



2021 Tennessee Governor's Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

Special Note: The COVID-19 pandemic may impact the 2021 Governor's Schools summer sessions. Depending on the status of public health, students may attend sessions at host campuses or classes may be offered virtually.

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

The Tennessee Governor's Schools are summer programs for rising 11th and 12th grade students currently enrolled in Tennessee's public and private high schools (students who will be juniors and seniors in the 2020-21 academic year). The programs are academically demanding and draw students who are high achievers. Each Governor's School application outlines specific student eligibility criteria.

Applicants must be nominated by a faculty member at their high school, which may include teachers, school counselors, principals, or other administrators who identify the student as talented, highly motivated, and mature. Letters of recommendation and verification of a student's academic record 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* receive a scholarship, which covers the cost of tuition, housing, and meals; however, some Governor's Schools have additional student activity fees to defray the costs of activities or other non-academic expenses. These costs are not covered by the scholarship, but need-based financial support is available in some 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 website](#) or contact the school for additional information about program costs and 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. Contact information for each Governor's School can be found [here](#).



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4. *When is the deadline for applications?*

Applications must be **postmarked** no later than **January 15** (unless otherwise noted on page 2 of the specific Governor's School application packet). High school faculty should send all application materials directly to the school(s) to which students are applying. Students, teachers, and counselors/administrators should submit all completed items to the high school faculty member nominating the student, also referred to as the "nominating educator." Only applications submitted by the nominating educator are accepted.

Note: High school faculty members 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.

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

Yes. We encourage completed applications to be submitted as soon as possible to help university staff process applications in a timely manner. However, no special consideration is given to applications submitted early.

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

You may purchase delivery confirmation 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 or late or do not meet the prerequisites?*

No. The Governor's Schools are under no obligation to accept applications that are incomplete or 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 unforeseen circumstances arise and emergencies occur 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 justifying why the application should be considered.

8. *How are successful applicants selected?*

The faculty and staff of each Governor's School review applications and select students. 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 whose applications are eligible for review receive a letter in late February from each school to which they applied notifying them whether they have been



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accepted, rejected, or selected as an alternate. Selection for the Governor's School for the Arts involves 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 program may attend only one. Students applying to more than one program must rank the programs (1 = most preferred) in 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 neither encourages nor discourages students from applying in more than one artistic discipline. However, a separate application must be completed for each artistic discipline for which a student applies.

10. If a student accepts an invitation to one Governor's School, will they 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 a student has been offered admission must be notified of the student's plans to accept or not accept the offer of admission by the deadline listed in the student notification information. Since there are few spaces available, offers not accepted then go to applicants on alternate lists.

12. If a student attended one of the Governor's Schools last summer, may they 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 activities are offered outside of class?

Concerts, plays, movies, and special events are scheduled for after hours and the weekends. Students are also free to take part in on-campus activities.

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.



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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 varies. Please refer to the descriptions of each program within the application packet for information on whether a specific Governor's School offers college credit. All students who complete the program are 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.