

**Application  
for the  
TENNESSEE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL  
for the  
ARTS**



**Tennessee State Department of Education  
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Summer 2016**

**June 5, 2016 – June 29, 2016**

**ED-2717 (Rev 07-15)**

**TENNESSEE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL  
FOR THE ARTS  
June 5, 2016 – June 29, 2016**

[www.gsfta.com](http://www.gsfta.com)

**Please note the change in Application deadline date!  
APPLICATION DUE: **NOVEMBER 6, 2015****

**This change applies only to the Governor's School for the Arts application**

Each year the State of Tennessee provides twelve summer programs, the Governor's Schools, for gifted and talented high school students. These programs provide challenging and intensive learning experiences in the following areas of study: Arts, Computational Physics, Humanities, Emerging Technologies, International Studies, Engineering, Sciences, Scientific Models and Data Analysis, Prospective Teachers, Tennessee Heritage, Agriculture, and Information Technology Leadership. This application is for the **Governor's School for the Arts** which is located on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. The student body annually reflects the gender, ethnic, and geographical diversity of the entire state. In the selection of students and faculty, the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability. To apply, students must have an established interest in at least one major arts area: **Music, Theatre, Visual Art, Dance or Filmmaking**. All applicants must also meet the following criteria:

**SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR APPLYING TO THE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**

1. Students must currently be in good academic standing in the tenth or eleventh grade.
2. Students must **not** have previously attended any other Governor's School.
3. Students must be recommended by their arts teacher (music, theatre, visual art, filmmaking, or dance).
4. Students must be highly motivated, have demonstrated a high level of accomplishment in an arts discipline, and must be mature enough to participate effectively in a **four-week** residency program of intensive study.

Students must complete and return their applications to their Guidance Counselor in time for the Guidance Office to postmark applications within the deadline. **The deadline is November 6, 2015.** This is a change from past years. The Guidance Office should keep a complete copy of each application, and students should keep a copy of what they submit to the counselor.

Students who wish to apply for more than one (1) Arts area must fill out separate applications for **EACH** area. For example, a music student applying for 1) Music/Oboe; 2) Music/Voice/Alto and 3) Visual Art must submit a complete application packet for **EACH** of those three areas.

**All tenth or eleventh grade students who submit a complete application packet, and postmark it on or before the deadline will be invited to participate in the selection process, provided they have NOT previously attended any other Governor's School.**

**AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD ON:  
**JANUARY 16<sup>th</sup> and JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup> , 2016 for:  
Music, Dance, Filmmaking, Theatre, and Visual Art  
YOU MAY CHOOSE ONE DATE.****

**In Case of Inclement Weather: Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

**Who is eligible?** The brightest and most talented 10th and 11th graders currently enrolled in Tennessee's public, private and home-schools are eligible. In other words, students who will be juniors and seniors in the **2015-2016** academic year. To be eligible, students should rank in the top of their high school class in performance/capability or highly talented in the arts.

**SCHOLARSHIP Information and Program Cost:** Accepted students may be awarded either:

1. **Full PROGRAM FEE SCHOLARSHIP**
  2. **Partial PROGRAM FEE SCHOLARSHIP**
- OR PERMITTED TO ATTEND WITH NO SCHOLARSHIP**

Program Fee: \$2,850.00

Activity Fee: \$350.00

**Financial aid** is available on a need-basis. (Information will be included in your acceptance packet.)

**How will the students be selected?** Selections for music, theatre, dance, and filmmaking are made as a result of an audition. Selections for art are made as a result of a portfolio review. Every student who submits an application by the deadline date is granted an audition and/or portfolio review.

**May I apply for more than one School?** Yes, however you will only be able to attend one Governor's School since the dates of the programs overlap. If you are accepted to more than one school, please notify **each** school of your decision to attend or not.

