2026-2027

SOUTH CAROLINA JUNIOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM



The South Carolina Junior Scholars program identifies current eighth-grade students with exceptional academic talent. These students are selected based on their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.

THIS YEAR'S PSAT/NMSQT DATES ARE:

TEST WINDOW	OCTOBER 1–OCTOBER 30, 2026
SATURDAY WINDOW	OCTOBER 17, 2026

Students must be tested at pre-approved middle school sites. The South Carolina Department of Education is not involved in the PSAT assessment for the Junior Scholars Program.

Contact College Board directly with any questions related to the test's administration. Please visit https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt?navId=gf-pn or call 888-477-7728 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (September to early June), for more information.

What is the Junior Scholars Program?

The South Carolina Junior Scholars Program identifies eighth-grade students with exceptional academic talent and to develop strategies for their inclusion into special programs or opportunities. 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 with the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics.

How will the students be recognized?

Students who qualify for this special recognition will receive an Award of Merit certificate, a Junior Scholar bumper sticker, may be recognized in local award ceremonies, and invited to attend summer opportunities at participating South Carolina colleges and universities.

Which students are eligible to participate?

Any 8th grade student currently enrolled in a public, private, or home school (home-school association must be registered with the SCDE) in South Carolina may be assessed for possible selection to the Junior Scholars Program.

What are the identification criteria?

Junior Scholar candidates are those eligible students who:

Score 550 or higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing portion of the PSAT/NMSQT

OR

Score 530 or higher on the Mathematics portion of the PSAT/NMSQT

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.

Please contact your school's principal or guidance counselor for more information about the South Carolina Junior Scholars Program.