composed by the student, not by anyone else – although they should receive input through critical reviews and proofreading
      - be typed or written neatly enough to be easily read
      - contain 1-2 paragraphs describing activities, hobbies, jobs or other responsibilities that display leadership, character, and involvement in and service to the community
      - contain 1-2 paragraphs for **each of the specific criteria listed below** (see pages 2 for more detail):
        - **Academic rigor**
        - **Technical competence**
        - **Employability skills**
        - **Ingenuity/Creativity/Problem Solving**
  - The application and essay should be emailed to AZCTE@azed.gov.

- CTE teachers, in coordination with their CTE Director, should identify and select the best possible candidate(s) to apply from your school and district. ***Applications must be approved and submitted by the District CTE Director*** and be received by mail or email by ***Friday, January 8, 2027 by 5:00 PM.*** Students and/or parents may not submit the applications directly to ADE/CTE. The district may develop further guidance or requirements at the local level.

- A **review team** of CTE stakeholders will review the applications and select the top 5 nominations to submit to the ADE State Superintendent/Communications office by January 18, 2027. The Superintendent's office will review and submit to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) Commission on Presidential Scholars by February 1, 2027.

If you have specific questions, please contact AZCTE@azed.gov.

Go to:

Further Instructions - - - - - - - - - - **Student Application** - - - - - - - - - - **Checklist**

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U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education Program
Criteria for Candidate Identification and Nomination

The designated organization(s) will use the following *general principles* and *specific standards* to develop a pool of U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education (CTE) nominees.

General Guiding Principles:

- **Academic Rigor** – students will demonstrate high proficiency on their State's academic standards, based in part on their high achievement reflected on their State's academic assessments in the core academic subjects.
- **Technical Competence** – students will demonstrate mastery of technical skills demanded by industry.
- **Employability Skills** – students will demonstrate such professional skills as teamwork, decision-making, and problem-solving.
- **Ingenuity and creativity** – students will have solved a real-world problem through the application of technical skills they developed in their career area.
- **Application pool** – students will represent the multiple sectors that are viewed as the pillars of our nation's economic growth; Healthcare, IT, Advanced Manufacturing, STEM, and Transportation, as well as the socioeconomic characteristics of our nation's high school graduates.

Specific Standards:

- **Academic rigor** as calibrated to standard set by the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) and based in part on their high achievement reflected on their State's academic assessments in the core academic subjects:
  - An overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (unweighted).
  - A grade point average in their selected career pathway of 3.25 with no grade below B-.

- **Technical competence** as demonstrated by *one or more of* the following:
  - Completion of a work-based or community-based learning experience (Note: The term 'work-based learning' means a program of structured work experiences (such as internships, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, school-based enterprises, and Supervised Entrepreneurial Experiences) that is coordinated with classroom-based learning and that is designed to enable students to learn and apply career and technical education skills and knowledge in a work context).
  - Earning a medal in state and/or national Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) skills competition in student's career area.
  - Earning an industry-recognized certification/credential.[1]

- **Employability skills** as demonstrated by *one or more* of the following:
  - Completion of a work-based learning experience that is an integral part of the curriculum of the program of study.
  - Leadership role in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) at local, state, or national level.
  - Completion of a community service project or other student leadership activity in student's career area of interest.
    - Scores at the Gold Level in each of the three core areas of the National Career Readiness Certificate (i.e., Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information), which means that the student has the foundations skills for approximately 90% of jobs examined.

- **Ingenuity/Creativity/Problem Solving** as demonstrated by *one or more* of the following:
  - Solution to a real-world problem (e.g., developed electric car that goes faster than any before).
  - Development of a new product/good or service (e.g., development of an app).

[1] The term 'certification' means a certificate from industry and awarded by a certification body based on an individual's demonstration, through an examination process, that he or she has acquired the designated knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform a specific job.