**How will I know when to come for my audition/portfolio review?** Go to the Governor's School for the Arts website to find information on audition and portfolio review appointment times. An email will also be sent to the email indicated on the application from your Area Coordinator of the date and time of your appointment in mid-December.

**If I accept to one Governor's School, will I have a chance to accept another one later if vacancies occur?**

No. You need to make sure you are going to attend before you accept.

**Do I earn any special credits?** YES. Each student successfully completing a Governor's School summer session will receive **3 hours College credit**. Each student will also receive a certificate of merit signed by the Governor.

**Does an up-to-date transcript need to be included?** YES. Please provide the most recent grades available at the time of application.

**Can students with disabilities apply?** Yes, if they meet the criteria.

**Do I stay for the entire four weeks?** YES. The program is intensive and highly individualized. Classes and special activities will be planned for the entire four weeks, **INCLUDING WEEKENDS**. Absences from scheduled activities will not be permitted except in the case of emergencies with permission from the Director. You will not be excused to attend other camps or seminars, to take family vacations, attend weddings, have senior pictures taken, etc.

**When will students be notified of selections?** All students will receive a letter in the mail notifying them whether they have been accepted or not, or if they are an alternate. Letters will be sent by **February 8, 2016**. Students will receive separate notification letters from each of the schools to which they applied.

**May I bring communication devices, such as cellular phones and beepers?** Cell phones may be brought, but must be kept in student dorm rooms. They are strictly prohibited in buildings where classes or other programs are held. Laser pointers and beepers are prohibited.

**Is the application confidential?** YES. Personally identifiable information will not be released.

**FOR MORE FAQ'S, GO TO: [www.gsfta.com](http://www.gsfta.com)**

## DESCRIPTION OF THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

The School for the Arts lasts **FOUR** weeks, **June 5-June 29, 2016**. Students who are accepted must commit to the entire four-week term, including weekends. Other than for family emergencies, visits home are not permitted. Students live in dormitories and eat together in a school cafeteria. Faculty and counselors supervise student classes, activities, recreation, dorm living and performances. The faculty is made up of outstanding visual and performing artists and educators from across the nation. Students in **MUSIC** participate in one of the following groups: orchestra, wind ensemble, chorale, guitar, harp and piano ensemble. They take classes in theory, conducting, improvisation, world music and participate in chamber music or an opera workshop. They also rehearse within their groups and present several concerts. **THEATRE** students participate as Performers and Design/Technicians. Each student will study all areas of scenery, costuming, sound, lighting, and other forms of stagecraft. In addition, all students will study and develop skills in performance, including acting, stage combat, voice, stage movement, and other aspects of the performing arts. All students in theatre work as an ensemble to produce a finale production. Students in the **VISUAL ARTS** take classes and workshops in clay, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, computer imagery, photography, video and a wide selection of other visual arts technologies. Student work is displayed to the public in the art department gallery. During the session, visual arts students are offered individual assistance in skill development, counseling on developing portfolios for college admission, and finding personal approaches to making art. **DANCE** students take classes in ballet and pointe technique, modern, jazz, partnering, anatomy & kinesiology, folk & multi-cultural dance, and other dance forms. In addition, students are provided a number of informal and formal performance opportunities including the culminating experience of producing a major dance performance. **FILMMAKING** students are introduced to both the theory and technical aspects of filmmaking. Through lectures, films and hand-on experiences, students will learn the three aspects of filmmaking: pre-production, production, and post-production. Students will be taught all aspects of camera, lighting and grip equipment, sound equipment and editing software. Students will learn the process of brainstorming to come up with their final story, they will write the script, line the script, breakdown the script, schedule the shoot, find actors and location, and shoot the film with each fulfilling a crucial crew position on the set and using the same protocol as is conducted in Hollywood studios. Student projects will include Self-portrait, Process, and a 5-10 minute Narrative Short as the final project which will be submitted to the Nashville Film Festival.

