



# ***Governor's School of North Carolina***



***A Summer Program for Gifted and  
Talented High School Students***



# Nomination Packet

- Governor's School West
- High Point University – High Point
- Governor's School East
- Meredith College – Raleigh



## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA**

State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction  
Exceptional Children Division | Governor's School of North Carolina  
[www.ncgovschool.org](http://www.ncgovschool.org) | 984-236-2577 or 984-236-2576

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISION: Every public school student in North Carolina will be empowered to accept academic challenges, prepared to pursue their chosen path after graduating high school, and encouraged to become lifelong learners with the capacity to engage in a globally-collaborative society.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION: The mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education is to use its constitutional authority to guard and maintain the right of a sound, basic education for every child in North Carolina Public Schools.

### ERIC DAVIS

Chair: Charlotte – At-Large

### JILL CAMNITZ

Greenville – Northeast Region

### TODD CHASTEEN

Blowing Rock – Northwest Region

### ALAN DUNCAN

Vice Chair: Greensboro – Piedmont-Triad Region

### REGINALD KENAN

Rose Hill – Southeast Region

### DONNA TIPTON-ROGERS

Brasstown – Western Region

### DAN FOREST

Lieutenant Governor: Raleigh – Ex Officio

### AMY WHITE

Garner – North Central Region

### J. WENDELL HALL

Ahoskie – At-Large

### DALE FOLWELL

State Treasurer: Raleigh – Ex Officio

### OLIVIA OXENDINE

Lumberton – Sandhills Region

### J.B. BUXTON

Raleigh – At-Large

### MARK JOHNSON

Superintendent & Secretary to the Board: Raleigh

### JAMES FORD

Charlotte – Southwest Region

The above State Board of Education information is a record of the board members at the time of this document's approval for publication. For the current list of State Board Members, Vision and Mission Statements, go to <https://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov>.

## NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**Mark Johnson, State Superintendent / 301 N. Wilmington Street / Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2825**

In compliance with federal law, the NC Department of Public Instruction administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

### **Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination issues should be directed to:**

Joe Maimone, Chief of Staff

6307 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6307 / Phone: (984) 236-2206 / Fax: (984) 236-2349

**Visit us on the Web:** [www.dpi.nc.gov](http://www.dpi.nc.gov)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION** .....2

    Introduction .....2

    Program Description .....2

    ? **"What Is Governor's School? Why Should I Be Interested?"** .....2

        Area I Descriptors .....2

    ? **"Is That All? How Is This Different From Other Summer Programs?"** .....3

    ? **"Does It Cost Anything?"** .....4

    ? **"When Is Governor's School? What Are Other Important Dates?"** .....4

    ? **"What Else Can You Tell Me About Governor's School?"** .....5

    ? **"Okay, I'm Interested. Am I Eligible To Be Nominated?"** .....6

    ? **"How Are Students Nominated/Selected?"** .....7

        Audition Details .....7

**SECTION 2: STUDENT NOMINATION** .....9

    ? **"So, What Are My Next Steps?"** .....9

        Helpful Tips For A Better Nomination .....9

**SECTION 3: SCHOOL/SYSTEM INFORMATION** .....10

    ? **"How Do Schools/School Systems Nominate Students"** .....10

        Nomination Chart .....11



# SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

## Introduction

Thank you for considering the North Carolina Governor's School. This packet is intended to be informative and helpful to those exploring this unique program. While perusing the following pages, know that a motto for Governor's School is to **'question everything.'** To model this approach, program information is presented in response to a series of basic questions. These are, by no means, the only questions to ask in learning about the North Carolina Governor's School, but it is hoped they will increase readers' knowledge and pique their curiosity to learn more and possibly apply to attend and be a part of this vibrant learning community

## Program Description

The Governor's School of North Carolina is the oldest statewide summer residential program for gifted and talented high school students in the nation. The program, which is open to rising seniors only, with exceptions made for rising juniors in selected performing/visual arts areas, has been most recently located on two campuses: Governor's School West at High Point University in High Point and Governor's School East at Meredith College in Raleigh. The program is administered by the Public Schools of North Carolina, State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction through the Exceptional Children Division. A Board of Governors, appointed by the State Board of Education, acts as an advisory body.

