HCS
Horry County Schools
ParentSTUDENT
GUIDE 2023-2024
Inspiring Possibilities

HCS
Horry County Schools

OUR VISION:

To be a premier, world-class school system in which every student acquires an excellent education. Our schools will be welcoming centers organized around high-quality teaching and learning.

OUR CORE VALUES:

- We put service to students above all else.
- We take responsibility for the success of all students.
- We care passionately about our work with students.
- We build strong, positive relationships with students, staff, parents, and community.
- We model and promote civility and integrity.

INSPIRING POSSIBILITIES

2023-2024
Parent Student Guide
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Dear Students and Parents,

On behalf of the Horry County Board of Education and the entire Horry County Schools (HCS) community, I welcome you to this new year, whether you're just beginning your journey with us or nearing its end. We are honored that you have entrusted us with your academic growth, and we are committed to providing you with a world-class education that equips you with the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful future.
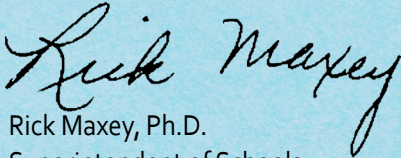
At HCS, our unwavering focus is on delivering an excellent education to every student. Our dedicated team of educators and support staff is fully committed to creating an environment that fosters creativity, personal growth, and academic achievement. We pride ourselves on being an innovative school system, continuously evolving to meet the changing needs of our students.

I encourage you to take some time to explore the valuable information presented in this Parent Student Guide. It provides insights into the programs and opportunities available to enhance your school experience. Within this guide, you will also find important policies and behavior codes that outline our expectations for student conduct. Maintaining safe school environments is paramount to fostering an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. I strongly encourage students and parents to review these policies together and familiarize themselves with the expectations and consequences associated with them.

Parents, please also make sure to bookmark the district's website, www.horrycountyschools.net, as well as your school's website. I hope you will connect with us on social media to stay informed about the latest updates and announcements. I also hope that you will consider engaging with the parent organizations for your child's school, as they play a vital role in fostering a sense of community and support. You should also feel welcome to reach out to your child's school or the district office with any questions or concerns. Phone calls and emails are welcome, but face-to-face communication continues to be one of the best ways to connect.

As we embark on this new academic year, we aim to exceed your expectations. I am thrilled to begin another year with my HCS family and community, and we are dedicated to making this year our best one yet. Together, we will promote growth, ignite curiosity, and empower students to achieve their full potential. And as always, we will inspire possibilities.

Sincerely,

Rick Maxey

Rick Maxey, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

HCS IS HONORED TO HAVE THE 2024 SC TEACHER & SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR !

RENEÉ ATKINSON

TEACHER
of the
YEAR

SCASA
SC Association of School Administrators

DR. RICK MAXEY

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

HCS
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INSPIRING POSSIBILITIES

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cognia™

Horry County Schools is fully accredited by Cognia, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site, external reviews of pre-K-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. Combining the knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm, and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change, Cognia is a trusted partner to 36,000 schools and school systems across the United States and 90 other nations.

Registering for school

To make school registration more convenient, parents may register online anytime from anywhere they have access to the internet. By using your Parent Login for PowerSchool, almost everyone can complete the registration process in just a few simple steps by clicking on the registration icon on our homepage.

Parents of returning students received a letter with instructions and an access ID and password for PowerSchool. If you have misplaced your letter or did not receive a letter, please contact your child's school to have your ID and password reissued.

If you do not have access to the internet or are having difficulty completing online registration, contact your child's school for help. Each school will have opportunities to allow parents to come in to receive assistance with registration. Even though registration may be mostly completed online, some students may be required to provide copies of documents to the school.

If you are new to HCS, you will need to contact the school your child will attend to inquire about opportunities to come to the school to register. New students are encouraged to contact the school as soon as possible to enable the school to have sufficient time to obtain records from a previous school and to provide parents ample opportunities to comply with registration requirements unique to South Carolina. For a list of schools with telephone numbers, visit *www.horrycountyschools.net*, select the *About Us* link on our website, and click on *Our Schools*.

If you are new to Horry County and aren't sure which school your child is supposed to attend, select the **bus icon** from our home page, then from the left navigation menu, choose the *Interactive School Locator Map* for assistance.

If you have your ID and password in hand and are ready to get started, log on to *https://myps.horrycountyschools.net*. Before you do, here are a few things you should know:

Requirements for new students

Students who are registering for the first time should present a legal birth certificate and a certificate of immunization. A Social Security number is requested. If students have previously been enrolled in another school outside of the district or state, the receiving school will send for the educational records at the time of registration. New students are encouraged to register early to allow time for records to be received and evaluated to ensure proper placement and eligibility for services.

Entrance age requirements

Students registering for child development, kindergarten, or first grade must be four, five, or six years old, respectively, by September 1. Students applying for the child development program will take a readiness assessment to determine eligibility. Space is limited in the child development program, and students are accepted based on demonstrated and documented needs.

Fees

There are no registration fees or insurance costs for school-day coverage for students. Parents may elect to purchase additional insurance, pay breakfast and/or lunch fees, or pay for optional items such as a parking pass, a yearbook, or fees associated with student activities, digital device usage, and some elective courses.

myPayments plus™

School fees, including technology, library, and sports, can be paid on MyPaymentsPlus.com. Contact your school for more information.

Out-of-county tuition

Students who do not live in Horry County yet wish to attend Horry County Schools may apply to attend a school within the district. The tuition fee for the 2023-2024 school year is $5,750. Transportation services are not provided for non-residents.

Immunization requirements

Students must show proof of immunization. Minimum requirements for students attending public schools in South Carolina are as follows:

Kindergarten through 12th-grade immunization requirements:

Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis: Grades 5K-12th: Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.

Tdap Booster: Grades 7-8: One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine. This dose of Tdap may be included as one of the doses needed to meet the requirement for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. To meet the school requirement for Tdap, the vaccine must be given on or after the child's 10th birthday. Grades 9-12: One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine. This dose of Tdap may be included as one of the doses needed to meet the requirement for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. To meet the school requirement for Tdap, the vaccine must be given on or after the child's 7th birthday.

