The purpose of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is to recognize and honor superior high school seniors and thereby to encourage high attainment among all students’ achievements by recognizing students who show promise of continued excellence.

**Eligible Student:** A high school senior who is a resident of Massachusetts; who will graduate from high school or have the recognized equivalent of a high school diploma between January and August 2015; who is a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident; and who meets the selection criteria set forth in these guidelines.

**Eligible High School:** A Massachusetts public or private high school.

**Selection Criteria:** Each school may nominate one female student and one male student who, while demonstrating outstanding scholarship, might not otherwise be nominated through current SAT/ACT or arts recognition U.S. Presidential Scholars processes. Candidates should have demonstrated leadership; school and community involvement; and may receive discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy work load, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.

**Selection Process:** Each public and private Massachusetts high school may select one female and one male candidate from eligible seniors. The superintendent of schools, charter school leader, or private school director and high school principal shall nominate the candidates by signing the Individual School Form, which must accompany the recommended student nomination forms. The entire package is required. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**General Information:** Staff of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will review all nominations and forward nominees to the Commissioner who will make the final selection. Nomination does NOT guarantee that the student will be selected as a U.S. Presidential Scholars recipient.

**Due Date of Applications:** The complete original Student Nomination Form for each nominee and the Individual School Form must be received by October 22, 2014. NO EXCEPTIONS. If faxing (781-338-3399) your nomination package, please send a notification email to dtaylor@doe.mass.edu.

*If mailing the nomination package, please send to:*

Donna Taylor
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Please note that the application consists of 5 pages including the Student Nomination Form and Individual School Form plus the student writing sample. All 5+ pages are required. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will not assume responsibility for screening applications and notifying applicants of incomplete or missing information. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.