

2015–16

SOUTH CAROLINA JUNIOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

General Information

The Junior Scholars program identifies current eighth-grade students with exceptional academic talent.

For public schools, potential Junior Scholars may include those students who scored Exceeding in English language arts and mathematics on the ACT/Aspire in the seventh grade. A list of these identified students by school district and by school will be sent to you in a separate document that is password protected. A password will be provided in a separate e-mail.

Junior Scholars are selected based on their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. Identified eighth-grade students will be administered the PSAT/ NMSQT on Wednesday, October 14, or Wednesday October 28, 2015.

Students may be tested at pre-approved middle school sites. Requests for any additional middle school sites should be directed as soon as possible to the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at 888-477-7728 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The ETS Web site is <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

Since the PSAT/NMSQT is newly designed, it has not yet been determined what the Junior Scholar eligibility score will be. College Board suggests that we wait until December 2015 to compare the concordance table with the December scores and then match the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT with former years' tests. More information on the scoring process will be provided to you at a later date.

Junior Scholar recognition is also given to students who have participated in Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) during his or her seventh-grade year, met the eligibility requirements as outlined by that program, and have been identified and recognized by Duke TIP with an invitation to attend either the "State" or "Grand" recognition ceremonies or both.

2015–16 SOUTH CAROLINA JUNIOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Parent and Student Information

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, a Junior Scholar bumper sticker, and may be invited to attend summer opportunities at participating South Carolina colleges and universities.

Eligibility Criteria

- Any 8th grade student currently enrolled in 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 Exceeding in both English language arts and mathematics on the ACT/Aspire in the seventh grade.
- For private and home-schooled students, the respective associations will determine the selection of potential Junior Scholars.

Identification Criteria

- The PSAT/NMSQT is newly designed this year and it has not yet been determined what the Junior Scholar eligibility score will be. More information on the scoring process will be provided at a later date.

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). District or Association Junior Scholars Coordinators will ensure these students are identified and included on the district/association form provided to the SCDE.

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.

Parental Permission for PSAT/NMSQT Administration

_____ School District/Private School/Association has my
permission to administer the PSAT/NMSQT to my son/daughter who is participating in the
South Carolina Junior Scholars Identification and Development Program.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Student Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

This form must be retained in the school district/private school/association office.