

# Selection of Members for the ECS Chapter of the National Honor Society

The ECS Chapter of the National Honor Society must consider the following essential qualities:

1. Selection to NHS is a privilege bestowed upon students by the Faculty of the school, and not considered a right inherent to any student. Technically, students do not apply for membership in the National Honor Society. Instead, they await a request or invitation to provide information to be used by the local selection committee to support their candidacy for membership. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council in each school on the condition of their having met the standards for selection established at the local level and based on the provisions of the national constitution.
2. NHS is more than an honor roll. Each member must demonstrate not only good grades, but also strength in each of the remaining three criteria. This is not an election, nor is membership automatically conveyed simply because a student has achieved a specified level of academic performance.

## The Selection Process

This section outlines the essential procedures to follow when selecting new members.

- 1. Academic eligibility.** As the first step in the process, students' academic records are reviewed to determine those individuals who are scholastically eligible for membership (i.e., those persons who meet the required cumulative GPA standard, 85% unweighted).
- 2. Candidate notification and forms.** Students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) will be notified and informed that for further consideration for selection to the chapter, they are to complete the Candidate Form. The form outlines the candidate's accomplishments in the areas of Service and Leadership.
- 3. Additional faculty input.** All high school faculty members are invited to make comments on candidates, on a faculty evaluation form. The actual selection of members is made by the five appointed members of the Faculty Council. Consequently, point totals or averages of the faculty ratings are not to be considered as 'votes' or the sole determinants of membership, but should, instead, be reported to the Faculty Council to add to their information when considering selections. Faculty members should consider their evaluative input in the most professional manner and be able to substantiate claims with professional actions—particularly for low ratings. All input from faculty must be signed.
- 4. Review, deliberate, and vote.** The Candidate Form should be reviewed by the Faculty Council, along with any other verifiable information about the candidates relevant to their candidacy. The leadership, service, and character of all candidates should be reviewed carefully. Faculty Council members are encouraged to deliberate in order to guarantee that their decisions are based on accurate and complete understandings of all information presented for review. With the vote on each candidate, those candidates receiving a majority vote of the Faculty Council should be invited to be inducted into the chapter. All candidates identified and listed as "not selected" (i.e., those who do not receive the majority vote of the Faculty Council) should also be notified.
- 5. Report results to the principal.** Prior to notification of any candidates, the adviser must report to the principal the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations for approval. Lists of selected and nonselected students as well as reasons for nonselection are to be incorporated into this report. This reporting will ensure the support of the administration prior to any student notification.
- 7. Notification.** Formal notification of all selected candidates is given in writing and in person about selection and the timing of the induction ceremony by the Principal and honor society advisers. Consideration is given in regards to how students who are not selected are properly informed about their nonselection to see that this method is both timely and considerate of the student's well-being.
- 8. Verification and induction.** A dinner reservation form is given to each student chosen for candidacy with instructions regarding inductions and the induction dinner.
- 9. Appeals.** Any nonselected student has 10 days to issue the appeal in writing to the Principal. Upon written request the Faculty Council will reconsider an individual student's case, and do not include personal appearances by the student or parent with the council members. Should students and parents still not be satisfied, the next level of discussion should take place with the Principal. The Principal should listen to the concerns of the students not selected, as well as the parents. Following such discussion, if the Principal believes that some kind of technical or procedural mistake has been made, the Principal may ask the Faculty Council to reconvene to review the situation. Technical or procedural errors might include the inadvertent omission of a student's name from the list of those qualified for induction, the erroneous averaging of grades, or the chapter's failure to follow prescribed procedures. Parents and students must understand that no student has a right to be selected for membership in a chapter of the National Honor Society. Reconsideration of a Faculty Council's decision must be a rare occurrence. It is important to uphold the integrity of NHS standards and to recognize the potential danger of yielding to pressure tactics. The National Council NASSP have no authority to review or overturn the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.