

HCS SCHOLARS ACADEMY
HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIOR/SENIOR
FALL 2026-2027
GRADE LEVEL MEETING



JUNIOR YEAR IS ABOUT FOCUS

**YOUR COLLEGE DREAMS AND GOALS CHANGE
FROM A DISTANT CONCEPT LOOMING IN YOUR
FUTURE TO AN ACTUAL REALITY!**

FOCUS ON

- **Your Grades**
- **Preparing for SAT/ACT**
- **College Search**
- **Yourself**



PSAT- OCTOBER 7, 2026

**JUNIORS YOUR PERFORMANCE ON PSAT THIS YEAR
COULD MEAN MONEY FOR COLLEGE!**



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALIST BASED UPON 11TH-GRADE SCORES

**CLASS OF 2026 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026**

- CORPORATE SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS (ANNOUNCED APRIL 12, 2027)
- \$2500 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS (ANNOUNCED MAY 12, 2027)
- COLLEGE SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS (ANNOUNCED JUNE 2, 2027 TO JULY 12, 2027)

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE PSAT?

01

**BLUEBOOK-
PRACTICE DIGITAL
PSAT/SAT
FULL LENGTH TESTS**



02

**KHAN ACADEMY
OFFICIAL COLLEGEBOARD
STUDY TOOL**



03

**SCHOLARS ACADEMY
TEACHER LED
WORKSHOPS
2:30-3:30
SEPT. 10 - OCT. 11
MR. GUNNELLS &
MS. ZHANG**



04

**NOTIFY YOUR
PROFESSOR IF YOU WILL
BE MISSING A CCU
COURSE**



11TH GRADE COLLEGE & CAREER READY TESTING



SCHOOL DAY SAT/ACT

OPTION TO TAKE EITHER
SAT OR ACT DURING THE
SCHOOL DAY IN SPRING, 2027



South Carolina Career- Ready Assessment

SC WIN is an assessment that
tests job skills in Applied Reading,
Writing, Mathematics, and
Essential Skills.
SPRING, 2027



SAT OR ACT?

SAT

Test is Structured upon

- EVIDENCE BASED READING
- MATH
- DIGITAL FORMAT/ADAPTIVE



FEE WAIVERS

If you have ever received Free or Reduced Lunch you may qualify for fee waivers.

See Mrs. Williams for more information.



Colleges use both exams for admissions and merit-based scholarships.



ACT

Test is Structured upon

- ENGLISH
- MATH
- READING
- SCIENCE (optional)
- NOT ADAPTIVE



PALMETTO FELLOWS--SAT 1400/ACT 31

SAT/ACT NATIONAL TESTING DATES 2026-27

SAT

SEPTEMBER 12

OCTOBER 3

NOVEMBER 7

DECEMBER 5

MARCH 6

MAY 1

JUNE 5

ACT

SEPTEMBER 19

OCTOBER 17

DECEMBER 12

FEBRUARY 27

APRIL 10

JUNE 12

JULY 10

11TH GRADE COLLEGE TOUR

**JOIN US FOR AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO 3
OF THE MAJOR S.C. UNIVERSITIES
WHERE WE WILL TOUR EACH CAMPUS
AND MEET WITH ADMISSIONS
COUNSELORS AND HONORS COLLEGE
FACULTY/STAFF.**

MARCH 1-2, 2027

**TRIP FEE \$125 FOR EACH ATTENDEE. THIS COVERS HOTEL STAY
AND TRANSPORTATION VIA A LOCAL CHARTER COMPANY.**

***PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE MEALS.**

***\$50 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2026
BALANCE DUE FEBRUARY 12, 2027.**

PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND!



12TH GRADERS YOU MADE IT TO SENIOR YEAR! NOW STAY ON TRACK



- Maintain your Grades
- Pay Attention to Deadlines
- Schedule your IGP Meeting – <https://calendly.com/gwilliams-igp-conference/scholarsacademyigplink>
- Finalize your College List
- Get your Questbridge/Common App Submitted Early
- Practice and take SAT/ACT if needed
- Complete FAFSA by November if possible
- Apply for Scholarships
- Review Acceptances and Make your Decision
- Celebrate!