Each summer, all selected students are invited to Governor's School to help build a learning community. Freed from the regular high school pressures of tests, scores and grade point averages, students are encouraged to question and explore, with the purpose of learning for its own sake and discovering new possibilities that complement their high school instruction. While individual achievement and growth are always addressed, Governor's School emphasizes corporate and collective efforts, ranging from orchestral and choral music to partnered experiments and whole-class projects.

The academic disciplines include:

- English
- Foreign Language (*Spanish* at Governor's School West; *French* at Governor's School East)
- Mathematics
- Natural Science
- Social Science

The performing/visual arts disciplines include:

- Art
- Choral Music
- Instrumental Music
- Dance
- Theater



## **"What Is Governor's School? Why Should I Be Interested?"**

The program offers a non-credit curriculum for selected students in three areas:

- **AREA I** – Area I is the discipline/subject of the student's special interest and the basis on which that student is chosen to attend Governor's School. Below is a summary description of the ten Area I disciplines so that students can envision how they will spend the majority of their class time at the Governor's School. The emphasis in all disciplines is on contemporary texts, compositions, artistic expressions, issues, and ideas and the theories that flow from them.
  - **ART** – In the visual arts curriculum, students study and practice visual expression consistent with current concepts and styles. Emphasis is placed on creative expression as students investigate and examine movements and theories in contemporary art.
  - **CHORAL MUSIC (Treble Choir at Governor's School West; Mixed Choir at Governor's School East)** – The choral music program explores the expression of the human experience and the connection to other arts and world events through choral music. The curriculum concentrates on music of 20th and 21st century composers. Students also learn the finer points of choral singing – blend, diction, tone quality – and vocal technique in rehearsals and performances.
  - **DANCE** – The dance curriculum embraces and expresses 20th and 21st century theories through daily modern technique classes, a survey of recent pioneers, and the integration of self-expression and abstraction through improvisation, composition, and choreography.
  - **ENGLISH** – The English curriculum focuses on modern and post-modern fiction, poetry, and drama. The students are encouraged to read closely, imaginatively, analytically, and empathetically. Some teachers incorporate creative and analytical writing workshops to help students improve their writing.

- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE – FRENCH (EAST)** – Students in French improve their skills in reading and writing, and they examine the emerging literature, music, art and global events of French culture and francophone countries. French is the primary language spoken in class.
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE – SPANISH (WEST)** – The goal of Spanish is to expose students to contemporary thought, literature, music, art, and political trends coming from Spain and Hispanic America. Spanish is the primary language spoken in class.
- **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (Orchestra at Governor's School West; Wind Ensemble/Band at Governor's School East)** – The instrumental music program is designed to extend the boundaries of the gifted student beyond the limits of the standard high school curriculum. The focus is the study and performance of significant 20th and 21st century repertoire for orchestra (West) or wind ensemble (East), and the creation and performance of student works. These are all chosen to "open windows onto the future," the goal of the Governor's School curriculum as a whole.
- **MATHEMATICS** – The mathematics program strives to provide an atmosphere for students to independently contemplate and investigate problems that arise in contemporary mathematical fields. In addition, the program provides many opportunities through student-faculty interaction, seminars, and invited lecturers, for students to gain an appreciation for both mathematics and the work of mathematicians.
- **NATURAL SCIENCE** – The natural science curriculum investigates contemporary theories and topics of modern science by the use of interactive seminars, discussions, experiments, and group and individual problem solving. Biology, chemistry, and physics are all addressed through intriguing and engaging lessons.
- **SOCIAL SCIENCE** – The social science curriculum examines the major political, sociological, psychological, and anthropological concepts which have influenced the 20th and 21st centuries from theoretical and applied perspectives.
- **THEATER** – The goal of the theater curriculum is to introduce young theater artists to contemporary and progressive theory, literature, and technique. The approach is holistic, encouraging the actor to become a well-rounded, life-long student of the theater.

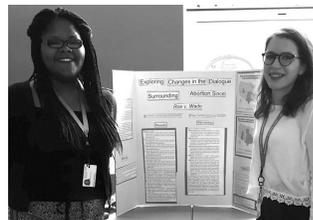
Study in each Area I discipline emphasizes theory over the memorization of fact, particularly contemporary and progressive theories that stimulate innovative thought in a rapidly changing culture. Courses and activities are designed to stimulate student creativity, move students to question basic assumptions, explore unanswered questions, and develop an acceptance of the process of change. Classes meet twice a day, Monday through Friday, and once on Saturday.

