

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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
September 18, 2009


MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents
Headmasters of Non-Public Schools
High School Principals and Counselors

EC Program Directors
AIG Coordinators
Charter School Directors

FROM: Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer
Academic Services and Instructional Support 

Angela H. Quick, Deputy Chief Academic Officer 
Curriculum, Instruction, Technology, and Accountability Services

Mary N. Watson, Director 
Exceptional Children Division

SUBJECT: The 2010 Session of the Governor's School

The Nomination Packet for the North Carolina Governor's School has been updated for the 2010 session and is now available online. The packet includes eligibility requirements, nomination criteria, and student selection procedures. We recommend that pages 1 through 5 of the nomination packet be given to all students who may be interested in Governor's School. Due to budget constraints, this packet will not be printed or mailed throughout the state. However, the information is readily available for individual downloading and printing and the forms have been upgraded to allow for electronic completion, saving and printing. Please visit the Governor's School website at www.ncgovschool.org for the link to the entire packet and additional helpful information.

We strongly recommend that all nominations be coordinated by the person in your school system responsible for working with the Governor's School program. Follow the procedures carefully, screen candidates closely, and nominate students who can handle the freedom and responsibility of a residential school and will **commit to attending the entire six-week session**. Every effort should be made to adequately and fairly reflect the racial and gender composition of your tenth and eleventh grade population.

The multiple nomination criteria include academic aptitude, academic achievement, scholastic performance, and personal information. Close attention should be given to the criteria on Application Form IV (page 23). Percentiles for both academic aptitude and academic achievement must be at the 92nd percentile or higher. Scores for the academic achievement test

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

must not be older than ninth grade with the exception of End-of-Course (EOC) tests given in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Important Events/Dates

- Deadline (postmark) for submission of nominations is **November 18, 2009**.
- Nine informational meetings are scheduled across the state (see website for specific dates/locations) for students, parents, and administrators.
- Performing/Visual Arts auditions will be held at Meredith College in Raleigh on two separate dates:

Art and Drama – Saturday, February 6, 2010

Choral Music, Instrumental Music and Dance – Saturday, February 13, 2010

Legislation

Many educational programs and services throughout the state have been affected by the current economic crisis, particularly those directly funded by the North Carolina General Assembly. Though Governor's School traditionally has been fully funded by the General Assembly, the recently approved budget has drastically reduced annual funding by more than thirty-five percent. To account for this reduction, the General Assembly has directed the State Board of Education to charge \$500 tuition for each student who attends the program, beginning with the 2010 session. We have a long history of seeking out and welcoming students from every county, population and income level. We shall continue this dedication and work to help find solutions to this new challenge. Working with schools, families and other entities, we hope to ensure that no student will be dissuaded from nomination or selection due to finances.

Schools and school systems are encouraged to continue their strong tradition of submitting nominations. On average, forty to fifty percent of nominated students are selected, though this varies across disciplines, schools/school systems and from year to year.

Responsibility for Tuition Payments

The entity that nominates students (i.e., public school systems, charter schools, federal schools and private schools) will be responsible for submitting tuition for any of its students that attend Governor's School. It is hoped that the nominating entity will provide flexibility and allow access to the greatest number of funding sources. Each public school system will continue to have two Superintendent's Choices (see page 4 of the Nomination Packet), **but tuition will be required for these students to attend**, just as with all other selected students.

Obligation

Obligation to submit tuition begins only **after a student's selection is accepted**. The student selection process begins with nominations at the local level, and then proceeds to the state selection process in January/February 2010. Performing/visual arts nominees are selected by a combined process of audition and application review. Academic nominee applications are reviewed and selected by a committee. In March 2010, we will notify each student and his/her nominating school/school system of his/her selection to attend Governor's School. **This year we**

are requiring the school/school system to reply and let us know which students' selections are being accepted. The deadline for sending in acceptance lists is **April 9, 2010**. When that acceptance is submitted, the school/school system is then obligated to pay these students' tuition charges, which are **non-refundable and non-transferable**.

Tuition Payment Procedures

- **North Carolina Public Schools (including school systems and charter schools)** – The Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education are determining the specific tuition procedures for all accepted public school (i.e., traditional school systems and charter schools) students. More information on these specifics will be available in mid-October.
- **Private Schools and Federal Schools (e.g., Cherokee Central High School, Camp LeJeune High School)** – Tuition for all accepted federal school and private school students will be collected by **direct payment**. The federal or private school will be required to submit full payment by check made out to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. As with public schools, federal and private schools may use any compliant strategies they deem appropriate, including requesting families to assist with tuition charges.
- **If selection for any student is not accepted by the school/school system, there is no obligation for tuition.** The Department will then turn to the next most qualified student from the prior student's discipline (i.e., specific academic or arts area, vocal part or instrument) via the prospective alternate's school/school system. Tuition will be required for all alternates just as for initially selected students. Note that the alternate most likely will not be from the same school/school system as the originally selected student.

Collecting/Accessing Funds at the Local Level

The Department of Public Instruction is not directing the process that schools/school systems use to access and collect tuition-related funds. Schools may request families to pay some or all the tuition costs, though we encourage schools to first explore and exhaust other local funding sources.

Additional Resource Opportunities

Additional resource opportunities vary throughout the state. We encourage schools to consider approaching local civic and charitable organizations for contributions toward any scholarships that may be required. In addition, the North Carolina Governor's School Alumni Association and the Foundation for the Governor's School of North Carolina may be able to provide assistance. Additional information will be available in mid-October.

When/To Whom Payments are Due

Full tuition payments on all students are **due within two weeks of their acceptance**. No student may attend Governor's School unless his/her tuition is paid in full prior to the session. Specific payment instructions will be sent with the student selection lists in March 2010.

Refunds/Alternate Students

Similar to a conference registration fee, tuition to attend the North Carolina Governor's School is non-refundable and non-transferable. If a student's selection acceptance and tuition have 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. The Exceptional Children Division will search for an alternate similar to earlier listed alternate selection procedures, that is, by contacting the next most qualified nominee from the prior student's discipline (i.e., specific academic or arts area, vocal part or instrument) via the prospective alternate's school/school system. Tuition will be required for all alternates just as for initially selected students.

Contact Information

The State Board of Education, the Board of Governors, and the Department of Public Instruction express to you their sincere appreciation for the interest and support that you have shown for Governor's School. If you have any questions, please contact Camilla Roberson, Special Assistant for the North Carolina Governor's School (919/807-3986 or croberso@dpi.state.nc.us), or Tom Winton, Coordinator of the North Carolina Governor's School (919/807-3982 or twinton@dpi.state.nc.us).

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Enclosure