TYPES OF DEADLINES

- **EARLY DECISION-BINDING**
- **RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION**
- **EARLY ACTION-NON BINDING**
- **REGULAR DECISION**
- **ROLLING ADMISSIONS**
- **UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES**





APPLICATION DEADLINES

CLEMSON EARLY DECISION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15
CLEMSON HONORS COLLEGE PRIORITY-OCTOBER 22
CLEMSON HONORS COLLEGE GENERAL-JANUARY 8

USC EARLY DECISION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15
USC HONORS COLLEGE DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15

C OF C EARLY ACTION NON-BINDING: NOVEMBER 1
C OF C DOES HAVE BINDING EARLY DECISION *
C OF C HONORS DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1

FURMAN EARLY DECISION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER
WOFFORD EARLY DECISION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1
FURMAN & WOFFORD HAVE BINDING EARLY DECISION *

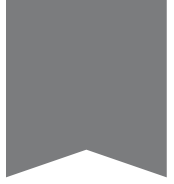
DUKE EARLY DECISION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 2
MOST IVY LEAGUE EARLY DEADLINES: NOVEMBER 1

QUESTBRIDGE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1

TIPS TO MAKE COLLEGE PLANNING LESS STRESSFUL

- **Read your email daily and pay attention to announcements.**
- **Use a professional email address.**
- **Keep your social media clean.**
- **Check Scholars Academy Guidance Webpage and Schoology updates regularly for scholarship opportunities!**
- **Share college acceptances and financial aid/scholarship awards with Mrs. Williams.**





IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

01

**APPLY AS A FIRST-TIME
FRESHMAN**

02

**GIVE RECOMMENDERS AT LEAST A
10 BUSINESS DAY NOTICE.**

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION LINK

03

**OFFICIAL SAT & ACT TEST
SCORES MUST BE SENT
DIRECTLY FROM THE
TESTING PROGRAM FOR
OFFICIAL APPLICATIONS.**

04

**USE:
gwilliams006@horrycountyschools.net
FOR MRS. WILLIAMS EMAIL ON
COMMON APP.**

UPCOMING COLLEGE EVENTS

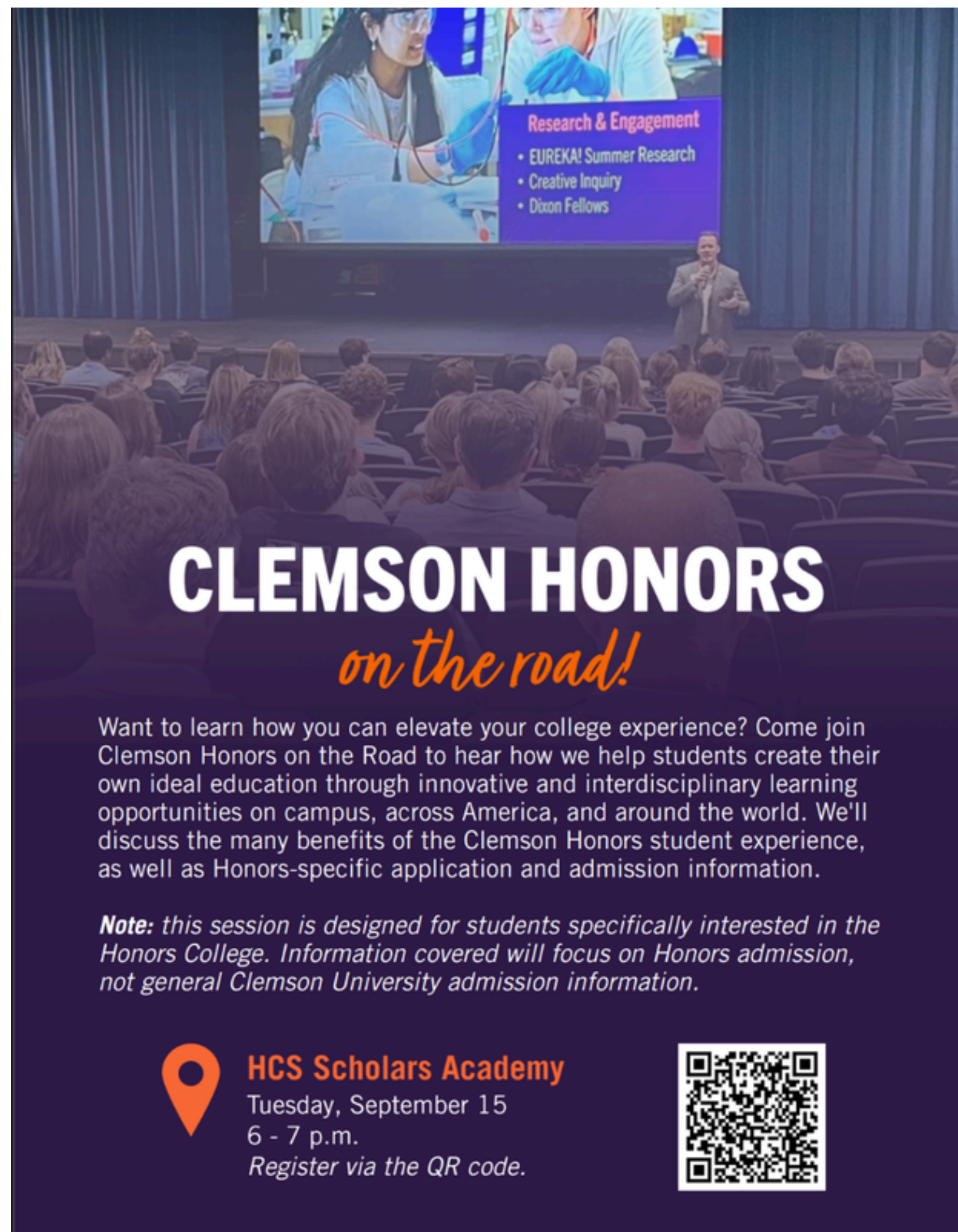
LUNCH WITH COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVES AT SCHOLARS