- **AREA II** – Each student attends another class composed of students from each of the Area I disciplines. Here students and teachers explore connections between the ideas of these disciplines. As integrative concepts emerge, the class attempts to construct an understanding of contemporary ways of thinking and of the culture that arises from them. Area II classes meet three times a week.
- **AREA III** – This third class is also composed of students from each of the Area I disciplines. Here students attempt to ground what they are learning in their Area I and II classes in their own personal experience. Finally, they apply that understanding to their social worlds; that is, they try to discover links between ideas and actions, theory and practice. Area III classes meet three times a week.

NOTE: The descriptions above are for the in-person program. If the 2021 Governor's School is a virtual program, there likely will be adjustments to class schedules and campus designations.

## ***"Is That All? How Is This Different From Other Summer Programs?"***

The academic environment of Governor's School thrives upon the intellectual curiosity of students and faculty alike. Faculty expect students to aspire to be "producers of knowledge, problem solvers, and problem finders" (Gallagher, 1994). Classes blend intellectual discussion with practical application of theory. The faculty and staff at both Governor's School campuses are selected from public school systems, private schools, colleges and universities, and private organizations. On each campus, these people serve as teachers, counselors and other personnel (e.g., health care, recreational, office, etc.). In addition, the campuses are alive with visiting speakers, performances, exhibitions, field trips, demonstrations, optional seminars, and film series. Social and recreational events complement the academic focus.



## ? "Does It Cost Anything?"

The North Carolina Governor's School is partially funded by the North Carolina General Assembly. In recent years, to supplement this partial funding, a \$500 tuition per attending student has been necessarily charged. Tuition submission is the responsibility of the public school units and non-public schools that nominate the students. However, they have great flexibility on how they choose to access and collect tuition funds. This may include requesting families to cover some or all the tuition costs. Details on tuition payment options and procedures will be sent to schools and school systems. NOTE: For 2021, tuition is being examined in light of changing budget levels and the COVID-19 pandemic. The tuition amount this year may be more or less than \$500 per student. Announcements will be made in early 2021.



The Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Governor's School Foundation (NCGSF) are committed to ensuring that every selected student can attend Governor's School. The NCGSF will make scholarship opportunities available at [www.ncgsfoundation.org/apply/](http://www.ncgsfoundation.org/apply/) but only after selections are announced in March 2021.

For the in-person program, families are responsible for transportation costs to and from the campuses and for their children's spending money.

## ? "When Is Governor's School? What Are Other Important Dates?"

**September/October 2020** – Information regarding the 2021 session of Governor's School is sent to superintendents, headmasters of non-public schools, charter school directors, EC program directors, AIG coordinators, high school principals, high school counselors, and other Governor's School contacts. General information and all necessary forms are posted on the Governor's School website at [www.ncgovschool.org](http://www.ncgovschool.org). Also, informational meetings will be held throughout the state in September and October, offering official presentations on this unique program.

**December 1, 2020** – The official Governor's School Contact for the school system (or federal school, special school, charter school or non-public school) must submit all nominations electronically to the Office of the North Carolina Governor's School. NOTE: Students, parents and other individuals may not submit nominations directly to the State level.

**January/February 2021\*** – Online Governor's School auditions in Art, Choral Music, Dance, Instrumental Music, and Theater; specific dates to be determined. All students who are nominated in these areas and who meet the eligibility requirements for Governor's School will be notified individually and invited to audition.

**March 2, 2021** – Lists of selected/non-selected students selected to attend the 2021 session of Governor's School will be sent electronically to school/school system officials.

**March 9, 2021** – Letters of selection/non-selection will be mailed to students.

**April 6, 2021** – Deadline for nominating schools/systems to submit acceptance forms on selected students. Submission of an acceptance form obligates the school/system to pay a non-refundable tuition per accepting student. Details on tuition payment options and procedures will be sent to schools and school systems.