Polio: Grades 5K-11: Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. Grade 12: Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) with at least one (1) dose received on or after the 4th birthday OR four (4) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) before 4th birthday (if all doses are separated by at least 4 weeks).

Rubella (German Measles) and Mumps: Grades 5K - 12: Two (2) doses of MMR vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least four weeks.

Hepatitis A: Grades 5K - 3: Two (2) doses of hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least (6) months.

Hepatitis B: Grades 5K - 12: Three (3) doses of hepatitis B vaccine with the third dose received after 24 weeks of age and at least 16 weeks after the first dose.

Varicella: 5K - 9: Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 4 weeks or positive history of the disease. Grades 10 - 12: One (1) dose of varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of the disease.

Pre-kindergarten immunization requirements:

Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis: Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, or DTaP.

Polio: Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine.

Hemophilus influenza Type B (Hib): First dose by 3 months, second dose by 5 months, and third dose by 16 months of age; OR, 4 Dose Series (ActHIB, Hiberix, or Pentacel) – First dose by 3 months, second dose by 5 months, third dose by 7 months, and fourth dose by 16 months of age. For children 15 – 59 months of age who have not yet completed an age-appropriate Hib vaccination series, one (1) dose of Hib vaccine at or after 15 months of age is required. Hib vaccine is not required for children 5 years of age and older.

Rubeola (Measles), Rubella (German Measles), and Mumps: One (1) dose of the MMR vaccine.

Hepatitis A: Two (2) doses, with one dose administered no later than 18 months of age.

Hepatitis B: Three (3) doses of the hepatitis B vaccine.

Varicella: One (1) dose of varicella vaccine.

Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13): Four (4) doses. For children aged 24–59 months who have not yet completed any age-appropriate pneumococcal vaccination, one (1) dose of PCV13 on or after the 2nd

birthday is required. PCV13 is not required for children 5 years of age and older.

Information about required immunizations is available online at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control at *www.scdhec.gov*. To schedule an appointment for immunizations, contact your primary care provider or call **855.472.3432** to schedule an appointment at either of these SCDHEC clinics:

Conway Public Health Clinic
1931 Industrial Park Rd., Conway, SC
843.915.8800

Myrtle Beach Public Health Clinic
700 21st Ave. N., Myrtle Beach, SC
843.488.8407

Both clinics are open 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Ask about extended weekday or weekend hours when calling for an appointment.

Riding the school bus

More than half of HCS students ride the school bus as their primary means of transportation to and from school. HCS operates more than 374 buses each day, which run over 1,366 routes. Annually, our bus fleet travels over 4.8 million miles with added safety features of GPS tracking systems and high-definition surveillance that captures audio and video from bus activity. Buses are purchased and allocated by the South Carolina Department of Education based on rider occupancy. State formulas, not district employees, determine when a bus is overcrowded.

Determining bus stops

The South Carolina Department of Education defines the parameters for establishing bus stops. Locally, district staff determines safe points for bus stops using the following criteria:
- Bus stops are spaced at least two-tenths of one mile apart unless deemed hazardous.
- Students living less than three-tenths of one mile from a main road must meet the bus at an established safe point.

Bus riders are expected to demonstrate responsible student behavior to enable drivers to focus on roadway safety. Bus transportation is a privilege that can be suspended if a student's behavior creates an unsafe condition on the bus. Surveillance may be used as evidence during disciplinary proceedings.

Criteria for transfer transportation

Transportation will be available for transfer students on the afternoon route only, pending approval and based on the following criteria:
1. Alternate stops for daycare purposes must be within the attendance zone of the school the student currently attends.
2. Parents must sign a behavior contract stating that the transfer transportation may be revoked for behavior issues on the bus.
3. Parents must provide the name, address, and contact information of the person providing daycare. Parents will not be allowed to meet the bus on the route. The daycare services must be located at a residence or daycare facility.
4. If an additional bus stop needs to be added, it will not violate any state regulations governing bus stops.
5. The district's Transportation Office will determine if transportation for transfer students is approved for afternoon routes only. If you have any questions regarding transportation for a transfer student, please contact Rob Grimes, Transportation Coordinator, at 843.488.6941.

Do you know when to stop for a school bus?
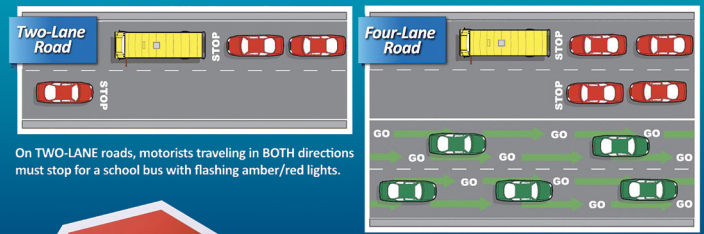
Two-Lane Road — On TWO-LANE roads, motorists traveling in BOTH directions must stop for a school bus with flashing amber/red lights.

Four-Lane Road — On FOUR OR MORE lane roads, motorists APPROACHING a school bus from the OPPOSITE direction on a roadway do not have to stop.

REMEMBER
The minimum fine for passing a stopped school bus:
1st Offense - $500 (and 6 points)
2nd Offense - $2,000 (and 6 points)

When you see flashing lights on a school bus, slow down, prepare to stop, and ALWAYS LOOK FOR CHILDREN!
Learn more at: www.scdps.sc.gov/tz/backtoschoolsafety

South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol | The road to ZERO starts with you.

Bus rider expectations

So that we may operate our bus fleet in an efficient manner, please familiarize yourself with things you can do to help.

Meeting the bus

- Be at your bus stop before the scheduled pick-up time.
- If you must walk along a highway to meet the bus, walk on the shoulder of the road.
- At a bus stop, wait for the driver to signal you to cross the road. Walk, don't run.
- Don't run alongside a bus to catch up with it. Wait for it to stop before walking to the door.

