



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

WWW.DPI.NC.GOV

October 1, 2020

TO Superintendents High School Principals and Counselors
Charter School Administrators EC Program Directors
Headmasters of Non-Public Schools AIG Coordinators

FROM Dr. Beverly R. Emory *BRE*
Executive Director
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Exceptional Children Division

THE 2021 SESSION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is pleased to announce plans for the 2021 North Carolina Governor's School. Administered by the Exceptional Children Division, Governor's School has provided a unique and innovative residential educational experience for many of the state's brightest and most talented high schools students each summer since 1963. The Nomination Packet and forms will be posted soon at www.ncgovschool.org. All information will be available to download and print; forms will allow for electronic completion, saving and printing. Please direct all interest students to the Nomination Packet.

The person in your school system responsible for working with the Governor's School program should coordinate all nominations. Follow the procedures carefully, screen closely, and nominate students who can handle the freedom and responsibility of a residential school and will commit to attending the entire session. Please strive to adequately and fairly reflect the racial, ethnic, gender and socioeconomic diversity of your tenth and eleventh grade population.

Important Dates/Events

- **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. 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 individually notified and invited to audition.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- **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) 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.*

Informational Meetings

The Exceptional Children Division is holding informational meetings throughout the state in September and October to inform and answer questions about Governor’s School. More information soon will be sent to local Governor’s School contacts and posted on the website.

Selection/Acceptance

Teams of professionals select students during winter 2021. Students in academics are selected according to their nominations; those in performing visual arts are selected by a combined process of nomination review and audition. In March 2021, all nominees and the nominating school/school system will be notified of their selection/non-selection to attend Governor’s School. The school/school system must reply by April 6 with the names of accepting students. At that point, the school/school system is obligated to pay those students’ tuition charges.

Funding/Tuition Update

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.

Scholarships

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/ 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.

Refunds

Tuition for the North Carolina Governor’s School is non-refundable. If tuition has been submitted and then, even with advance notice, the student does not attend Governor’s School, the tuition will not be refunded, except under extreme circumstances.

Contact Information

The State Board of Education, the Department of Public Instruction and the Board of Governors for the North Carolina Governor's School express their sincere appreciation for the interest and support you have shown for Governor's School. If you have any questions, please contact: Tom Winton, Coordinator, at 984-236-2577 or tom.winton@dpi.nc.gov, or Tish Bynum, Special Assistant, at 984-236-2576 or tish.bynum@dpi.nc.gov.

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