**Sunday, June 20, 2021\*\*** – Opening Day of the 2021 session of Governor's School

**Thursday, July 8, 2021\*\*** – Parents' Day

**Thursday, July 8 – Sunday, July 11, 2021\*\*** – Mid-Session Break

**Wednesday, July 28, 2021\*\*** – Closing Day of the 2021 session of Governor's School

*\* Specific audition dates will be available on the Governor's School website ([www.ncgovschool.org](http://www.ncgovschool.org)) in late fall 2020.*

*\*\* Tentative dates to be confirmed by host campuses. A finalized schedule will be posted in early 2021. If an online program is employed instead, some dates might vary.*



## ***“What Else Can You Tell Me About Governor’s School?”***

- 1. HOW WILL GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL 2021 BE CONDUCTED IN LIGHT OF COVID-19?** The COVID-19 pandemic caused the unfortunate cancellation of the 2020 summer session. However, plans are being developed for Governor’s School to commence in 2021, either in the regular in-person format or via a robust virtual remote experience, depending on public health issues and with primary concern given to the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and their families. Specific decisions will be made in early 2021.
- 2. WHERE IS THE GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL LOCATED?** For the in-person program, the Governor’s School has two sites. Governor’s School West is at High Point University in High Point. The site for Governor’s School East is being determined and will be announced in early 2021; for the past 20 years, it has been capably hosted by Meredith College in Raleigh.
- 3. ARE THE PROGRAMS THE SAME AT GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL EAST AND WEST?** Yes, except that West offers Spanish and an orchestra and East offers French and a wind ensemble. Also, East will have a mixed chorus (i.e., sopranos, altos, tenors and basses) for 2021; the West chorus will include only sopranos and altos. Otherwise the curriculum of both campuses is the same. If the program shifts to an online format, campus specifics might change.
- 4. HOW IS A TYPICAL GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL CLASS CONDUCTED?** Highly energized and committed teachers invite students to explore new and significant ideas, not principally through lecture but through discussion. Teachers may use an occasional mini-lecture to present a formula in math or physics, demonstrate a new movement in art or music, or explain a recent theory of social groups or literary texts. The hallmark of our intellectual work, however, is the interplay between theory and students’ responses, between the abstract and the personal. Without the common burdens of covering a defined body of material and being tested on it, students and teachers can forge a safe, non-competitive intellectual environment where ideas from many disciplines are entertained and all active learners are taken seriously.
- 5. WHAT OPTIONS ARE THERE AFTER REGULAR CLASSES END IN THE AFTERNOON?** At the in-person program, Governor’s School provides many options for afternoon and evening hours that complement and extend the work of classes. Invited speakers who are active contributors to current knowledge in their fields address students at least once a week. Student performances/presentations from all 10 academics and arts disciplines electrify both campuses. Daily optional seminars or electives can range from the Aesthetics of Choreography (dance faculty) to a discussion of ‘beautiful proofs’ (mathematics faculty) to musical genres and their intersections with race and class. Film series offer not only substantive films, but discussions that deepen the understanding of particular offerings and sharpen the ability to see and interpret any film.
- 6. WHAT KINDS OF RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ARE OFFERED?** Each afternoon and evening, numerous facilities are open for individual and group recreation. Later in the evening, students can choose social events such as swing dance instruction, ultimate frisbee tournaments, capture the flag competitions, and scavenger hunts. For many, the high social moments are the masquerade ball and, on the final evening, a semi-formal dance. Others say that their best free moments are spent in the spontaneous conversations, gatherings, and activities that students initiate on the courtyard benches and by fountains, at meals and on dormitory halls. An online experience would still incorporate some of these elements, though it obviously would differ significantly from the in-person experience.
- 7. HOW STRICT ARE THE RULES AT THE GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL?** Governor’s School is clearly situated between high school and college – an ambitious residential school for high school students. It grants students many freedoms associated with university study, especially the freedom of choice between many different intellectual and community experiences. It is also governed by a number of rules and regulations associated with residential life for high school students. These are enumerated in an honor code and the Student Handbook (available for download in March upon selection) so students will know what is expected of them before they decide to attend. Governor’s School is not a rule-bound place, but those few rules that exist are taken seriously. Strict adherence to them exercises student self-discipline and responsibility, ensures student safety, and frees the community to focus on vital and essential new ideas and experiences. While an online experience would not necessarily have the same requirements, expectations for attendance and appropriate behavior would still be in place for the development and functioning of the learning community.
- 8. DO STUDENTS HAVE TO ATTEND GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL THE ENTIRE FIVE AND ONE-HALF WEEKS?** Yes. Being selected actually means being invited to contribute to the construction of a learning community, so full attendance and participation is required, not just requested. (NOTE: Any student who does not stay until the closing session on the last day will not receive a Governor’s School certificate.) For the in-person program, students are not excused to attend school, family, or community events (e.g., camps, competitions, reunions, etc.). On rare occasions students may be excused for events of great urgency that cannot be rescheduled.