U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career & Technical Education Program

Administered by the Commission on Presidential Scholars

2026-2027 ARIZONA U.S. Presidential Scholars in CTE Student Application

Form Application to be completed by Student

PART ONE-PERSONAL INFORMATION

To be eligible for this program Applicant Must:

· Be a high school senior
· Graduate between January and August 2027
· Be a participant of a CTE program
· Have all application blanks filled in

All application information is to be typed, or clearly written, except signatures. - - Electronic signatures will not be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be read or considered for submission.

Applicant Name: **First:** _____ **M.I.:** _____ **Last:** _____

Home Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number: with area code** _____

I certify that I am a United States citizen or a legal permanent resident of the United States of America (select one) **yes** ◯ **no** ◯

Age: _____ **Male** ◯ **Female** ◯ **Anticipated Graduation Date (mm/yy)** _____

Total GPA / Grade Point Average (e.g./ 3.5/4.0 on a 4.0 scale, unweighted): _____

PART TWO-EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

School Type: **public (including charter)** ◯ **Private** ◯ **Homeschool** ◯

Current school you are enrolled in: _____

School Address: _____

School CEEB Code (*Information on page 2) _____

Principal: _____

Principal's Email: _____ **Principal's Phone Number:** _____

Name of School District: _____ **School County:** _____

Name of Applicant's primary CTE Program: _____

Grade point average in your selected career pathway: _____

List all CTE Courses / Programs Completed and Grade Received for Each:

Please sign, scan or take a clear picture, and email.

Signature of Student (No Electronic Signatures)	**Printed Name**	**Date**
Signature of Parent/Guardian (No Electronic Signatures)	**Printed Name**	**Date**
Signature of District CTE Director (No Electronic Signatures)	**Printed Name & Title**	**Date**

PART THREE-EVIDENCE OF CRITERIA - ESSAY

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE ATTACHED TO THIS APPLICATION IN ORDER FOR THE APPLICATION TO BE REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE.

All essays are to be typed or clearly written. Essays that are not written neatly will not be read or considered for submission.

REQUIRED: (To be written and completed by CTE Student)

- **1-2 paragraphs describing activities, hobbies, jobs or other responsibilities that display leadership, character, and service to the community.**
- **1-2 paragraphs for each of the specific criteria for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education. Specific criteria to address include: Academic Rigor; Technical Competence; Employability Skills; and Ingenuity, Creativity, and Problem Solving. See 2026-2027 U.S. Presidential Scholars in CTE Program Application Guidelines.**

OPTIONAL:

- *Supporting documents, such as unofficial copies of related certificates and transcripts, may be included, but are not required.*

CTE Directors:

Please Note: This signed student application and the Part Three-Evidence of Criteria Essay should be scanned and emailed to:

AZCTE@azed.gov

To be considered, all applications must be completed with signatures and received by **Friday, January 8, 2027.**

For more information or questions, please contact your **District CTE Director** or AZCTE@azed.gov.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE DISTRICT CTE DIRECTOR, NOT BY THE STUDENT OR PARENT.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

***What is the CEEB?:** The College Entrance Examination Board Number refers to a 6-digit code that is assigned to each high school, which identifies it to colleges and universities. This is one item that is required to be submitted to the federal office. You may be able to search for your CEEB code at http://www.suny.edu/attend/ceeb-codes/search_highschool/.

Note: Homeschool students use CEEB code 000003

U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career & Technical Education Program

Administered by the Commission on Presidential Scholars

2026-2027

Checklist: Please check that you have completed all of the following before submitting your documents.

☐	All application blanks have been filled in
☐	The **Student** has signed the application
☐	The **Parent** has signed the application
☐	The student's written paragraphs cover the required criteria (see Part Three-Evidence of Criteria – and 2026-2027 CTE Criteria for Candidate Identification and Nomination)
☐	The student's written paragraphs have been proofread and corrected for spelling errors, grammatical errors, and clarity of content
☐	The **CTE Director** has **signed** the application
☐	The application has been submitted by the January 8, 2027 deadline