When you get on the bus

- Go to your assigned seat without crowding or pushing.
- Remain seated while the bus is moving.
- Keep aisles and stairwells clear.
- Place books, lunch boxes, or other student cargo under the seat or in the rider's lap. Large items such as band instruments and school projects will not be allowed on the bus unless the items can be placed under the seat or held in the owner's lap.
- Do not consume food and/or beverages on the bus.
- Do not open bus windows without the permission of the driver. Never extend arms, legs, or heads out of the bus window. Never throw objects from bus windows.
- Unless there is an emergency, avoid talking to the driver while the bus is in motion.

responsibility:
an obligation to do something, or having control over or care for someone, as part of one's job or role

- Never tamper with the emergency exits or any other part of the bus equipment, including fire extinguishers and first aid equipment.
- Do not damage or deface any part of the bus. Report any damage observed to the driver.
- Model appropriate classroom-type conduct on the bus.

Exiting the bus
- Students ages four and five must be met at their bus stop by a responsible person who supervises them.
- Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and do not attempt to exit until the door is opened.
- Exit the bus in an orderly manner with your belongings.
- Don't loiter/play around a stopped/parked bus.
- When entering areas set aside for bus parking or loading, do not exit the bus unless it is at a complete stop.
- Students are only permitted to exit a bus at their designated stops. If changes are necessary, a parent must make a written request and get approval in writing from the school principal or his/her designee.
- After exiting the bus, students who must cross the highway should walk at a right angle at least 10 feet in front of the bus and wait for the bus driver to direct them to cross. Walk, don't run.

Extra precautions are taken for our youngest students to make sure they are dropped off at the right location and that someone is waiting for their arrival home. If you are the parent of a child development, kindergarten, or first grade student, please note the following:
- Child development, kindergarten and first grade students must wear a bus tag giving their name, school, and address of the bus stop to assist our drivers in making sure our youngest students get on the right bus and get off at the right stop.
- Child development and kindergarten students must be met at the bus stop by someone providing supervision or have a letter on file at the base school with signatures of approval from the parent and the principal. A copy of the letter must be made available to the Bus Office for the child's attendance area. If a letter is not on ile, the child will be returned to his/her school, and parents will be notified.

Bus discipline
Students who create or involve themselves in activities causing disciplinary problems while entering, exiting, riding, or waiting for a bus will be reported to the school principal. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the district's Student Behavior Code. As an option in disciplinary procedures, students may lose their privilege to ride the bus, which could be for as little as one day or could extend for the remainder of the school year. The seriousness of the offense and the degree of harm or injury caused are factors in the disciplinary process. The bus driver has responsibility for supervision of all students on the bus. The bus may be stopped at any time that student behavior hinders safe driving or in the event that a student is experiencing a medical emergency.

Parent responsibility
Parents or guardians are responsible for the safety, conduct, and timely arrival of their children to, from, and at the designated school bus stop. This includes the time the assigned bus arrives at the designated bus stop, activates the required pedestrian safety devices, stops, and loads or unloads students, and it extends to the time when pedestrian safety devices are deactivated.

Addressing concerns about transportation
If you have questions or concerns about a bus route, pick-up or drop-off times, or safety issues, please address questions to the transportation supervisor in your attendance area. Please avoid addressing concerns with the bus driver or other students at the bus stop. Parents are not allowed to board the bus at the bus stop. Contact the transportation supervisor in your local attendance area if you need assistance.

Main District Bus Office 843.488.6957
Aynor Attendance Area 843.488.7125
Carolina Forest Attendance Area.................................843.236.0705
Conway Attendance Area 843.488.6094
Green Sea Floyds Attendance Area 843.392.3134
Loris Attendance Area...843.390.6822
Myrtle Beach Attendance Area....................................843.445.2041
North Myrtle Beach Attendance Area 843.399.8575
St. James Attendance Area 843.650.1937
Socastee Attendance Area 843.293.6941
Special Needs 843.488.6975

Information about bus routes, including bus numbers and expected pick-up and drop-off times, is available at each school and the HCS transportation office.

relationships:
the way in which two or more people, groups, countries, etc., live, talk to, interact, and deal with each other

Inclement weather

If we are experiencing inclement weather, the district administration works to determine if weather conditions warrant a delayed start, an early or delayed dismissal, or school closure. Should changes be made to the schedule due to inclement weather, HCS will use all communication tools available to notify parents. Always check our website, mobile app, and social media for up-to-date information.

Nutrition services

Good nutrition goes hand-in-hand with education and is essential to cognitive and physical development. Each school has breakfast and lunch programs that offer nutritional and tasty options for students. Menus are available at the school and on the district's website and are subject to change due to availability of food items or special events at the school. More detailed menu information may be available from your child's school. If your child has unique nutritional needs or food allergies, please discuss these with the school nurse, cafeteria manager, and classroom teacher.

Student meals

All students in Horry County Schools will receive free breakfast and lunch during the 2023-2024 school year as part of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools

Schools that are designated as CEP schools will serve reimbursable meals at no cost to the students. Parents will not be required to complete a meal application at CEP schools. Students who owed meal charges at the end of the 2022-2023 school year will still be responsible for paying all charges owed to the Nutrition Services program.

A la carte

In addition to the regular meals program, schools may provide extended Smart Snacks-approved choices for students for an additional cost. Students who choose to bring lunch from home may still purchase milk, water, or other approved beverages to make it easier for parents packing lunch to ensure drinks stay chilled. Snack items and any items offered as part of the regular meal may also be purchased. A la carte items are available at all schools.

Students who choose to add a la carte items must have money to pay for the additional purchase or must have credit in their account. You can pre-pay online by creating an account at _MySchoolBucks.com_. Meal payments are not accepted by _MyPaymentsPlus.com_. You will need your child's student ID number and date of birth to establish an account. Download the HCS mobile app to your smartphone so you can monitor your child's account via MySchoolBucks at any time. Contact your school for more information.

