



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.



2019-20 Parent Student Guide

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Dear Students and Parents,

On behalf of Horry County Schools (HCS) and the Horry County Board of Education, welcome to a brand new school year. As we savor the last few days of summer, we all find ourselves caught up in the excitement of going back to school. Each year brings new opportunities, new challenges, new friends, and new discoveries that help us all prepare for futures that hold unlimited possibilities.

It is our collective goal to ensure that HCS provides you an excellent education and an excellent experience. As we work to meet and exceed your expectations, we ask that you spend some time reviewing the 2019-2020 Parent Student Guide. You'll find this guide presents a wealth of information that is useful throughout the year. We also encourage you to take advantage of multiple online offerings to keep you engaged year-round, including our website at www.horrycountyschools.net and our convenient and dynamic mobile app that puts the information you want in a powerful, portable platform.

We invite you to get involved with greater use of the technological tools we have available for you and with good old-fashioned techniques that never seem to fail such as face-to-face conversations that help us connect.

It is our pleasure to have you as a valuable member of HCS. Welcome back to school. Welcome to new beginnings that will inspire possibilities.

Sincerely,

Rick Maxey, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools





Horry County Schools is fully accredited by AdvancED, 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, AdvanceED is a trusted partner to 34,000 schools and school systems across the United States and 70 other nations.



U.S. News & World Report ranked three District schools among the Top 25 Best High Schools in South Carolina, to include Carolina Forest (#18), St. James (#23), and Socastee (#24). Each school received a Silver medal. Additionally, North Myrtle Beach, Aynor, and the HCS Early College high schools earned Bronze medals.

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 you 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 attain records from a previous school and to enable parents ample opportunities to comply with registration requirements unique to South Carolina. For a list of schools with telephone numbers, visit www.horrycountyschools.net and select the **About Us** link on our website and click on **Our Schools**.

If you are new to Horry County and you 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 either the *School Locator* and/or the *Bus Stop Locator* for assistance.

If you have your ID and password in hand and you 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 upon 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.



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 2019-2020 school year is \$4,854. 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: K - 12th grades: 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; OR

Tdap Booster: 7th - 12th grades: One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine received on or after the seventh birthday; This dose may be included as one of the doses needed to meet the requirement for Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis;

Polio: K- 7th grades: Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday; or 8th - 12th grades: Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday; or four (4) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine (IPV) with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday, if all doses are separated by at least four weeks:

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

Hepatitis B: K - 12th grades: 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; and

Varicella: K – 5th grades: Two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least four weeks or a positive history of disease; or 6th - 12th grades: One (1) dose of Varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of 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): One (1) dose of Hemophilus influenza Type B vaccine at or after 15 months of age is required. Hib vaccine is not required for children ages 5 and older;

Rubeola (Measles); Rubella (German Measles) and Mumps: One (1) dose of the MMR vaccine received on or after the first birthday;

Hepatitis B: Three (3) doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine with the third dose received after 24 weeks of age and at least 16 weeks after the first dose:

Varicella: One (1) dose of Varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or a positive history of the disease; and

Pneumococcal: One (1) dose of the PCV13 vaccine on or after the second birthday is required. Pneumococcal vaccine is not required for children age five 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 375 buses each day, which run 1,366 routes. Annually, our bus fleet travels 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 upon 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.

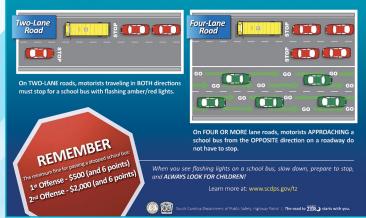
Bus riders are expected to demonstrate responsible student behavior to enable drivers to focus on roadway safety. Bus transportation is a privilege that can be suspended if a student's behavior creates an unsafe condition on the bus. Surveillance may be used as evidence during disciplinary proceedings.

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.
- Parents must provide 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.
- 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 Jim Wright, Executive Director of Transportation, at 843.488.6955.

Do you know when to stop for a school bus?



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.
- Aisles and stairwells must be kept clear.
- Books, lunch boxes, or other student cargo should be placed 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.
- Food and beverages cannot be consumed on the bus.
- Bus windows are only to be opened with 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.



- 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 file, 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 the timely arrival of their children to, from, and at the designated school bus stop. For purposes of this section, the phrase "arrival of the school bus" means the time the assigned bus arrives at the designated bus stop and activates the required pedestrian safety devices, stops, and loads or unloads students and 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	
Carolina Forest Attendance Area	843.236.0705
Conway Attendance Area	843.488.6094
Green Sea Floyds Attendance Area	
Loris Attendance Area	843.390.6822
Myrtle Beach Attendance Area	843.445.2041
North Myrtle Beach Attendance Area	
St. James Attendance Area	
Socastee Attendance Area	843.293.6941
District Transportation Office	843.488.6957
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Information about bus routes, including bus numbers and expected pick-up and drop-off times, are available at each school and on the HCS website. Select the bus icon from our home page, then from the menu on the left navigation, choose *Bus Stop Locator* for assistance.





