

Guidance & Assessments

Test Dates: TBD

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT):

Is an assessment that (1.) measures skills in three academic areas; critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills, (2.) it is a comprehensive assessment program that measures college readiness and provides students with the tools they need to start planning for the future, (3.) it is used by the National Merit Scholarship Cooperation as an initial screening of entrants in its annual competition for recognition and college scholarships, and (4.) it is used as a screening tool for students entrance into The Scholar's Academy through USC Upstate.

<https://www.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/preparation>

Performance Task Assessment

This paper- pencil assessment is given to students that are in 2nd grade. The purpose of the Performance Task Assessment is to identify students on Dimension C of the South Carolina gifted regulations. Students who have met the criteria for Dimension A (aptitude) or Dimension B (achievement), but not both, **must** take the Primary Level in grade 2 or 3. These assessments are designed to measure a student's capacity to solve open-ended problems and then to explain solutions both verbally and nonverbally. Each level of the instrument has four forms, which contain similar test items structured to have comparable levels of difficulty. Each level and form of the test has a verbal and a nonverbal domain.

Both the verbal and nonverbal domains have five items. Each item is derived from a test item-type. The item-types for the primary verbal assessment are verbal problem solving, writing, analogies, verbal relationships, and vocabulary. The primary nonverbal item-types include arithmetic problem solving, logic, spatial problem solving, spatial manipulation, and spatial transformation.

End Of Course Examination Program (EOCEP):

This exam is given to any student that is enrolled in Algebra 1 at SPS. The exam is an online assessment and counts 20 percent of the student's final grade. The State Department of Education requires students that are enrolled in Algebra 1 to take the EOCEP exam.

For more information, visit <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/41/>

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CogAT/ITBS:

Cog AT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal.

- The **Verbal Battery** measures a child's ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them, and to make inferences and judgments about them.
- The **Quantitative Battery** tests the child's understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships that are essential for learning mathematics. Tasks measure both the understanding of relational concepts and the student's ability to discover relationships and to figure out a rule or principle that explains them.
- The **Nonverbal Battery** measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This reduces the impact of language on the student's score. The Nonverbal Battery also appraises the student's ability to use her/his cognitive resources in new situations.

The ITBS measures the skills and achievements of students and provides an in-depth measure of important educational objectives. It also yields reliable and comprehensive information about the development of students' skills and their ability to think critically.

South Carolina Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SC PASS):

A statewide assessment administered to students in grades four through eight in the subjects of science and social studies. All students in the 4th through 8th grade are required to take the SCPASS.

For more information, please visit <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/45/>

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National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP):

Known as the Nation's Report Card and is largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in many subject areas. This assessment will be given to students in the 8th grade.

For more information, please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

SC Junior Scholars Program:

Developed by the South Carolina Department of Education, this program identifies and recognize 8th grade students who have outstanding academic abilities. Junior Scholar students will receive an Award of Merit certificate and will be recognized at graduation.

Identification Criteria

- Eligible students who score 50 or higher on the PSAT in verbal, math, or writing will be identified as South Carolina Junior Scholars, or
- Eligible 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 at the State Recognition or Grand Recognition ceremony will be identified as South Carolina Junior Scholars.

<https://ed.sc.gov/agency/lpa/public-affairs/SCJuniorScholarsProgram.cfm>

The Scholar's Academy:

The Scholars Academy is a dual credit program offered through USC Upstate. Students in eighth grade apply for acceptance into this program, which allows one to earn college credit while concurrently completing high school diploma requirements.

Principal's List

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The Principal's List comprises of students that have a 90 or higher in all core and related arts classes

Honor Roll

A student must have an 80 average or higher in all core and related arts classes to make the honor roll.