Something new has arrived!
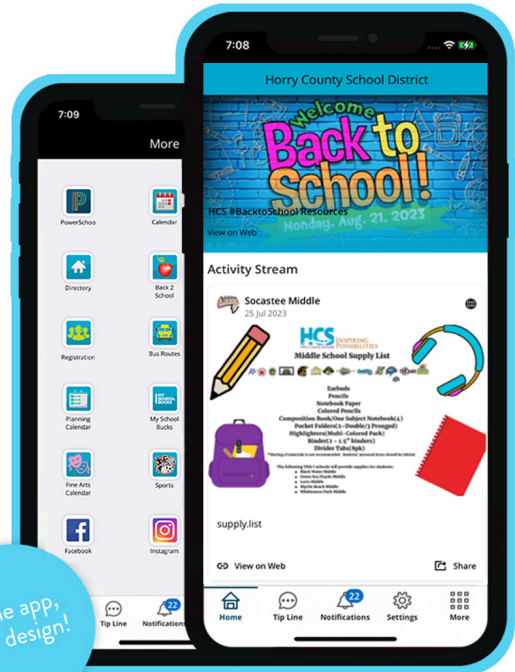
HorryCountySchools.net/HCSMobile

Vending machines

While middle and high schools may have vending machines available for students' use, the machines are not available during the times that breakfast and lunch are served. Vending machines are an option for snacks during class breaks or for students who stay for after-school activities. Food and beverage items in vending machines must meet nutritional guidelines to limit the quantity of caffeine, sugar, and fat content among vending machine choices.

MY SCHOOL BUCKS

HCS Nutrition Services

Student learning

The HCS family considers it a privilege to be a part of your child's academic growth and development. We passionately believe that lives are changed through education and that our efforts, both great and small, must be focused on preparing students to contribute to and participate in a democratic society. Our goal is for every student to be college- and career-ready. To make this possible, it is important that we all understand the expectations for learning. It is equally important that the school and home work closely together to plan for and monitor progress. We invite you to become involved and stay involved with your child's education, whether it's the first day of school or the year of graduation. Throughout the year, you will have multiple opportunities to monitor your child's progress. Students will receive four interim reports and four report cards for you to monitor their performance. You'll have opportunities to meet with teachers through parent-teacher conferences. You can also contact your child's teachers during the year by telephone or e-mail and get daily information through PowerSchool.

Academic standards

HCS uses academic standards adopted by the South Carolina Department of Education (ed.sc.gov). These standards define what students should know, understand, and be able to do when they complete a grade or a course. While state-approved standards define what students should know, HCS teachers and educational leaders work to determine the best practices that are used to accomplish student, school, and district goals. One of the ways progress is measured is through state-adopted standardized tests.

HCS teachers and educational leaders continue to work toward increasing the instructional rigor of our classrooms, personalizing learning for all students, creating innovative learning environments, and infusing best practices with modern technology.

State report cards

The South Carolina Department of Education issues state report cards for HCS and each of its schools. State report cards provide a snapshot of data and details of school and district performance. State report cards include statistical information about the school and district and how each compares with other schools and districts throughout the state with similar size and demographics. You can view the state report cards for HCS and each of its schools at SCReportCards.com.

Testing

Throughout the year, students take different tests that measure their progress toward meeting grade-level and course expectations. Information gathered through testing and class performance helps teachers personalize your child's educational experience. While some tests are diagnostic for students, others provide data that become the foundation for state and federal accountability measurements.

For information about tests and test dates, visit the HCS website at horrycountyschools.net/assessment.

Report cards and grading scales

Students are issued four interim reports and four quarterly report cards during the year to provide parents with information about how well their child is performing in class. Interim reports come halfway between quarterly report cards and let parents know if their child is on track or may need some support. Report cards include grades, attendance information, and comments from teachers. Please be aware of the dates report cards are available and talk with your child about his/her performance.

Grades for students in Pre-K through 2nd Grade

Students in prekindergarten through 2nd grade are graded using a variety of methods to indicate student progress toward meeting grade-level expectations. Students could receive check marks, numeric grades, or letter grades to indicate performance. If you have questions about the kinds of grades to expect on your child's report card, ask your child's teacher.

Act 284 Read to Succeed

South Carolina Act 284 (Read to Succeed) is a comprehensive literacy mandate that requires 3rd grade students to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade. Students are required to score at least "Not Met 1" on SC Ready to be promoted unless they meet the criteria for one of seven exemptions. Learn more about these exemptions at https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/early-learning-and-literacy/read-to-succeed1/.

Grades for students in grades 3 through 12

The South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale applies to students in 3rd through 12th grades. Student performance is often reported with letter and numerical grades. Numerical grades allow guidance counselors to rank

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB/Dual Credit Weighting
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100
0-50	F	0.000	0.000	0.000

students and make necessary adjustments due to the level of course difficulty. At a glance, letter grades and numerical grades equate like this:

A = 90-100 percent   C = 70-79 percent   F = 59 percent and
B = 80-89 percent   D = 60-69 percent   below

Computing your grade point average

Students begin accumulating points toward their grade point average (GPA) as soon as they take classes that earn high school credits. Some students take high school classes while still in middle school. Grades earned in those classes count toward their GPA, which will be computed their senior year. GPA and class rank are figured from a grade-point conversion table that assigns "quality points" to numerical grades depending on the level of difficulty of the course. College prep courses earn the base weight. Honors courses earn one-half quality point more than the base weight. Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and dual-credit courses earn a full quality point more than the base weight. For example, when a student earns a cumulative numeric grade of 100 in a class, it equates to this:

- College prep course = 5.000 quality pts.
- Honors course = 5.500 quality pts.
- Advanced Placement/IB/dual-credit courses = 6.000 quality pts.

A student's GPA is determined by computing the sum of quality points earned, then dividing the sum by the number of units attempted. Repeated courses count in the number of courses attempted. Choose courses carefully, as there are consequences for withdrawing from class.

Middle school students who take a high school course can retake the course during ninth grade, regardless of the grade earned, if they have not taken the next sequential course. If retaken, both courses will appear on the high school transcript, yet only the highest grade is used to compute GPA.

High school options offer unique opportunities

During the 8th grade, students are eligible to apply for the HCS Scholars Academy High School; the International Baccalaureate program; the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program; the HCS Early College High School; or the Connect program. Each program has a unique target audience and criteria for acceptance.