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.

Paying for meals

There are several payment options available to purchase meals at school. Paying in advance ensures that your child does not have to keep up with lunch money. You can pre-pay online by creating an account at www.myschoolbucks.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 at any time.

If a student does not have lunch money, he or she may charge up to \$20. Parents will be notified by phone and/or letter to send payment. If parents refuse to pay for meals, students may be provided a courtesy meal which will consist of a sandwich and beverage. If family circumstances change during the year making it difficult to pay for meals at school, parents may apply for free or reduced-pricemeals at any time.

Reduced-price and free meals

Reduced-price and free meals are available to those who qualify. Eligibility is determined by the number of persons in a household and Federal Income Guidelines. Children in households receiving SNAP or TANF benefits and foster children qualify for free meals regardless of income. Family applications are available online at www.horrycountyschools.net and may be completed at any time during the school year. Applicants may be asked to provide written documentation to support information provided in the application. Contact the cafeteria manager at your child's school or the HCS Nutrition Services staff at 843.488.6925 for more information.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools

Schools that are designated as Community Eligibility Provision 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 2018-2019 school year will still be responsible for paying all charges owed to the Nutrition Services program.

If a student transfers from a CEP school to another District school that is not on the CEP listing, parents may complete an online Free & Reduced Meal Application to determine if the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. Families with multiple students in different schools will need to complete an online Free & Reduced Meal Application if any students are enrolled in a school not included on the CEP listing.

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 add a-la-carte items must have money to pay for the additional purchase or must have credit in their account. 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 may be purchased, as well as any items offered as part of the regular meal. A-la-carte items are available at all schools.

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.



You can set up meal accounts online through MySchoolBucks.com. Meal payments are not accepted by MyPaymentsPlus.com. Contact your school for more information.

2019-	-20 M	ieal Pr	rices
Ele	mentar	y School	3
Meals	Daily	Semester	
Breakfast (Full Price)	\$1,10	\$99,00	\$198,00
Breakfast (Reduced-Price)	\$0,30	\$27,00	\$64.00
Lunch (Full Price)	\$2,50	\$225,00	\$450,00
Lunch (Reduced-Price)	\$0,40	\$36,00	\$72,00
Midd	le and	High Sch	ools
Meals	Daily	Semester	Yearly
Breakfast (Full Pay)	\$1,10	\$99,00	\$198,00
Breakfast (Reduced-Price)	\$0,30	\$27.00	\$54.00
Lunch (Full Price)	\$2,60	\$234,00	\$468,00
Lunch (Reduced-Price)	\$0,40	\$36,00	\$72,00

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, regardless of whether it's the first day of school or the year of graduation. Throughout the year, there will be multiple opportunities for you 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 compare 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 how well they are progressing 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. Select *Departments*, click on *Assessment*, and choose *Testing Calendar* from the navigation menu on the left.

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 2

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/.

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

 $\begin{array}{ll} A=90\text{-}100 \text{ percent} & D=60\text{-}69 \text{ percent} \\ B=80\text{-}89 \text{ percent} & F=59 \text{ percent and below} \\ C=70\text{-}79 \text{ percent} & \end{array}$

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.

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical	Letter	College Prep	Honors	AP/IB/Dual
Average	Grade	Weighting	Weighting	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	В	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	В	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	В	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	В	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	В	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	В	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	В	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	В	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	В	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	В	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	С	2.900	3,400	3.900
78	С	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	С	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	С	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	С	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	С	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	С	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	С	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	С	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	С	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

High school options offer unique opportunities

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

The **Scholars Academy** is a partnership between HCS and Coastal Carolina University (CCU) to provide advanced students with more challenging coursework in a unique learning environment. The Scholars Academy 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 www.ibo.org.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs with advanced coursework are based at the Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology and 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 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, career mentors, tuition-free college credit, and individual career and life counseling services.

HCS Virtual provides courses that are taught by experienced teachers who are trained in teaching in an online environment. If a student wants to take a class that isn't available, needs to solve a scheduling conflict, or wishes to take more advanced courses, HCS Virtual offers online solutions. Even if students are behind on a class or transferred from another state, HCS Virtual has options to help them get back on track for graduation. Dozens of courses are available, including AP and Honors, in every content area to meet curriculum needs, personal interests, and level of rigor where students can be challenged and experience success. For more information on HCS Virtual, contact the school guidance counselor or visit horrycountyschools.net/hcsvirtual.