All students attend nightly programs that provide demonstrations, slide shows, films, lectures, and outstanding performing artists and ensembles. In addition, all students have the opportunity to learn fundamental concepts about art forms other than their particular specialty. Finally, adequate opportunities are provided for free-time and recreation.

### The Application Process

- Students:**
1. Obtain an application from guidance counselor, arts teacher, or from the GSFTA  
Website: [www.gsfta.com](http://www.gsfta.com)
  2. Complete the 2-page Audition and Personal Data Form; return to Guidance Counselor.
  3. Complete the Online Student Data Form
  4. With Parents/Guardian, complete the Certification of Application Form, sign, and return to Guidance Counselor.
  5. Give the Teacher Reference Form to primary Arts area teacher (music, dance, theatre, visual arts). The teacher should complete this confidential form and return to Guidance Counselor before the application packet is sent to GSFTA.

### Guidance

- Counselors:**
1. Complete the confidential Counselor Recommendation Form.
  2. Attach the student's most recent official grade transcript.
  3. Assemble all forms, including transcripts and teacher references, and send to GSFTA on or before November 6, 2015.

**\*\*PLEASE DO NOT SEAL TRANSCRIPTS OR TEACHER REFERENCE FORMS IN A SEPARATE ENVELOPE\*\***

### **Application Order:**

1. Audition and Personal Data Form
2. Certification of Application Form (signed by applicant and Parents/Guardians)
3. Teacher Reference Form (confidential-not to be shared with student)
4. Guidance Counselor Recommendation Form (confidential-not to be shared with student)
5. Official Grade Transcript

Mail to: Governor's School for the Arts, 1301 E. Main St., MTSU Box 38, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Applications must be postmarked on or before **November 6, 2015**.

**\*\*Applications sent directly by students to GSFTA will NOT be accepted.\*\***

## SELECTION PROCESS

### AUDITIONS IN MUSIC

#### For brass, woodwinds and strings

- a short prepared solo (unaccompanied); please prepare an entire solo (or etude), not just a few lines as is often required for All-East, All-Middle, All-West auditions
- all major scales and the chromatic scale (strings—major scales only)
- sightreading

#### For pianists

- a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes of classical (non-popular) music. This should include at least two pieces of contrasting style. Arrangements, simplified versions and popular songs are inappropriate for these auditions. All pieces should be played from memory.
- all major scales, both hands, four octaves
- sightreading

#### For Harp

- Prepare two pieces of contrasting style.
- Sightreading.

#### For vocalists

- A prepared Classical Art song from memory (we recommend that your selection be in English or Italian); you may provide your own accompanist, but one will be provided if you do not have one
- In addition you will be given a tonal memory and/or sight reading exam

#### For percussionists

- timpani solo
- snare solo
- mallet solo
- sightreading on your choice of tympani, snare or mallets

### AUDITIONS IN THEATRE

The students have three options in application: 1) Performance Only, 2) Design/Tech Only, or 3) Both.

Please Note: If selected for the summer program, the student will be assigned specifically as either **Performance** or **Design/Tech**. If students apply for both **Performance** and **Design/Tech**, they will be accepted to *only one* aspect of the program.

### THEATRE PERFORMANCE AUDITIONS/INTERVIEWS

Students interested in theatre (**Performance Only OR Performance & Design/Tech**) will be required to complete the following audition/interview process:

1) Each applicant **MUST** participate in an **interview** to determine his or her interests, commitment, habits, plans, ambitions, maturity, and general knowledge of theatre. Students will be asked about experiences and interest in all areas of theatre ---including acting, dance, vocal work, costuming, makeup, sound, lighting, scenery, properties, and all other aspects of stagecraft. The interview will last approximately three minutes. For the interview, the student may bring any photographs, drawings, art work, craft work, etc. that they would like for adjudicators to see. In evaluating applicants, a wide range of experiences and interests will be considered since selected students will study all aspects of theatre.

