

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders
District Gifted and Talented Coordinators
Principals

FROM: Kristi D. Austin, PhD
Director, Office of Assessment and Standards

DATE: October 6, 2026

RE: 2027 Honors Framework

The Office of Assessment and Standards is proud to announce the 2027 Honors Framework. The 2027 Honors Framework builds on the foundation of the 2017 Honors Framework while making several important updates to improve clarity, consistency, and alignment with current educational priorities.

The 2027 Honors Framework emphasizes the development of transferable skills, graduate competencies, critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world learning experiences that prepare students for success after high school. Also, the revised framework provides stronger guidance to gifted and talented education, clearer expectations for course approval, and district accountability for maintaining honors course quality. Required evidence and documentation are clearly identified and grouped into three categories: Honors Framework and Assurance, Honors Course Checklist, and Supporting Documentation.

An in-person training will be held for district personnel on January 14, 2027, at the South Carolina Department of Education, 849 Learning Lane, West Columbia, SC 29172. The registration link will be shared closer to the date. Additional professional development opportunities will be available in the Spring of 2027.

The 2027 Honors Framework will take effect beginning with the 2027–2028 school year and is available on the [Gifted and Talented page](#) of the South Carolina Department of Education website.

For information or questions, please contact Jennifer Holliday at jnholliday@ed.sc.gov.