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 freshman 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, Building Construction, Certified Medical Assistant, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Digital Art and Design, Emergency and Fire Management Services, Engineering, Esthetics, Health Science/Nursing, Health Science/Pre-Med, and Pre-law.

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, Digital and Web Communications, Entertainment Technology, Pre-Engineering, Pre-Medicine, Computer Science, and Theatre.

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 work force after graduation are encouraged to complete a CATE course.

Seals of Distinction for State High School Diplomas

Students who enrolled as freshman during, or after, the 2018-2019 school year may earn one or more Seals of Distinction for their high school diplomas, to include 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: English I, II, III, IV and V, with at least two courses at the honors level or higher;
- Mathematics: Algebra I, Geometry I, and Algebra II, with at least two courses at the honors level or higher and a fourth course with Algebra II as a pre-requisite;
- Science: three units of lab science, including at least one course in biology and one course in chemistry and a third science course that requires biology and chemistry as a prerequisite, two of three science courses must be at the honors level or higher;
- Social Studies: three units to include U.S. History, Government/ Economics, and a third course of the student's choice, with two of three courses at the honors level or higher;

- World Language: at least two world language courses in the same language other than English;
- Advanced Coursework: at least four higher-level courses taken during junior and senior years with quality points at the honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual-credit levels: and
- a GPA of 3.5 or higher on the State Uniform Grading Scale.

College Seal requirements:

- Mathematics: Algebra I, Geometry I and Algebra II, with at least two courses at the Honors level or higher and a fourth mathematics course, with either Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics III as a prerequisite:
- Science: three units of lab science, including one course in biology, one course in chemistry, and a third lab science with biology or chemistry as a prerequisite;
- Social Studies: three units of social studies including U.S. History & Government/Economics and a third course of the student's choice;
- World Language: at least two world language courses other than English;
- · Fine Arts: at least one fine arts course; and
- a GPA of 3.0 or higher on the State Uniform Grading Scale or the college-ready benchmark on the ACT (18 in English or 22 in mathematics).

Career Seal requirements:

- Mathematics: Algebra I, Geometry I, and Algebra II, or a customized mathematics sequence and a fourth mathematics course (including applied mathematics courses) aligned to postsecondary career goals;
- Science: three units of science with at least one course in biology and two courses (including applied science courses) aligned to postsecondary career goals;
- Completion of a Major: four aligned courses within a career cluster in one of 16 National Career Clusters*;
- one industry-recognized credential, a Career Readiness Certificate at the Silver level or higher on WorkKeys (or designated assessment) or a semester-long Work-Based Learning placement credit; and
- a GPA of at least 2.5 on the State Uniform Grading Scale.

*National Career Clusters include the following: Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; The Arts, A/V Technology and Communication; Business Management and Administration; Education and Training; Finance; Government and



to fill with an animating, quickening, or exalting influence

Public Administration; Health Science; Hospitality and Tourism; Human Services; Information Technology; Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security; Manufacturing; Marketing; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); and Transportation, Distributions and Logistics.

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. Requirements for Specialization Seals are described

- STEM: four elective courses beyond the mathematics, science, and technology course requirements for a State High School Diploma. At least two courses must be at the honors level or higher;
- World Language: proficiency in a language other than English by completing a four-course concentration in the same language and/or by demonstrating proficiency with a score of "Intermediate Low" or higher on the American Council for Teaching of Foreign Language Exam. If taken before the senior year, an AP exam score of 3 or higher, or IB exam score of 4 or higher, may demonstrate proficiency;
- The Arts: four elective courses in one or more areas of the arts, with two or more at the honors or AP/IB levels. Students must demonstrate mastery on an externally-validated performance task (a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam or a 4 or higher on an
- Military: four courses in JROTC and a score of 31 or higher on the ASVAB assessment.

South Carolina Academic Honors Award

Students who enrolled as freshman during, or before, the 2017-2018 school year are eligible to receive a South Carolina Academic Achievement Honors Award. Eligible students must complete the 24 units required for graduation. Of the 24 units required for graduation, 18 units must be in college preparatory coursework, four units in additional electives, and two units 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 units
- mathematics (Algebra I or above): 4 units;
- laboratory sciences: 3 units;
- social studies (United States History and Constitution, economics and United States Government, with 1 unit of world history, world geography, or western civilization: 3 units;
- computer science: 1 unit;
- physical education; 1 unit; and
- foreign language: 2 units.

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 Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing subtest;
- a score of 690 or higher on the SAT mathematics subtest:
- a score of 30 or higher on the ACT English;
- a score of 33 or higher on the ACT mathematics;
- a composite score of 1400 on the SAT (Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing and Math); or
- an ACT composite of 31.