2) Students **MUST** prepare **two contrasting monologues**. Both monologues together must last **no more than three minutes**, including any introductions and transitions. Selections should be from plays dating 1970 to present and must not be from film scripts, musicals, lyrics from songs, selections of poetry, novels, and other works.

3) Students have the **OPTION** of choosing to perform a **musical selection** consisting of sixteen bars from a Broadway musical with the music clearly marked (beginning and ending) for an accompanist. The musical selection must be sung with the piano accompanist provided by the Governor's School --- no guitar, a capella, CD or tape recordings, or other accompaniment allowed. This optional musical selection is in addition to the contrasting monologues requirement that every student **MUST** perform. It will not count towards the three minute time limit for the monologues.

### **DESIGN/TECHNICAL THEATRE INTERVIEWS**

Students interested in theatre (**Design/Technical Only OR Performance & Design/Tech**) will be required to complete the following interview process:

1) Each applicant **MUST** participate in an **interview** to determine his or her interests, commitment, habits, plans, ambitions, maturity, and general knowledge of theatre. Students will be asked about experiences and interest in all areas of Technical theatre ---including costuming, makeup, sound, lighting, scenery, properties, and all other aspects of stagecraft. The interview will last approximately five minutes. For the interview, the student may bring any photographs, drawings, art work, craft work, portfolios, and models etc. that they would like for adjudicators to see. In evaluating applicants, a wide range of experiences and interests will be considered since selected students will study all aspects of technical theatre.

### **INTERVIEWS IN FILMMAKING**

Each applicant should bring with them to the interview site a portfolio of 10-15 photo stills that tell a narrative story with a beginning, middle and an end (photoman); a 1 page story idea of their own; a 1-3 page paper about their favorite film or director that shows how the student sees and experiences this medium, including elements used in this film or by this director that makes this film or the director's work likable; and, a short video, film or animation (optional). Each student will participate in an interview to determine his or her interests, commitment, habits, plans, ambitions, and general knowledge of filmmaking.

### **INTERVIEWS IN VISUAL ARTS**

Students interested in the visual arts should bring with them to the interview site a portfolio of **eight (8) pieces of their best artwork**. **No materials should be mailed**. The portfolio should include (1) some variety of media, approaches and subject matter and (2) some evidence of personal vision, focus and motivation. Work may include any variety of drawings or other works from direct observation (landscape, still life, figurative, etc.), three-dimensional works, design work, photography work, etc. Students should not try to show work in every technique they have experienced. The work should show some knowledge of color theory, understanding of composition, value, etc. Applicants should not bring large or heavily framed works or works that are dangerous or too delicate (however, students may show such works in photographs or slides). Sketchbooks are also appropriate. Ultimately, the ideal portfolio simply shows that the student cares about making art and works hard at doing the best work possible. Judges will complete the review of the portfolio on the interview date so that the student may take his/her works home after the interview.

### **AUDITIONS IN DANCE**

Students will participate in a two-hour dance class, **including ballet and modern dance**, as their audition. Girls should bring pink tights, pink ballet shoes, and pointe shoes. **The modern section of the class will be in bare feet, so wear tights that can be adjusted for this part of the audition**. Hair should be properly secured off the neck, preferably in a bun. No leg warmers, sweatshirts, or baggy plastic pants, please. Boys should bring white T-shirts, black tights, and appropriate dance shoes. Students must perform at an intermediate or advanced level, and must demonstrate a high level of sustained interest and involvement in dance. Students should have a minimum of 2 years experience on point.