The **HCS Scholars Academy High School (SAHS)** is a partnership between HCS and Coastal Carolina University to provide advanced students with more challenging coursework in a unique learning environment. SAHS serves students in grades 9-12. Students take a combination of Advanced Placement and college courses and are able to earn up to two years of college credits while earning a high school diploma.

The **International Baccalaureate (IB) program** is offered at Aynor and Socastee high schools. While IB courses are offered for grades 11-12, students who plan to pursue an IB diploma need to take a prescribed series of courses in grades 9-10. The IB diploma program is designed for highly motivated high school students and is structured to meet the entrance requirements of the most competitive universities around the world. College credit may be granted based on exam scores. Typically, IB courses meet or exceed the preparation requirements for Advanced Placement (AP) exams, as well. For more information, speak with your school guidance counselor or visit *http://www.ibo.org/*.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs with advanced coursework are based at the Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology and at Conway High, allowing students to pursue areas of interest in science and math, including engineering, technology, and medicine, with accelerated learning opportunities and a wide range of AP courses and career-ready certifications.

The **HCS Early College High School (ECHS)**, located on the Conway campus of Horry-Georgetown Technical College, offers capable students the opportunity to complete a high school diploma and earn up to two years of college credits at the same time. ECHS targets students who may be the first generation in their families to attend college. The program offers advanced academics in small environments, tuition-free college credit, and individual career and life counseling services.

The **Connect program** is an alternative secondary school program for students who previously have experienced barriers in their academic pathway. Connect targets rising high school freshmen who are one or more grade levels behind their peers, offering a compact academic curriculum and the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma within three years. For information, contact the Academy for Technology & Academics at 843.488.6600.

Career and technical education

During the 10th grade, students are eligible to apply to attend one of two career and technical academies. Each academy offers majors that customize programs of study according to a student's future occupational and academic plans. Both academies combine career and technology majors with academic coursework to provide students with a relevant, integrated learning experience. Students choose from a variety of academic courses, including honors, Advanced Placement, and dual-credit.

The **Academy for Technology & Academics (ATA)** offers career majors to 11th and 12th grade students who are actively enrolled in an Horry County high school. Career majors include: Automotive Technology, Barbering, Building Construction, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Digital Art and Design, Engineering, Esthetics, Nursing, and Pre-Med.

The **Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology (AAST)** offers career majors to 11th and 12th grade students who are actively enrolled in an Horry County high school. Career majors include: Advanced Art, Aerospace Engineering, Biomedical Science, Computer Science, Entertainment Technology, Environmental Engineering, Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Informatics, Innovations in STEM, Networking, Pre-Medicine, and Web and Digital Design.

community:
a group of people with common characteristics or interests living together within a larger society

Other dual-credit opportunities

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are available for eligible students at each high school, either in traditional classes at school or online. These courses prepare students for national AP examinations. Students who score 3, 4, or 5 on AP exams are generally considered qualified to receive credit for equivalent courses at colleges and universities that give credit for AP exams. Students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the AP exam for that course.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) offers eligible 11th and 12th grade students an opportunity to get a head start on college by earning university/college credits. College-level transfer courses may be taken on the high school campus, through online courses, or through courses taught on one of the HGTC campuses. The student may earn dual credits that are transferable to four-year colleges, universities, and technical colleges.

Graduation

Graduation is a celebratory event to recognize student accomplishments and draw closure to the first part of a student's educational journey. During or after graduation ceremonies, students are presented with exit documents that signify the end of their public-school education. Each exit document has different requirements.

State High School Diploma

State High School Diplomas are awarded to students who earn 24 required units of credit. The 24 units required for graduation are as follows:

- English/language arts: 4 units
- mathematics: 4 units
- science: 3 units
- U.S. History and Constitution: 1 unit
- economics: 0.5 unit
- U.S. Government: 0.5 unit
- other social studies course: 1 unit
- physical education or Junior ROTC: 1 unit
- computer science: 1 unit
- foreign language or Career and Technology Education (CATE): 1.0 unit
- electives: 7 units

In addition, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education recommends that students who plan to attend a four-year, post-secondary program take three laboratory sciences, two to three units of foreign language, and one unit of fine arts. Students who are preparing to enter a two-year, post-secondary program or the workforce after graduation are encouraged to complete a CATE course.

### Seals of Distinction for State High School Diplomas

Students who enrolled as freshmen during or after the 2018-2019 school year may earn one or more Seals of Distinction for their high school diplomas, including an Honors Seal, College Seal, Career Seal, or Specialization Seal. These seals support the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Requirements for each seal are described below:

Honors Seal requirements:
- English: four credits, with at least two at the honors level or higher
- Math: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and a fourth higher level math requiring Algebra II as a prerequisite; at least three courses at the honors level or higher
- Lab Science: three credits, with at least two at the honors level or higher
- Social Studies: three credits, with at least two at the honors level or higher
- World Language: three credits in the same language other than English
- Advanced Coursework: four higher-level courses taken during junior and senior years with quality points at the honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual-credit levels
- A GPA of 3.5 or higher on the State Uniform Grading Scale.