Such requests may only be submitted after the student selection process. Also, students should not enroll in or expect to participate in online courses during the Governor's School session. Experience has shown that online course enrollment leads to students completing neither Governor's School nor their online course with fidelity. Any student who cannot make this commitment is kindly asked to decline the invitation and allow another student the opportunity to fully participate. NOTE: These requirements may differ somewhat if an online experience is employed.

- 9. IF THE PROGRAM IS IN PERSON, MAY STUDENTS GO HOME ON WEEKENDS?** No. Students must remain at the Governor's School through the weekends, except during the middle of the session break when all students leave campus with their parent(s). Brief approved visits by families and friends during other weekends are allowed.
- 10. IS THERE A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS A SCHOOL/SYSTEM CAN SUBMIT?** Yes. Each school system, charter school, non-public school and special school is allotted a certain number of nominations based on its tenth and eleventh grade student population, with exceptions in French and certain performing arts areas. See the School/System Information section for details of this allocation.
- 11. MAY A STUDENT BE NOMINATED IN MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES?** No. Though a student may express interest in many disciplines (e.g., multiple academic areas, different musical instruments, etc.) at the local level, the nomination to the state level can only be in one discipline (one academic/arts field, one vocal part, one instrument).
- 12. WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF BEING SELECTED?** Due to limited funding, only around 40% of nominees are selected each year. This selection rate tends to vary across disciplines, according to the number of nominations received in a particular discipline in a given year. For the 2020 Governor's School, a total of 670 students would have attended out of ~1650 received nominations.
- 13. IF THE PROGRAM IS IN PERSON, MAY STUDENTS REQUEST WHICH CAMPUS THEY WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND AND REQUEST ROOMMATES?** No, students must attend their assigned campus and with their assigned roommate.
- 14. MAY STUDENTS ATTEND GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL MORE THAN ONE TIME?** No, students may attend Governor's School for one session only.
- 15. IS TUITION REFUNDABLE?** No.
- 16. WHERE CAN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL BE FOUND?** For statewide information, visit the Governor's School website at [www.ncgovschool.org](http://www.ncgovschool.org) or email [ncgovschool@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ncgovschool@dpi.nc.gov). For local information, contact a school counselor at the local high school.

## ***"Okay, I'm Interested. Am I Eligible to be Nominated?"***

There are two main eligibility requirements: residency and enrollment. For 2021, the achievement/aptitude test score requirement has been suspended.

- **RESIDENCY** – You must be a North Carolina resident; exchange students are not eligible. Any student attending a North Carolina federal high school (e.g., Lejeune High School), regardless of residency, is eligible.
- **ENROLLMENT** – You must be:
  - Attending a North Carolina public or non-public school, and
  - Enrolled in the eleventh grade at the time of nomination (exceptions are made to allow for students in tenth and eleventh grades in Dance, Choral Music and Instrumental Music).

Again, there is no achievement/aptitude test score requirement to be nominated to the State level. However, local schools/school systems may use test scores along with other measures (e.g., interviews, essays, auditions, etc.) to determine which of their students are most deserving of one of their limited nominations to the State.

## "How Are Students Nominated/Selected?"

Students are only nominated by schools/school systems; they cannot be nominated by their families or themselves. Also, the number of nominations a school/school system can submit to the state level is limited in most disciplines. (See the School/School System Information section for more details.)

A North Carolina Governor's School nomination is a robust collection of information from multiple sources. It comprises:

1. A student-completed Student Application which includes contact information, essays and reflections on personal readiness for Governor's School.
2. A school-produced high school transcript which lists the student's classes, grades and other official achievement data.
3. Two recommendations using the official Recommendation Form, completed by those who can attest to a student's qualities and readiness.