VARIOUS COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES WILL VISIT
DURING LUNCH TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT
THEIR SCHOOLS AND APPLICATION PROCESS.
ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE AHEAD OF A PLANNED VISIT.



**CACRAO HCS ED/OP FOR
STUDENTS & PARENTS
OCTOBER 6, 2026
SCHOLARS ACADEMY
COMMONS AREA 5:30-7:00 P.M.**





CLEMSON HONORS
on the road!

Want to learn how you can elevate your college experience? Come join Clemson Honors on the Road to hear how we help students create their own ideal education through innovative and interdisciplinary learning opportunities on campus, across America, and around the world. We'll discuss the many benefits of the Clemson Honors student experience, as well as Honors-specific application and admission information.

Note: *this session is designed for students specifically interested in the Honors College. Information covered will focus on Honors admission, not general Clemson University admission information.*

 **HCS Scholars Academy**
Tuesday, September 15
6 - 7 p.m.
Register via the QR code.



YEARBOOK INFORMATION



DON'T MISS OUT

CALLING ALL HCS SCHOLARS ACADEMY SENIOR PARENTS!
NOW'S THE TIME TO CELEBRATE YOUR STUDENT AND EXPRESS YOUR LOVE WITH A DEDICATION



SCAN HERE TO ORDER ONLINE

PURCHASE AND DESIGN ONLINE

VISIT YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM
AND USE ORDER NUMBER 10480

SELECT THE AD SIZE
CHOOSE A TEMPLATE
ADD PHOTOS AND HEARTWARMING MESSAGE
DESIGN AND PURCHASE

SIZES AVAILABLE

Full Page Ad - \$200
Half Page Ad - \$100
Quarter Page Ad - \$75

All prices will increase \$25 on February 1st, 2027.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

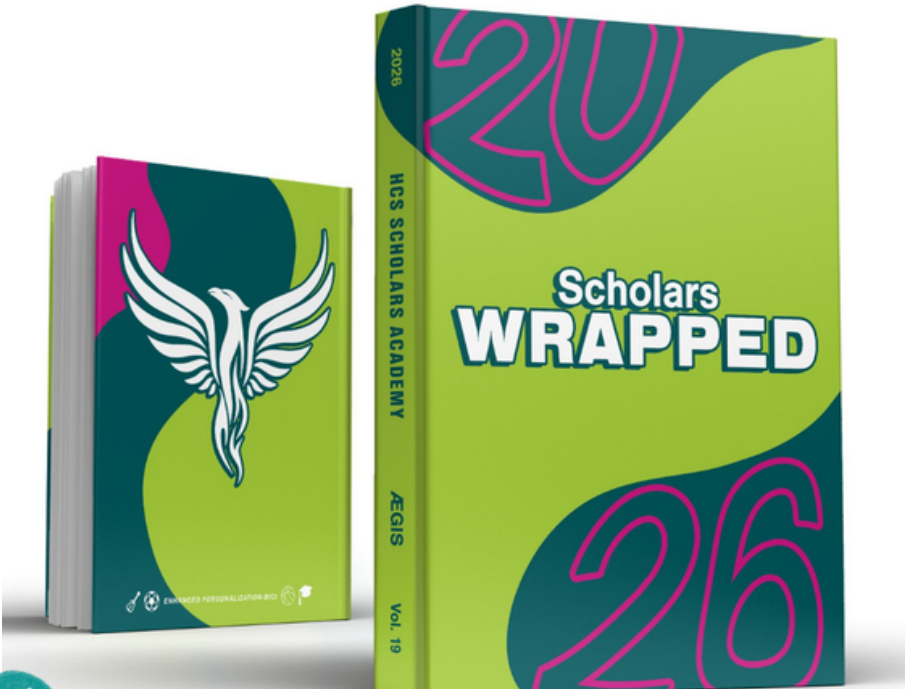
Debit card, credit card, PayPal,
Venmo, Shopify, Google Pay,
and PayPal Pay in 4*.