College Seal requirements:
- English: four credits
- Math: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and another higher-level math
- Science: three credits
- Social Studies: three credits
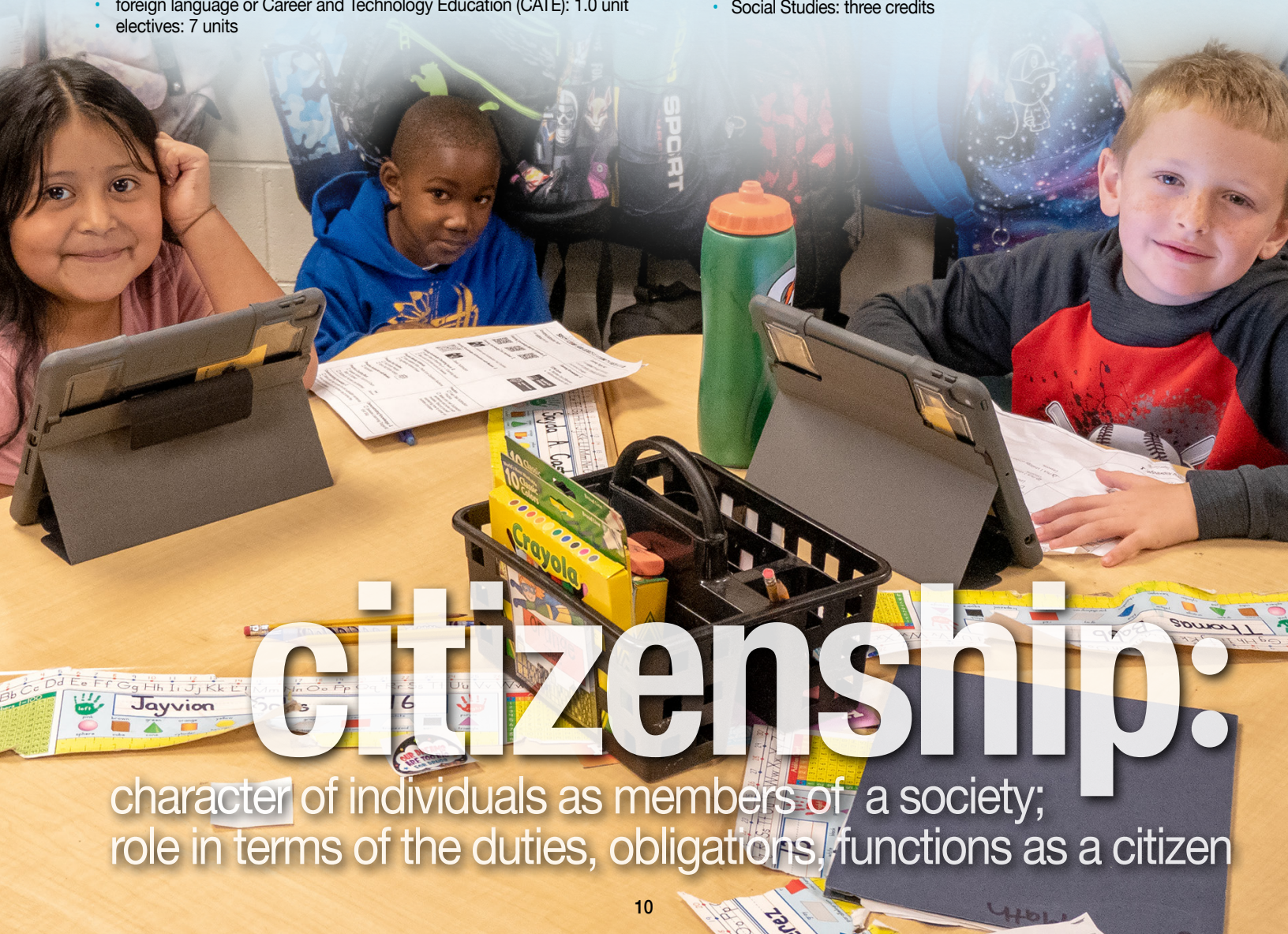
citizenship:
character of individuals as members of a society; role in terms of the duties, obligations, functions as a citizen

inspiration:

to fill with an animating, quickening, or exalting influence

- World Language: two credits in the same language other than English
- Fine Arts: one credit
- At least one of the following: a GPA of 3.0 or higher on the State Uniform Grading Scale, an ACT score of 20 or higher, or an SAT score of 1020 or higher; tests may be superscored

Career Seal requirements:
- A GPA of at least 3.0 on the State Uniform Grading Scale and at least one of the following:
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) completion with an industry-recognized credential
- Silver or higher on a Career Readiness Exam
- Career Ready Work-Based Learning (WBL) placement completion

Specialization Seal requirements:
    Specialization Seals may be earned for coursework concentration in STEM, World Language, the Arts, and the Military. Students earning these seals must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher on the State Uniform Grading Scale. Additional requirements for Specialization Seals are described below:
- **STEM:** four credits beyond required graduation courses in math, science, technology, and engineering, with at least two at the honors level or higher; courses may be in one area of STEM or across all four areas
- **World Language:** four credits in the same non-English language concentration, a score of "Intermediate Low" or higher on a nationally normed proficiency-based language assessment, an AP exam score of 3 or higher, an IB exam score of 4 or higher, OR a score of E or better on the Cambridge AICE Language exam before the senior year
- **The Arts:** four credits in one or more areas of the arts, with at least two at the honors level or higher (or four courses in a single art area if honors credit is not available for arts courses); mastery on an externally evaluated exam or performance task

- **Military:** four credits in JROTC and a score of 31 or higher on the ASVAB assessment

South Carolina Academic Honors Award
    To be eligible for the South Carolina Academic Honors Award, students must complete the 24 credits required for graduation. Those credits must include 18 credits of college preparatory coursework, four credits in additional electives, and two credits in one or more of the following: English, science, social studies, or mathematics. College preparatory coursework includes the following:
- English (English I or above), 4 credits
- Mathematics (Algebra I or above), 4 credits
- Laboratory science, 3 credits
- Social studies (U.S. History and Constitution, economics and U.S. government, and one credit of world history, world geography, or Western civilization), 3 credits
- Computer science, 1 credit
- Physical education, 1 credit
- Foreign language, 2 credits

    In addition, students must earn a grade of "B" or higher for each semester course through the seventh semester of high school and achieve one of the following:
- A score of 710 or higher on the SAT verbal subtest
- A score of 690 or higher on the SAT mathematics subtest
- A score of 30 or higher on the ACT English subtest
- A score of 33 or higher on the ACT mathematics subtest
- A combined score of at least 1400 on the SAT verbal and math sections
- An ACT composite score of at least 31

South Carolina High School Credential
    Students with disabilities who enrolled as freshmen during or after the 2018-2019 school year may be eligible to receive a South Carolina High School Credential. Students pursuing the South Carolina High School Credential will work with their Individualized Education

Program (IEP) team to determine mastery of a career-based educational program that includes academics, independent work experience, daily living skills, and self-determination skill competencies. Eligible students must complete a total of 24 units of coursework that are aligned with the South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards, including:

- English Language Arts: 4 units
- Mathematics: 4 units
- Science: 2 units
- Social Studies: 2 units
- Employability Education: 4 units
- Electives: 6 units

Students must also:

- complete a career portfolio that includes a multimedia presentation.
- obtain work readiness assessment results that demonstrate the student is ready for competitive employment.
- complete at least 360 hours of work-based learning/training that is aligned with goals identified in the student's IEP.