See the *"So, What Are My Next Steps?"* section for more details.

**LOCAL PROCESSES:** To determine which nominations will proceed to the state level, schools/school systems may have a local selection process of their own design. This could include additional tests, auditions, interviews, etc. These decisions are reserved for those at the local level (i.e., those that know their students best) and the Office of the North Carolina Governor's School generally does not intervene in these matters.

**STATE PROCESSES:** Once nominations are submitted in December, the Office of the North Carolina Governor's School screens them to ensure completeness and student eligibility. After this, the state selection processes are as follows:

- **ACADEMIC NOMINEES** – Selection committees with specialists in each academic discipline review and score each student nomination, ranking all nominees in that particular discipline. Only the nomination is used in the academic selection process; there are no auditions or use of additional materials.
- **PERFORMING/VISUAL ARTS NOMINEES** – Specialists in each discipline review and score each nomination. Also, students in these disciplines audition before judges (see below). Nomination scores complement the audition findings to determine rankings in each artistic discipline, instrument, and vocal part.

**AUDITIONS** in all performing/visual arts areas will be conducted virtually and in January/February 2021; the exact dates and other details will be posted to the Governor's School website in late fall 2020. Student-specific details (technology, time, preparations, etc.) will be sent directly to each student several weeks prior to audition day. Students may audition in only one discipline, instrument or vocal part.

- **Art** – All nominees must show three of their best works of art in any medium that show drawing, painting, sculpting, ceramic, or printmaking skills. The three pieces may be in the same medium. Each piece is limited to 36 inches in width and height. Framing is not allowed; matting is allowed. During judging, nominees must be available to answer questions about their work.
- **Dance** – Specific virtual audition plans for Dance are still being developed, but will attempt to simulate a modern dance class; therefore, a prepared routine is not necessary. Ballet shoes are not to be worn; nominees will audition in their bare feet. No costumes are necessary.
- **Theater** – The theater audition includes two monologues: one from a selection of options and then other created by the student in response to a prompt. Details will be shared with nominees in December 2020. NOTE: Some years prior, a tech theater option was available for a small number of students seeking to specialize in set design and other non-acting theater aspects. That option is not available for 2021.
- **Choral Music** – The audition for choral music comprises two tasks: solo performance and sight-singing.
  - **SOLO:** Nominees will perform a 90-second to two-minute contemporary formal repertoire piece from a 20th-century or 21st-century composer. A nominee should consult with his/her music teacher for a suitable piece. Do not select a piece from the genres of pop/rock, Broadway, film, gospel, or voice parts from choral repertoire. The performance will be a cappella (i.e., without instrument accompaniment), unless the nominee opts for accompaniment. In late 2020, the Governor's School website will have additional details and resources on the solo performance task.
  - **SIGHT-SINGING:** Each nominee will study and then sing an excerpt chosen by the judge. This task will be performed a cappella.

- **Instrumental Music** – The audition for instrumental music comprises two tasks: solo performance and sight-reading. Instrumental music nominees must use their own instrument(s) or those supplied by their school.
  - Nominees are expected to perform unaccompanied.
  - The following instruments will be auditioned: Flute/Piccolo, Oboe/English Horn, Clarinet (E-flat, B-flat, Alto, Bass, Contralto, and Contrabass), Saxophone (Alto, Tenor, and Baritone), Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion, Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass.
  - **No other instruments (e.g., guitar, piano, harp, etc.) will be auditioned.**
  - **SOLO:** All nominees will choose and play a solo piece (not to exceed two minutes), from a list of instrument-specific selections that will be on the Governor's School website in December 2020. Nominees should consult with their music teachers or band directors to choose the piece that best displays their technical and musical abilities.
  - **SIGHT-READING:** Each nominee will sight-read and play one or two brief selection(s) chosen by the judge.

Once all State selection processes are complete, the Office of the North Carolina Governor's School notifies schools/school systems and then students about selection/non-selection in early March 2021. Selected students then must declare if they accept their selection by early April 2021.



