

South Carolina Junior Scholars Program

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SCDE Web Page: <https://ed.sc.gov/tests/assessment-information/south-carolina-junior-scholars-program/>

Overview:

The South Carolina Junior Scholars Program was developed by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) during the 1985-86 school year to reflect the statewide effort to improve education in South Carolina and to provide for the needs of students possessing exceptional academic talent. The purpose of the program is to identify these students and to provide opportunities that will facilitate their intellectual growth, broaden their individual interests, and promote their scholastic achievement.

What is included in the program?

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, universities, and the Governor's School for Science and Math.

Student Eligibility:

- Students must be enrolled in the **eighth grade** in a public, private, or home school in South Carolina.
- To participate, home-schooled students must meet provisions in the state law (S.C. Code Ann. §59-65-40, §59-65-45, and §59-65-47).

Identification Criteria:

- Students who score 550 or higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing subtests of the PSAT/NMSQT or
- Students who score 530 or higher on the Math subtest of the PSAT/NMSQT

Test Window:

- The PSAT/NMSQT testing window is **October 2–October 31, 2023**.
- Schools can test on any day of the window, including testing groups of students across different days.
- Schools may also choose to administer the PSAT/NMSQT on **Saturday, October 14, 2023**.

Test Administration:

- Online testing for the PSAT/NMSQT begins fall 2023.
- Allow just over 3 hours on test day to complete all testing related activities for standard test takers.
- Students requiring accommodations will need additional time.

How will the students be recognized?

Students who qualify for this special recognition will receive an Award of Merit certificate and a Junior Scholar bumper sticker from the SCDE. If parental release forms are received, students are invited to attend summer opportunities at participating South Carolina universities and the Governor's School for Science and Math.

Resources for Schools and Districts

- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/k12-educators/administration/psat-nmsqt/ordering/dates-deadlines>

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- https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital/digital-practice-preparation?SFMC_cid=EM864398-&rid=457687355