Horry County Schools' High School Certificate

An HCS High School Certificate is awarded to students who do not meet diploma criteria yet can demonstrate abilities to function independently as an adult. Candidates must attend four years of high school and meet educational goals as their IEP Team prescribes. A student's IEP team may determine if a student is eligible for an HCS High School Certificate.

Additional graduation provisions for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities who earn an HCS High School Certificate may reenter high school to pursue a SC High School Diploma, if age 21 or younger. Students may only participate in one high school graduation. Students with disabilities who return to school and earn a high school diploma will receive their diploma, but not during the graduation ceremony. Parents must be informed at an IEP team meeting whether courses taken by their student will count toward a diploma or certificate. Students working toward a state diploma may receive support services in high school courses or earn an elective unit when instruction is provided by a special education teacher.

Participating in graduation

Students must meet all requirements established for exit documents to be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. A student who commits Level II or Level III violations of the Student Behavior Code during their final semester may be denied the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies. The student's diploma or certificate will be presented, but not during the graduation ceremony.

January graduations

HCS does not recommend students complete high school in fewer than four years; however, students who will meet requirements for graduation after the fall semester of their senior year may declare their intention to be a January graduate to their school counselor no later than October 1st of their senior year. For these January graduates, the following apply:

- It is the responsibility of the student to determine how January graduation may impact their admission to college.
- January graduates will not receive a final class rank.
- After fall semester of their senior year, January graduates are no longer considered enrolled in HCS and lose all privileges associated with being a student. They are not allowed on campus during the instructional day without an appointment and may not attend any function that is designed for active students, including prom, senior celebrations, recognition ceremonies, etc.
- January graduates will be allowed to participate in the graduation practice and ceremony in the spring. Students must contact the school no later than May 1st to confirm their participation and gather information regarding practice.
- January graduates will need to contact the appropriate vendor directly to secure graduation supplies.

possibilities:
unspecified qualities of a promising nature; potential to achieve a goal or prospect

#HCSGrad2023

2023 HCS graduates by the numbers:

- 2,911 students graduated from 10 district high schools.
- 75% of graduates plan to attend either a two-year or four-year college or university.
- Graduates earned $82.2 million in scholarships.
- 70% of college-bound graduates met eligibility requirements for scholarships supported by the South Carolina Education Lottery.
- 73% of graduates earned South Carolina Seals of Distinction.
- Collectively, graduates completed 2,997 dual-credit classes, which qualify for both high school and college course credits.

Parent Involvement Supports Success

Monitor grades and daily attendance through the PowerSchool Parent Portal
Register for the PowerSchool Parent Portal. There is no need to wait until report cards are issued to find out how your child is doing in school. Register for or update your PowerSchool Portal account to make sure you are getting timely information about your child's academic performance and attendance. Customize your PowerSchool account to receive updates as often as you like, even on a daily basis. If you need assistance, contact your child's school or visit our website.

Stay in the know while on the go with the HCS mobile app
Download the HCS mobile app to get the latest news and notifications from the district and schools. The app gives parents access to PowerSchool, updated calendars, directories, lunch menus, payment portals, and employment opportunities within HCS. The app also puts parents one click away from HCS social media.

Search for "Horry County Schools" in the App Store or Google Play. After installing the app, click to open and scroll through the menu to see the multiple resources and tools parents now have at their fingertips.

Keep your contact information up to date for communications
At the time of registration, you will be asked to verify or update your telephone numbers and email addresses. This information is a part of your child's PowerSchool profile. When the district or your school uses our automated messaging services to send emergency, general, or email messages to parents, the contact information is pulled from PowerSchool. If you change a telephone number or address, make sure you contact your child's school to update your information.

Opt-in for text messaging
Your child's teachers or coaches may send you a request to opt-in for a text messaging service. This enables you to receive messages, reminders, and updates about classroom information, as well as practice/game schedules and cancellations, if needed. Please be aware that when you sign up to receive text messages, you may experience service charges from your provider.

Plan to attend parent-teacher conferences
During the year, your school will invite you to attend a conference with your child's teacher(s). Conferences are generally held once a year, yet may be held more often if the teacher or parent thinks it would be helpful. During a conference, teachers may share a lot of information in a short period of time. Many times, the student is expected to participate. Please review a few suggestions to help you get the most out of your conversation with teachers.
- Make sure you understand the expectations for your child.
- Review grades recorded for daily assignments, projects, and tests.
- Review samples of your child's work.

- Review results from diagnostic tests, such as MAP, that help to provide insight about literacy and mathematics skills.
- Review performance on state standardized tests.
- Attend a goal-setting conference (elementary level) or an Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP) conference (middle and high school levels).
- Ask how your child utilizes technology in the classroom.
- Ask what online programs and resources can be accessed from home.
- Ask if your child is meeting grade-level and content-area expectations.
- Ask how you can support continued academic growth for your child.
- Ask if your child has good social skills and healthy relationships with peers.
- Ask if your child practices good conduct and is respectful of others.
- Share information about what motivates your child.
- Share information about your child's interests, activities, and long-term goals.
- Exchange contact information with your child's teacher.

Parent organizations support school success
Join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), or a Booster Club at your child's school. These organizations are parent-led and work to support school initiatives, provide resources, and sponsor activities that involve the school family.