For additional information concerning the audition/interview process, please visit the web site: [www.gsfta.com](http://www.gsfta.com)



# AUDITION AND **STUDENT** DATA FORM – continued

Please indicate only one (1) Area per application

\_\_\_\_\_ Visual Art

\_\_\_\_\_ Dance

\_\_\_\_\_ Filmmaking

**Theatre:** Performance  Design/Technical  Both

\_\_\_\_\_ Music/Voice Part: Soprano  Alto  Tenor  Bass

\_\_\_\_\_ Musical Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MUSIC STUDENTS ONLY:**

Check One Area Only

___ Soprano	___ Violin	___ Flute	___ Bass Clarinet	___ Trombone	___ Piano
___ Alto	___ Viola	___ Oboe	___ Trumpet	___ Harp	___ Tenor
___ Cello	___ Bassoon	___ Tuba	___ Saxophone	___ Euphonium	
___ Bass	___ Double Bass	___ Bb Clarinet	___ Horn	___ Percussion	

Please list all of the music organizations at your high school in which you actively participate.

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## **FILMMAKING/VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS ONLY:**

Circle the following areas in which you have had experience:

Clay      Drawing      Painting      Sculpture      Photography      Video/Film

Others \_\_\_\_\_

## **DANCE STUDENTS ONLY:**

List dance schools where you have studied and indicate how long you have studied at each one:

School/Teacher Names	School/Teacher Addresses	How long?
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Do you have any chronic injuries or any health related concerns we should be aware of that may impede a student's success in this vigorous program?

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## **ALL STUDENTS – Required Online Portion**

Once you have completed the written 2-page Audition and Personal Data Form, we ask you to **complete the ONLINE DATA FORM.**

- **What do I do?** Go here: <http://gsfta.com/gsfta-2016-online-student-data-form/>
- **Enter the password** gsfta2016 **in the required area.**
- **Fill out the online form with *the same* information you used in the written application** - 2-page Audition and Personal Data Form
- **Please check that your answers to the questions are correct and mirror the ones given on your written GSFTA application.**
- **Submit the form online.** (Use the 'submit' button at the end of the form)
- **You will receive a form submission confirmation email to the 'student email' address you have provided.**

**Note: This online submission **does not replace** your traditional paper application that is given to your High School Counselor. *You must complete the written portion* of your application in order to be eligible **to audition** for the Governor's School for the Arts**

The information you enter is completely confidential, encrypted via SSL, and allows us to process your application more quickly.

Any issues in completing and / or submitting this form will in no way effect your application to the School for the ARTS.

# CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

Please indicate only one (1) Area per application

- Visual Art  
 Dance  
 Filmmaking

**Theatre:** Performance  Design/Technical  Both

Music/Voice Part: Soprano  Alto  Tenor  Bass

Musical Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

## Applicant's and Parents' Pledge

We affirm that all statements, personal data, and information provided on the application forms are true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. We understand that any misrepresentation or omission of material facts may result in the applicant being disqualified from the selection process or later dismissed from the Governor's School. We agree to the release of any necessary school records to the Governor's School for the purpose of determining the applicant's eligibility, with the understanding that such school records will be kept confidential and will be used only by designated Governor's School officials, faculty, staff, and adjudicators. We further agree that information about the applicant may be used for publicity purposes if he/she is selected to attend the Governor's School for the Arts. If selected to attend the school, the applicant agrees to participate fully in all appropriate school activities and to follow all school rules and regulations. We further agree that the School will be free to produce and distribute photographs, audio and video recordings, and other materials that illustrate the activities, concerts, and productions of the School for the Arts. We understand that the applicant alone has the responsibility for seeing that the application forms are completed and provided to the Guidance Counselor **well in advance of the application date deadline-November 6, 2015**. We have reviewed the application and the information provided on the forms and have determined that the applicant has parental consent to complete the application process. We understand that the Governor's School is a **four-week** residency program, and that if selected the applicant will stay the entire **four** weeks through the closing ceremonies, and will not request to visit home during the four weeks unless there is a family emergency. If at any time following auditions, a selected student receives disciplinary actions (zero-tolerance) resulting in suspension from their school, they will be disqualified from attending Governor's School for the Arts. **We affirm that the applicant has never previously attended any of the eleven Tennessee Governor's Schools.**

**Students will be required to follow the rules in the discipline code of the Governor's School. The following activities will result in immediate dismissal:**

- possession of a firearm on school property or at any school-sponsored function.
- battery of an employee of the school.
- use or possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.
- development of a "hit" list for bodily harm.