## SECTION 2: STUDENT NOMINATION

### ? "So, What Are My Next Steps?"

- **STEP ONE: Contact your school/school counselor.** Ask about eligibility and local application/nomination processes.
- **STEP TWO: Complete and turn in the Student Application at your local school, not to the State office.** Download and electronically complete the form from the Governor's School website ([www.ncgovschool.org](http://www.ncgovschool.org)). There are three sections to complete:
  - Basic Information & Nomination Discipline
  - Essays – You will have two essays to complete, each in response to a prompt. Essay #1 is for every student, regardless of nomination area. Essay #2 is specific to your nomination area, so make sure you use the correct prompt.
    - 1. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.** Exceeding the character limit, writing to an incorrect prompt, and other errors will result in a reduced rating.
    - 2. UNDERSTAND THE PROMPTS.** If you are not sure what a prompt means, ask a trusted educator.
    - 3. DO YOUR OWN WORK BUT HAVE OTHERS REVIEW.** Essays must be your own product, not someone else's ideas, but it is fine for others to guide you and offer helpful edits.
  - Personal Readiness – This form is where you list your recent school/community activities and awards and your thoughts on those that are most important to you. It is also where you describe what makes you ready for a summer residential experience in a learning community.
- **STEP THREE: Get Two Recommendations.** Review the official Recommendation Form (from the Governor's School website) and ask responsible adults who can electronically complete and submit it and who can attest to your academic/arts strengths, personal character, and readiness for the Governor's School experience.
  - Family members may not complete/submit recommendations.
  - At least one recommendation must be from one of your high school teachers, preferably in your nominated discipline. If a nomination-discipline teacher is not available, choose another teacher. The second can be from: another teacher; a school counselor or administrator; an out-of-school instructor, coach or community leader; or anyone else who can knowledgeably complete the form.
  - Recommenders should download the Recommendation Form and complete it electronically.
    - Upon completion, the recommender should send it electronically directly to the appropriate local school official, NOT to the State office. Neither you nor your parent should receive or review the recommendation.
    - Only two Recommendation Forms will be accepted. No other documents (e.g., substitute letters, additional recommendations, etc.) will be accepted.
- **STEP FOUR: Follow up with your local school official (e.g., school counselor) to ensure all materials are submitted.** The school will complement these materials with your official high school transcript.

### HELPFUL TIPS FOR A BETTER NOMINATION

- 1. NOMINATION DISCIPLINE** – Most students are accomplished in more than one thing. In choosing your nomination discipline, decide on one of which you are both capable and passionate. Having both qualities is usually required for selection in this highly competitive process.
- 2. ESSAYS** – Start working on your essays long before they are due; last-minute efforts usually are not fruitful. Also, there is not a 'correct answer' to the essay prompts. Readers are wanting to gain insight into how you think about these topics, not just what you think.
- 3. PERSONAL READINESS** – List those activities, awards and experiences that demonstrate your readiness and fitness for the Governor's School experience. Leadership, dedication and a willingness to take on challenges are good qualities.
- 4. RECOMMENDATIONS** – Find those who can *1) be honest* and *2) speak well of you*. Also, high ratings alone are usually insufficient; additional input in the free-response sections help support the ratings. Our readers often have more confidence in well-supported 'Very Good' marks than unsupported 'Superior' marks.

## SECTION 3: SCHOOL/SYSTEM INFORMATION



### *“How Do Schools/School Systems Nominate Students?”*

THIS SECTION IS DESIGNED FOR LOCAL SCHOOL PERSONNEL. The information in this section is open and available to students and families, but it is directly applicable to those local school/system professionals who participate in the nomination process.

**GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL CONTACT PERSON:** There is one designated official Governor’s School Contact Person for each public school unit and non-public school. If you are the Contact, notify your appropriate school/system colleagues about your position and the local student nomination processes.

**OTHER SCHOOL/SYSTEM PERSONNEL:** Know who your official Contact is and go to that person with any questions about student eligibility, local nomination, tuition responsibilities, etc. Please thoroughly review the GENERAL INFORMATION and STUDENT APPLICATION sections of this document. You should be able to use it and your knowledge of local nomination processes to answer most questions.

#### **Suggested Step-by-Step Nomination Procedures for Local Schools/Systems** *(Schools/systems may vary these procedures to fit their local needs.)*

##### **1. STUDENT**

- a. Fully completes a Governor’s School Student Application and submits it to appropriate local school personnel.