Be a school volunteer
Whether you have a little bit of time or your schedule is open, consider sharing your skills and talents as a school volunteer. Volunteers help schools in a variety of ways, including classroom settings, office support, library assistance, and organization of special events. Complete an online Volunteer Application, and after a background check is completed, HCS can find a place for you to be a contributing member of our schools. To complete an online application to volunteer, visit our website at *horrycountyschools.net* and select *Families* at the top of the homepage, then click on *Volunteer at HCS*.

Be a guest speaker
During the school year, schools invite guest speakers to talk to students about careers, historical events, military service to our country, and personal stories that motivate and inspire students. Consider sharing your story with us.

Apply for an HCS Top 65 Club Card
Full-time Horry County residents age 65 or older may request a Top 65 Passport providing **FREE** entrance to all HCS home athletic events during the regular season. It may also include **FREE** admittance to some fine arts performaces, and you may opt to receive notifications about upcoming events and breaking news via our HCS Mobile App. For more information, call 843.488.7015

Important Notifications

Attendance
State law requires that parents/guardians enroll children in a public or private school beginning at age five (5) through the attainment of their seventeenth (17th) birthday or graduation from high school. The school year consists of 180 days or two semesters of 90 days each. To be eligible for course credit, students enrolled in a semester course cannot have more than five (5) unlawful absences. For yearlong courses, no student can have more than 10 unlawful absences.

To be counted for attendance, students must be physically present at school, participating in an approved, school-sponsored activity away from school, or approved for homebound or home-based instruction. Elementary students are considered in attendance when present for 51% of the school day. Middle and high school students are considered in attendance when present for 51% of a class period. Perfect attendance for all students is defined as being present for a minimum of 51% of each day for the entire year.

Please review pages 3-4 of the Student Policy Guide for a thorough description of the policies that govern student attendance requirements.

Reimbursement for health services
With parental consent, HCS may bill Medicaid or other health insurance carriers for nursing, rehabilitative, and behavioral health services provided to students that exceed the services defined in a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan. In doing so, the district will release and exchange the information necessary for the documentation of services to allow for reimbursement to be made to the district, including the student's name, date of birth, Medicaid or health insurance identification number, gender, and contact information. Services will continue to be provided as needed, even if a parent does not authorize consent for billing.

Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older certain rights with respect to the student's educational records, as follows: the right to inspect and review a student's educational records within 45 days following a request; the right to request an amendment of the student's educational records that the parent or eligible guardian believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA; the right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure of directory information without consent; and the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures to comply with FERPA requirements by contacting the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202.

FERPA defines student "directory information" as a student's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, dates of attendance, and participation in extra-curricular activities and school-sponsored events. A request to "opt out" of the release of directory information is valid for one year. For more information about FERPA, visit: *www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html*

Release of information to military recruiters
Federal laws require school districts to release directory information about 11th and 12th-grade students to military recruiters, including names, addresses, and telephone numbers of students. Parents, or students age 18 or older, may request to withhold information each year during the student registration process. Information will be released to recruiters on or about November 1. Requests are valid for one year and must be resubmitted annually during registration.

Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Save the Date

HCS
15th Anniversary
Technology Fair 2024
INNOVATE · ENGAGE · CREATE · INSPIRE

Save the Date for the 2024 Technology Fair!
When: Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Where: Myrtle Beach Convention Center

INSPIRING POSSIBILITIES

HCS Top 65 CLUB CARD

Get Your FREE Club Card

The HCS Top 65 Club Card allows resident Horry County senior citizens age 65 or older an opportunity to enjoy a variety of school activities throughout the year. Card holders get **FREE** admission to any regular season athletic events on Horry County Schools' campuses (excluding playoffs). **FREE** admission may be granted to concerts, plays, and other school events on school campuses, except when those programs, shows, concerts, etc. are financially supported through ticket sales. **The HCS Top 65 Club Card is non-transferable and does not expire.**

For more information please call:
843.488.7015
or visit
HorryCountySchools.net/top65

HCS
Horry County Schools

The More Hands the Merrier...
Volunteer Today!

Do you have an hour a week?
Volunteering at a school can have a positive impact on the academic success of a child.
Contact a school in your neighborhood or call 843.488.6901 for more information.

INSPIRING POSSIBILITIES

Horry County Board of Education

David Cox, Chairman
Neil James, Vice Chairman, District 10

David Koch .... District 1	Pam Dawson .... District 6
Debbie Edmonds .... District 2	Janet Graham.. District 7
Tracy Winters.. District 3	Melanie Wellons .... District 8
Wendy Hodges .... District 4	James Edwards.. District 9
Howard Barnard.. District 5	Shanda Allen .... District 11

District Office Directory

Adult Education 843.488.6200	Guidance (all grade levels) 843.488.6932	School Improvement Council 843.488.6554
Athletics 843.488.7221	Health Services.................................... 843.488.6877	School & Student Safety 843.488.6835
Attendance 843.488.6758	High School Options 843.488.6766	Special Education................................. 843.488.6562
Facilities (Construction/Maintenance) 843.488.6965	Homeschool 843.488.6763	Student Transfers 843.488.6808
Child Development (4 year-old) 843.488.6806	Human Resources................................ 843.488.6924	Students with Disabilities 843.488.6562
Curriculum 843.488.6745	Legal & Policy Matters 843.488.6723	Superintendent 843.488.6717
Discipline.. 843.488.6771	Medical Homebound........................... 843.488.6792	Technology.. 843.488.6825
Elementary Schools 843.488.6806	Middle Schools.................................... 843.488.6766	Testing/Assessments 843.488.6843
Employee Benefits 843.488.6840	PowerSchool 843.488.6881	Textbooks 843.488.6592
Fine Arts... 843.488.6742	Public Information/Communications ... 843.488.7015	Transcripts 843.488.6226
Gifted & Talented 843.488.6740	Nutrition Services 843.488.6925	Transportation.................................... 843.488.6957
	School Board....................................... 843.488.6717	

HCS
Horry County Schools
INSPIRING POSSIBILITIES

P.O. Box 260005 • 335 Four Mile Road • Conway, SC 29526 • Telephone: 843.488.6700 • Fax: 843.488.6722

For a digital format of the HCS 2023-2024 Parent Student Guide visit www.horrycountyschools.net/psguide