

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Arts Coordinators
High School Principals

FROM: Abbey Duggins, PhD
Deputy Superintendent, Division of College, Career, and Military Readiness

DATE: October 21, 2025

RE: Archibald Rutledge Scholarship Program

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is pleased to announce the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship Program. This annual program invites twelfth-grade students in South Carolina public schools to compete for scholarships valued at approximately \$2,000. The program's purpose is to encourage and recognize outstanding achievement in creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts.

Entries must be postmarked on or before Monday, February 2, 2026.

Please send applications to: South Carolina Department of Education c/o Stephen Stokes, 849 Learning Lane, West Columbia, SC, 29172.

Refer to the attached application materials for detailed submission guidelines specific to each arts discipline. Applications are also available on the [SCDE website](#).

A panel of adjudicators will review all submissions and select one winner and two alternates in each arts area. Evaluations will be based on the criteria established for each discipline and on how well the process folio aligns with the completed work. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.

We encourage you to promote participation in the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship Program by sharing this information with your school counseling offices, arts faculty, and eligible students. For additional information, please contact Stephen Stokes at ssstokes@ed.sc.gov.