

Identifying Junior Scholars - Q's&A's

Q What is the Junior Scholars Program?

The S.C. Junior Scholars Program was developed by the State Department of Education during the 1985-86 school year to identify eighth-grade students with exceptional academic talent and to determine strategies for their inclusion in special programs.

The program reflects the growing statewide effort to improve education in South Carolina and responds to the needs of students possessing unique abilities.

The program's purpose is to identify students with exceptionally high scholastic achievement and intellectual ability and to provide opportunities for these students that will facilitate their intellectual growth, broaden their individual interests, and promote their scholastic achievement.

Q What does the program include?

Beginning in September, students may be referred for artistically gifted and talented programs by parents, students, teachers, administrators or others aware of a student's interest and talent in the arts.

Referral forms are available at each middle school and the G/T office.

Referrals must be received by mid-October.

Q When does the program begin?

Students are screened and identified in the eighth grade. Educational plans are developed following identification.

Q How will be the students be recognized?

The students who qualify for this special recognition will be recognized in local awards ceremonies, receive an Award of Merit from the State Department of Education, and be invited to attend summer opportunities at participating S.C. colleges and universities.

Q What identification criteria is used?

Eligible students who score greater than or equal to 50 on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) in verbal, math, or writing will be identified as Junior Scholars.

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Students who participated in the Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) during their seventh-grade year, who met the eligibility requirements as outlined by that program, and who were identified and recognized as Duke TIP scholars at the state level will be automatically identified as S.C. Junior Scholars.

Q Who is eligible to take the PSAT?

Any eighth grader who is interested may take the PSAT for a nominal fee. If your eighth grader meets specific state or district criteria, the cost of the testing will be provided.

Q Who do I call for info?

For more information about the South Carolina Junior Scholars Identification and Development Program, please contact the principal or guidance counselor in your local school.