**STUDENTS WHO DO NOT AGREE TO THE RELEASE OF SUCH SCHOOL RECORDS FOR DETERMINING ADMISSIBILITY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS.**

We have read the entire pledge above and agree to all of the provisions:

**Applicant's Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PLEASE PRINT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant Signature** **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature** **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Email Address** **Parent/Guardian Phone Number**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Home Address** **City, State, Zip**

## **CONFIDENTIAL TEACHER REFERENCE FORM**

**Instructions to the Teacher:** The following student \_\_\_\_\_ has designated you as his or her major arts teacher. Please complete this form and return it to the applicant's guidance counselor. Do not return to the student. This form is for the confidential use by Governor's School officials and will not be released. Thank you.

1. How long have you known and worked with this applicant? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what situations have you served as this applicant's teacher? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Please evaluate this applicant in the areas below comparing him or her with similar students you have had in the past.

**Attitude Toward Work/Initiative**

- Outstanding
- Above average
- Average
- Below Average
- Poor

**Quality of work/Ability**

- Excellent/learns quickly
- Very good/learns readily
- Average
- Below Average
- Poor

**Judgment/Maturity**

- Exceptionally good
- Above average
- Average
- Below Average
- Poor

4. What is your best judgment about this applicant's emotional maturity and stability to deal with an intensive residency program:
  - Will adapt readily to the challenges and will be a successful participant
  - Should be able to succeed but will have some difficulty dealing with the stress
  - This applicant may have some difficulty dealing with the stress and may not be successful
  - This applicant will have great difficulty dealing with new situations and challenges.
5. Please indicate your overall judgment about this applicant:
  - Very highly recommended
  - Highly recommended
  - Recommend with reservations
  - I do not recommend this student
6. Summary Comments: Can you tell us something about this student that is not reflected in any of the above ratings that will help us make a decision? You may attach a separate sheet if needed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name (printed or typed): \_\_\_\_\_

School or Company: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the applicant's guidance counselor as soon as possible. The Guidance office must mail this to the Governor's School no later than **November 6, 2015**. Thank you.

**CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELOR'S RECOMMENDATION FORM**

**APPLICANT'S  
NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Middle

**SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE COUNSELOR:** The above named student is applying for selection to a Governor's School. A complete application requires the following information and evaluation from you. Please submit the entire application consisting of this form, a Audition and Personal Data Form, a Confidential Teacher Reference Form, Certification of Application Form, and Official Grade Transcript to the appropriate address listed on page 4. **THIS FORM IS FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL USE BY GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND WILL NOT BE RELEASED. Please do not put transcripts in a separate envelope. Staple complete application in specified order—see page 4.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I know this applicant personally. \_\_\_\_\_ I do not know this applicant personally.
2. Number of days this applicant has been absent: Previous School Year \_\_\_\_\_ Current School Year \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of days this applicant has been tardy: Previous School Year \_\_\_\_\_ Current School Year \_\_\_\_\_
4. Has this applicant received any disciplinary referrals? Previous School Year \_\_\_\_\_ Current School Year \_\_\_\_\_  
(If yes, please explain or attach disciplinary record)
  
5. Does this applicant require or receive any special services? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO (If yes, please explain)
  
6. Comment on special qualities or special problems of the applicant of which the selection committee should be aware. Narrative comments are extremely important to the selection committees. You may attach a separate sheet.

Do you recommend this student for the Governor's School to which application is being made?  
\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Counselor's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Counselor's Name**

(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
**Guidance Office Telephone Number**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**School Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Counselor's Email Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**School Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State/Zip**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**School County**