Horry County Schools' Honors Certificate

A Horry County Schools Honors Certificate may be awarded to students who began their freshman year during, or before, the 2017-2018 school year, who exceed the requirements for graduation and meet the following additional requirements:

- maintain a GPA of 4.0 or higher;
- earn a SAT composite score of 1000 or higher (Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing and Mathematics) or an ACT composite score of 22 or higher;
- Complete five or more mathematics courses and four or more science courses:
- Complete three or more courses at the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual-credit levels;
- Complete three courses in the same foreign language or four courses in two different foreign languages;

 Earn 28 Carnegie units and show evidence of participation in at least one school-sponsored organization during grades 10-12, or complete 50 hours of approved community service during high school.

Eligibility for the HCS Honors Certificate is determined after the 135th day of school in the semester of graduation. Students with serious behavioral offenses may be denied an HCS Honors Certificate, even if they meet the above stated criteria.

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 Plan (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 for coursework that are aligned with the South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards to include:

- English language arts: 4 units;
- · employability education: 4 units; and
- electives: 6 units.

Students must also:

- complete a career portfolio that includes a multimedia presentation project;
- obtain work readiness assessment results that demonstrate the student is ready for competitive employment; and

complete at least 360 hours of work-based learning/training that is aligned with goals identified in the student's IEP.

Horry County Schools' Occupational Certificate:

District students with disabilities who enrolled as freshmen during, or before, the 2017-2018 school year may be eligible to receive an HCS Occupational Certificate. The certificate focuses on independent post-school employment and living skills. Eligible students are required to do the following:

- complete a minimum of 24 courses;
- complete a career portfolio and develop/present a multimedia senior venture;
- demonstrate grade-level equivalence of 6.0 or above in reading and math or show annual growth through diagnostic testing;
- complete an internship, apprenticeship, or job experience earning 360 hours or more within the identified career cluster;
- show self-determination and self-management skills;
- understand daily living skills needed for independent living;
- know how to use public transportation, and/or obtain a driver's license:
- use a computer to find, process, and publish information;
- · complete at least 20 hours of community service; and
- · demonstrate self-advocacy skills.

Of the 24 courses required for an HCS Occupational Certificate, four must be in English/reading, four in math, one in health/PE, two in science, two in social studies, four in career preparation, and seven additional courses determined by the Individualized Education Plan



HESGrad2019

(IEP) team. The HCS Occupational Certificate will remain an option for students with disabilities who exit high school through the 2020-2021 school year.

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 prescribed by their IEP Team. 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 Occupational Certificate or 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

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.

2019 HCS Graduates by the numbers:

- 2,715 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 \$75 million in scholarships;
- 92% of college-bound graduates met eligibility requirements for scholarships supported by the South Carolina Education Lottery;
- 87% of college-bound seniors will attend post-secondary schools in South Carolina;
- 14% of graduates earned a HCS Honors Certificates;
- Surpassed the national composite on the 2018 SAT by 46 points with a District composite of 1095; the number of test takers increased by seven percent; and
- Collectively, graduates earned 3,185 dual credit classes, which qualify for both high school and college course credits with a value of \$4.9 million if purchased as college 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 Parent 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 webpage.

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 that 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 could possibly 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 mathematic 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), 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 organizers 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 Passport

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-in 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 either 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 percent of the school day. Middle and high school students are considered in attendance when present for 51 percent of a class period. Perfect attendance for all students is defined as being present for a minimum of 51 percent of each day for the entire year.

Please review pages 3-4 of the Student Policy Guide insert included in this Parent/Student 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.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family 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 by 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 the a student's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, dates of attendance, and participation in extra-curricular activities and events that are sponsored by the school. 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/brochures/parents.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, to include the names, addresses and telephone numbers of students. Parents, or students age 18 or older, may request to withhold information from release by completing an online form located on the District webpage or the homepages of each District high school no later than October 26, 2019. Information will be released to recruiters on or about November 1. Requests are valid for one year and must be resubmitted annually.









Horry County Board of Education

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District Office Directory

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Adult Education 843.488.6200	Health Services
Athletics	High School Options 843.488.6908
Attendance 843.488.6703	Home School843.488.6723
Facilities (Construction/Maintenance)843.488.6965	Human Resources
Child Development (4 year-old) 843.488.6564	Legal & Policy Matters 843.488.6723
Curriculum 843.488.6764	Media Services
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Fine Arts	PowerSchool 843.488.6881
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School Improvement Council 843.488.6554
School & Student Safety 843.488.6835
Special Education
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Transcripts
Transportation



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