STATE OF CONNECTICUT

***DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION***

 TO: Secondary School Principals

FROM: Stephen Armstrong

State Department of Education DATE: August 30, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023-2024 United States Senate Youth Program

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Washington Week will be held Saturday, March 2

- Saturday, March 9, 2024.. Two students from each state will be selected to attend the in-person program and each student will receive a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship. Students may qualify to apply through leadership positions they currently hold per the USSYP official criteria for the current 2023-2024 academic year. All student leadership qualifying positions are subject to the judgement of the state selection administrator and will be verified and confirmed. Elected school leadership positions must be held for the entirety of the 2023-2024 school year (see below for specific criteria).

## 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 for the 2023-2024 year:
	1. Elected school organization officer (school wide organizations preferred).
	2. Student representative (selected by a panel, commission, or board to district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organization.
	3. 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.**

# 2024 United States Senate Youth Program

**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 must be received by no later than **Monday, October 23, 2024.**
* Return the completed Youth Senate application, essay and resume package to:

Stephen Armstrong

Social Studies Consultant

Connecticut State Department of Education

Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov

* After the review of all submitted applications, 10-15 finalists will be selected for the Finalist Interview Session, which is to be held in-person.
* 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 in-person duringthe week of **November 13, 2023.**
* The names of the two nominated students and two alternatives (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 deadline (October 23).

If you have any questions, please email Stephen Armstrong,

Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov

Sincerely yours,

*Stephen Armstrong*

Stephen Armstrong Academic Office

Connecticut State Department of Education

# 2023 – 2024 STUDENT APPLICATION

## United States Senate Youth Program

and Hearst Foundation Scholarship

## DATES & DEADLINES

Each school may submit only two candidates who meet the following criteria:

* + Must be currently a grade 11 or 12 student;
	+ Must be a Connecticut resident;
	+ Must be a permanent resident of the United States;
	+ Must be currently serving (2023-2024) in a leadership role (elected/appointed) in a school, community, or statewide organization.
	+ Has an expressed desire/intention to enter a public service profession or seek elective public office in the future.
	+ Completed applications must be **received** no later than **Friday, October 23, 2023**
	+ IF CHOSEN AS A FINALIST, candidates must participate in the mandatory Finalist Interviews the week of **November 13, 2023**, which will be held in-person.
	+ If selected, the student MUST attend the entire Youth Senate Program week, **March 2-9, 2024.**

## Print or type all information

Student name: First Middle Last

Home Address: Street Town/City State Zip

Home Telephone: Age: Gender: SCHOOL YEAR(Sr/Jr)2023-2024 Name of High School:

Name of Principal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Principal’s Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Complete Address of School: Names of Parents/Guardians:

**Submit with this Application:**

STUDENT RESUME – 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, officers held, and community, church or service organizations/activities.

Two one-page essays – see the instructions page!

**Student Attestation.**

I understand the requirements of the United States Senate Youth Program and Hearst Foundation Scholarship. If selected as a finalist, I will attend the virtual Finalist Interview Session the week of November 13, 2023.

Signature of Student

**Note: After the review of all applications, 15-20 finalists will be selected for interviews. The high school principal will be contacted by telephone & E-mail if a student from a school has been selected as a finalist.**