



SOUTH CAROLINA JUNIOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Parent and Student Information

2015-2016

What is it? The South Carolina Junior Scholars Program was developed by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) during the 1985–1986 school year to identify eighth-grade students with exceptional academic talent and to develop strategies for inclusion into special programs.

What does the program include? The program includes a process for screening a potential talent pool of students, identifying and recognizing those students with exceptionally high scholastic achievement and intellectual ability, and sponsoring summer opportunities in collaboration with participating South Carolina colleges and universities and the Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics.

When does the program begin? Students are screened and identified in the eighth grade.

How will the students be recognized? Students who qualify for this special recognition may be recognized in local award ceremonies, will receive an Award of Merit certificate from their local school district, a bumper sticker, and may be invited to attend summer opportunities at participating South Carolina colleges and universities.

Eligibility Criteria

- Students must currently be enrolled in eighth grade in a public, private, or home school (home-school association must be registered with the SCDE) in South Carolina.
- For public schools, potential Junior Scholars may include those students who scored at the highest level on the state summative assessment in both English Language Arts and Mathematics in seventh grade.

Identification Criteria

- Eligible students who score 550 or higher on the Evidence Based Reading and Writing section of the PSAT/NMSQT will be identified as South Carolina Junior Scholars.
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- Eligible students who score 530 or higher on the Mathematics section of the PSAT/NMSQT will be identified as South Carolina Junior Scholars.
- or
- Students who participated in Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) during their seventh-grade year, who met the eligibility requirements as outlined by that program, and were identified and recognized by Duke TIP **may** be identified as South Carolina Junior Scholars. To qualify by this option, **a student must have been invited to attend the “State” or “Grand” recognition ceremonies** or both events as a seventh grader.

The South Carolina Junior Scholars Program reflects the growing statewide effort to improve education in South Carolina and responds to the needs of students possessing unique abilities. The purpose of the program is to identify students and provide opportunities that will facilitate their intellectual growth, broaden their individual interests, and promote their scholastic achievement.

For more information about the South Carolina Junior Scholars Program, please contact the principal or guidance counselor in your local school.