

# 2017 Tennessee Governor's Schools Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Who is eligible to attend the Tennessee Governor's Schools?

The Tennessee Governor's Schools are special summer programs for talented tenth and eleventh grade students currently enrolled in Tennessee's public and private high schools (students who will be juniors and seniors in the 2017-18 academic year). The programs are demanding and require students who are high achievers. Eligible students should rank in the top of their high school class in academic performance/capability or should be highly talented in the arts. Each Governor's School application outlines specific student eligibility criteria.

Each student applying must submit confidential recommendations from his/her school counselor and two teachers—references that identify the applicant as talented, highly motivated, and mature. Letters of recommendation from school counselors on the Confidential School Counselor's Recommendation Form are required. If you do not recommend a student, then please do not nominate a student by submitting an application.

## 2. What does it cost to attend the Tennessee Governor's Schools?

The Governor's Schools are funded by appropriations from the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. All students attending Governor's Schools will receive a scholarship which covers the cost of tuition, dorms, and meals; however, some Governor's Schools have additional student activity fees to defray costs of activities or other non-academic expenses, which are not covered by the scholarship. Need-based financial support may be available in those instances.

If transportation or program/activity fees are a financial barrier to attending the Governor's School, students should contact the director of the school to which they are applying.

*Note: The Governor's School for the Arts has a program fee of \$2,850 and an activity fee of \$350. Accepted students may be awarded either a full program fee scholarship or a partial program fee scholarship or be permitted to attend with no scholarship. Refer to the Governor's School for the Arts application on the MTSU web site or contact the school for additional information about the program costs and program fee scholarship opportunities.*

## 3. How does a student get specific information about individual Governor's Schools?

Each Governor's School has a website with school-specific information. Also, you may call or email the individual school. School counselors have contact information for each school and a list of directors.

## 4. When is the deadline for applications?

Applications must be postmarked no later than Dec. 2, 2016 (unless otherwise noted on page 2 of the specific Governor's School application packet). School counselors should send all application materials directly to the school(s) to which the students are applying.

*Note: School counselors may set an earlier deadline for materials to be returned to them so they have time to complete and mail the application by the postmark deadline.*

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### **5. May completed applications be submitted prior to a deadline?**

Yes, we encourage completed applications to be submitted as soon as possible. This helps the university staff begin to process applications as they are received. However, special consideration is not given for applications submitted early.

### **6. How can I confirm that my application is received prior to the deadline?**

It sometimes takes a week for mail to arrive from one part of the state to the other. Make allowance for this when mailing applications. To acquire confirmation of receipt, you may purchase the necessary service through the U.S. Postal Service. You are also welcome to contact the individual Governor's School to confirm that the application was received.

### **7. Will individual Governor's Schools consider applications that are incomplete, late, or do not meet the prerequisites?**

No. The Governor's Schools are under no obligation to accept applications that are incomplete, late, or do not meet the prerequisites. If an applicant does not meet the minimum GPA requirement and/or other prerequisites, the application will be placed in an ineligible file, and the Governor's School will not send any correspondence regarding the ineligible application. Each Governor's School understands that very infrequently emergencies and unforeseen circumstances arise that compromise a student's ability to submit a complete application on time. Should an exceptional circumstance arise, the school principal should attach a letter explaining the situation and justify why the application should be considered.

### **8. How will the students be selected?**

Application review and student selection is made by the faculty and staff of each Governor's School. Committees review each student's application materials, transcripts, personal statements, and recommendations, looking for the most exceptional students in Tennessee. The review/selection committees select the students who are offered admission to each school, along with a number of alternates. Students will receive a letter in mid-February from each school to which they applied notifying them if they have been accepted, rejected or selected as an alternate. Selection for the Governor's School for the Arts will be made as a result of an audition and/or portfolio review.

### **9. Can students apply for more than one Governor's School?**

Students may submit applications to multiple Governor's Schools, but since the dates of the programs overlap, students accepted to more than one school may only attend one program. Students applying to more than one school must rank the schools (1 = most preferred, 2, 3, etc.) in your order of preference on the Certification of Application page in the application packet. Please note that students applying to more than one Governor's School, must submit a separate application for each Governor's School.

*Note: The Governor's School for the Arts does not encourage nor discourage students from auditioning in more than one art area. However, if a student chooses to do so, separate applications should be completed for each art area.*

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### **10. If a student accepts an invitation to one Governor's School, will he/she have a chance to accept an invitation to another one later if vacancies occur?**

No. Students commit to attending when they accept the offer of admission.

### **11. What do students do if offered admission to more than one Governor's School?**

Each Governor's School to which students have been offered admission must be notified of the student's plans to accept/not accept the offer of admission by the deadline listed in the student notification information. Since there are few spaces available, the offers which are not accepted will then be offered to applicants on alternate lists. Your cooperation here is greatly needed and appreciated.

### **12. If a student attended one of the Governor's Schools last summer, may he/she apply to attend this summer?**

No. A student who previously attended a Tennessee Governor's School will not be accepted. Additionally, no-shows and/or drop-outs from the previous year (without prior approval) will not be considered.

### **13. What about activities outside of class?**

There will be a lot of them—concerts, plays, movies, and special events scheduled for after hours and the weekends. Students will also be free to take part in any of the activities on campus—sports, swimming, running, etc. Bring tennis racquets and basketball shoes!

### **14. Who are the instructors?**

Governor's Schools instructors include writers, language experts, historians, philosophers, artists, actors, conductors, expert musicians, scientists, distinguished professors, and career-level teachers – the best in their fields.

### **15. Do students earn any special credits?**

Some Governor's Schools award college credit for courses completed during the program, while others do not. The number of college credits offered by specific Governor's Schools will vary. Please refer to the descriptions of each program within the application packet for information regarding whether a specific Governor's School will offer college credit. All students who complete the program will be awarded a certificate of merit signed by the governor.

### **16. Is transportation provided to/from religious services?**

Students may obtain this information from the directors of the individual schools.