##### **2. RECOMMENDERS**

- a. Fully complete a Recommendation Form and electronically sends it directly to the appropriate local school official. They are NOT to share the recommendation with the student or family.

##### **3. SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

- a. **High School Staff** (often in coordination with the local Governor’s School Contact Person):

- i. Confirms the student meets all eligibility criteria.
- ii. Assembles a complete nomination (Student Application, official transcript, and Recommendation Forms) on each nominee and submits it to the Principal/Director/Headmaster.

- b. **High School Principal/School Director/Headmaster** (often in coordination with the local Governor’s School Contact Person):

- i. Reviews all complete nominations.
- ii. Approves (often through a school-based committee) and submits complete nominations to the Governor’s School Contact Person.

- c. **Governor’s School Contact Person** (involving the local Superintendent/Director/Headmaster):

- i. Reviews the **Nomination Chart** to determine the total number of nominees allowed. See the following exceptions.
  1. French – These nominations are unlimited and do not count against the number of academic nominations. However, the number of students selected in French is quite small. Consider nominating only those students who are very strong in French and can speak it fluently.
  2. Instrumental Music and Choral Music – Nominations are unlimited for students who play double-reed instruments (oboe and bassoon), brass instruments (trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, and tuba), percussion instruments, or string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass), or whose vocal ranges are alto, tenor or bass. These will not count against the number of performing/visual arts nominations.
- ii. Documents the best candidates from the school/system for nomination to the Governor’s School, as agreed upon by the Superintendent/Director/Headmaster. NOTE: Strive to reflect the diversity of the school/system.
- iii. Completes the *Nomination Form* with the included assurances.
  1. Superintendent Choice – Public school system and federal school (not charter, special or non-public schools) Superintendents indicate their one academic choice. This student will automatically be invited to attend provided he/she meets all eligibility requirements. The Office of the North Carolina Governor’s School recommends that this student is one of the top academic nominees. NOTE: A nominee in French, Spanish or the performing/visual arts cannot be a Superintendent Choice.

2. PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY DISCLOSING THE NAME OF THE SUPERINTENDENT CHOICE.

iv. **Notifies all interested students whether their nomination is advancing to the state level.**

v. Uploads all materials to the assigned electronic folder, including: the *Nomination Form* for the entire school/system and a complete nomination (i.e., *Student Application*, transcript and two recommendations) for each listed student. Due date: **December 1, 2020.**

## Nomination Chart

- The Nominating Entity (i.e., school system, charter school, federal school, special school or non-public school) can nominate eligible students according to the chart below.
- The allotted number of academic nominations should include the one Superintendent Choice (public school systems and federal schools only).

10th+11th Grade Total Student Population (Excluding Extended Day Enrollment)	# of Limited Academic Nominations*	# of Limited Performing/ Visual Arts Nominations**
Up to 125	1	2
126-250	2	4
251-500	3	6
501-800	4	8
801-1100	5	10
1101-1400	6	12
1401-1800	8	16
1801-2100	10	20
2101-2500	12	22
2501-3000	14	24
3001-3500	17	26
3501-4000	20	28
4001-5000	23	30
5001-6000	26	32
6001-8000	32	34
8001-10000	38	36
10001-15000	47	38
OVER 15000	56	40

\* Limits on academic nominations only pertain to English, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science, and Spanish. Nominations in French are unlimited.

\*\* Limits on performing/visual arts nominations only pertain to Dance, Theater, Visual Art, soprano 1 or 2 in Choral Music, and flute/piccolo, clarinet and saxophone in Instrumental Music. Nominations are unlimited in: double-reed instruments (oboe and bassoon); brass instruments (trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, and tuba); percussion instruments; string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass); and Choral Music parts of alto, tenor, or bass. Instrumental Music has only the instruments listed above; other instruments (e.g., harp, guitar, piano, etc.) are not allowed.

Upload all completed nominations to the electronic folder by **Tuesday, December 1, 2020.**

**Questions? Contact the Office of the North Carolina Governor's School at 984.236.2576, 984.236.2577, or [ncgovschool@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:ncgovschool@dpi.nc.gov).**