

SC Junior Scholars Program

The South Carolina Junior Scholars Program was developed by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) during the 1985-86 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.

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

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

Eligibility for testing criteria:

- Students must currently be enrolled in eighth grade in a public, private, or home school in South Carolina.
- Home-schooled students must meet home school statute eligibility (S. C. Code Ann. §59-65-40, §59-65-45, §59-65-47) to participate.

Identification criteria include:

- Students who scored 550 or higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing or 530 or higher on the Math portion of the PSAT/NMSQT; 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 at the State Recognition or Grand Recognition ceremony will be identified as South Carolina Junior Scholars.

The designated Junior Scholars District or Private School Coordinator or the designated Junior Scholars Home School Association Coordinator will report the names of the eligible recipients (PSAT/NMSQT and Duke TIP) to the South Carolina Department of Education when requested.

Philosophy: 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 your school's guidance counselor or Nicole Ivery at the South Carolina Department of Education at nivery@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-6268.