*Minimum payment of \$35

NEED HELP WITH YOUR ONLINE ORDER?
TOLL FREE: 866-287-3096

Varsity  YEARBOOK

DON'T FORGET
PICTURE DAY IS
TOMORROW!!
AUGUST 28TH



SENIORS

YEARBOOK ANNOUNCEMENT



HCS Scholars Academy

-  New yearbook company: Varsity Yearbook
-  Order online at yearbookordercenter.com
-  School ID: 10480

Yearbook Pricing (Tax Included)

- \$50.00 through 10/31
- \$55.00 starting 11/1
- \$60.00 starting 2/1

Extras

-  Imprint Name: \$5.00
-  Icons: \$1.00 each

 Extras can only be added to complete online orders and must be added by 1/15.

Order early for the best price!

AP TESTING DATES 2025

Date	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 p.m.
May 3	Human Geography	Biology
May 4	US Government & Politics	European History
May 5	English Literature	Physics 1
May 6	World History	Chemistry
May 7	US History	No Testing

Date	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 p.m.
May 10	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Capstone Seminar
May 11	No Testing	Statistics
May 12	English Language	No Testing
May 13	No Testing	Environmental Science
May 14	Comparative Government	No Testing
May 19-23	Late Testing by Subject	Late Testing by Subject

FINAL EXAMS AND GRADUATION

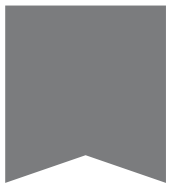


CCU FINAL EXAM DATES

Fall
December 7–11, 2026

Spring
April 28–May 4, 2027

**GRADUATION CEREMONY DATE WILL
BE RELEASED WHEN THE DATE IS
DETERMINED BY HCS.**



FINAL EXAM EXEMPTIONS

HCS Policy

District Exam Exemption Policy (NEW 2026-2027 SY)

Students in grades 9-12 and middle school students in high school credit courses may be exempt from district or teacher created final exams under the following conditions.

To be eligible for a course exam exemption, a student must meet **one** of the following criteria:

- **Attendance-Based Exemption** - The student must have no more than the following number of absences (excused or unexcused) in the course and a grade of C or higher.
 - Year-long course: Maximum of TWO absences
 - 90-day semester course: Maximum of TWO absences
 - 45-day (½ credit) course: Maximum of ONE absence

NOTE: Students may not make up seat time to qualify for this exemption.

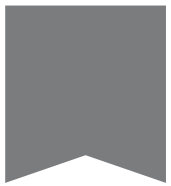
- **Grade-Based Exemption** - The student must have a current average of 90 or above in the course.

EOC Courses & CCU Exams

State exams are not subject to this district policy:

- EOC scores will still be entered into the E1 category.
- EOC scores will still count for 20% of the course grade.

CCU exams are not governed by HCS, and this policy does not apply to their exam requirements.



EXEMPTION STATUS

Determining Exemption Status

- Status will be determine by grades and attendance as of 3:00 pm on 12/18.
- An email will be sent to the student and CC'd to parent/guardian if she/he needs an exam.
- Students will be asked to contact teachers to schedule their exams by January 8th.
- Students should complete exams during Scholars Station, and the teacher in Scholars Station will proctor.

SOUTH CAROLINA
Student **Loan**

ShaQuana Bracey
OUTREACH MANAGER

sbracey@scstudentloan.org
1901 Main Street Suite 400
Columbia, SC 29201