

Office of Teaching and Learning

2027 U.S. Senate Youth Program

Two students from Louisiana, who may be either juniors or seniors, will be chosen to represent the state at the **65th annual U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP)** in Washington, D.C., from **March 6 to March 13, 2027**. Each delegate will receive a **\$12,500 college scholarship** upon successfully completing all on-site events.

Eligibility

Students are eligible to apply if they meet the following criteria:

1. They are currently juniors or seniors during the 2026–2027 school year.
2. They hold an eligible leadership position as defined by the United States Senate Youth Program's official criteria. This includes serving as a student government officer or representative, class officer, member of a local, district, or state board or commission, or an officer in the National Honor Society.
3. They have held that leadership position for the entire academic year.
4. They are enrolled in a public, private, or homeschool secondary school in Louisiana.
5. They are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or official green card holders.

All leadership positions will be reviewed and verified by the state selection administrator.

School Nominations and Applications

Principals of public and private schools may nominate up to three students.

The application process consists of **two steps**, both of which must be completed by **October 9, 2026**, at 11:59 p.m.

1. **Application Submission:** Nominated students must submit a completed [application](#), including all required documentation.
2. **Proctored Essay:** After submitting the application, students must complete a timed essay under the supervision of a designated school official. Essay topics will be released directly to the school official administering the essay to maintain test security.

Applications will not be considered complete until both the application and the proctored essay have been submitted.

Required Submission Materials

Applicants must upload the following documents individually through the U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship [application](#):

- Student demographic information and electronic parent signature
- Parent PII Release Form
- Principal letter of recommendation
- Sponsor/Teacher Leader letter of recommendation
- List of school elective offices and honors
- Transcript of coursework
- List of academic achievements
- List of school and extracurricular activities
- List of citizenship and community involvement
- Description of hobbies, college plans, and career goals
- Timed essay (completed under school supervision)
- Principal/faculty affirmation verifying essay security procedures

Formatting Requirements: Arial, 12-point font, double-spaced.

Timeline

August–September 2026

[Application](#) opens. Schools nominate students and compile portfolios.

October 9, 2026

All [applications](#) and proctored essays completed.

October 23, 2026

Top four finalists notified.

November 5, 2026

Finalists complete the national exam and interview in Baton Rouge.

December 1, 2026

Names of two delegates and two alternates submitted to the Hearst Foundation.

December 2026

Delegates and alternates notified by the Hearst Foundation.

March 6–13, 2027

USSYP Washington Week in Washington, D.C.

For questions, contact socialstudies@la.gov.