

GCHSEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association

Member Handbook

The South Carolina Home School Law

Revised January 2018



Table of Contents

SC Home School Law

SC Home School Law Disclaimer	3
Chapter 65 Attendance of Pupils Compulsory Attendance	4
Home Schooling Programs Options 1, 2, 3	6
SC Law (Easy Format)	10

South Carolina Homeschool Law

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Chapter 65

Attendance of Pupils

Article 1.

Compulsory Attendance

Section 59-65-10

Responsibility of parent or guardian; transportation for kindergarten pupils.

(A) A parent or guardian shall require his child to attend regularly a public or private school or kindergarten of this State which has been approved by the State Board of Education, a member school of the South Carolina Independent Schools' Association, a member school of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, or some similar organization, or a parochial, denominational, or church related school, or other programs which have been approved by the State Board of Education from the school year in which the child is five years of age before September first until the child attains his seventeenth birthday or graduates from high school. A parent or guardian whose child is not six years of age on or before the first day of September of a particular school year may elect for their child or ward not to attend kindergarten. For this purpose, the parent or guardian shall sign a written document making the election with the governing body of the school district in which the parent or guardian resides. The form of this written document must be prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education. Upon the written election being executed, that child is not required to attend kindergarten.

(B) Each school district shall provide transportation to and from public school for all pupils enrolled in public kindergarten classes who request the transportation. Regulations of the State Board of Education governing the operation of school buses shall apply.

Section 59-65-20

Penalty for failure to enroll or cause child to attend school.

Any parent or guardian who neglects to enroll his child or ward or refuses to make such child or ward attend school shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than fifty dollars or be imprisoned not more than thirty days; each day's absence shall constitute a separate offense; provided, the court may in its discretion suspend the sentence of anyone convicted of the provisions of this article.

Section 59-65-30.

Exceptions.

The provisions of this article do not apply to:

(a) A child who has graduated from high school or has received the equivalent of a high school education from a school approved by the State Board of Education, member school of South Carolina Independent Schools' Association, a private school in existence at the time of the passage of this article, or a member school of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools;

(b) A child who obtains a certificate from a psychologist certified by the State Department of Education or from a licensed physician stating that he is unable to attend school because of a physical or mental disability, provided there are no suitable special classes available for such child in the school district where he resides;

(c) A child who has completed the eighth grade and who is determined by the court to be legally and gainfully employed whose employment is further determined by such court to be necessary for the maintenance of his home;

(d) [Reserved]

(e) A student who has a child and who is granted a temporary waiver from attendance by the district's attendance supervisor or his designee. The district attendance supervisor may grant a temporary waiver only if he determines that suitable day care is unavailable. The student must consult with the district supervisor or his designee in a timely manner to consider all available day care options or the district shall consider the student to be in violation of this chapter.

(f) A child who has reached the age of sixteen years and whose further attendance in school, vocational school, or available special classes is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be disruptive to the educational program of the school, unproductive of further learning, or not in the best interest of the child, and who is authorized by the court to enter into suitable gainful employment under the supervision of the court until age seventeen is attained. However, prior to being exempted from the provisions of this article, the court may first require that the child concerned be examined physically and tested mentally to assist the court to determine whether or not gainful employment would be more suitable for the child than continued attendance in school. The examination and testing must be conducted by the

Department of Youth Services or by any local agency which the court determines to be appropriate. The court shall revoke the exemption provided in this item upon a finding that the child fails to continue in his employment until reaching the age of seventeen years.

Section 59-65-40.

Home schooling programs (**OPTION 1**)

(A) Parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is approved by the district board of trustees of the district in which the children reside. A district board of trustees shall approve home schooling programs which meet the following standards:

(1) the parent:

(a) holds at least a high school diploma or the equivalent general educational development (GED) certificate and, beginning in the 1989 90 school year, attains a passing score on the basic skills examination developed pursuant to Section 59 26 20(b)(1) after the State Department of Education has validated the test for use with home schooling parents; or

(b) has earned a baccalaureate degree;

(2) the instructional day is at least four and one-half hours, excluding lunch and recesses, and the instructional year is at least one hundred eighty days;

(3) the curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature;

(4) as evidence that a student is receiving regular instruction, the parent shall present a system for maintaining and maintain the following records for inspection upon reasonable notice by a representative of the school district:

(a) a plan book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities in which the student and parent engage;

(b) a portfolio of samples of the student's academic work; and

(c) a record of evaluations of the student's academic progress. A semiannual progress report including attendance records and individualized assessments of the student's academic progress in each of the basic instructional areas specified in item (3) must be submitted to the school district.

(5) students must have access to library facilities;

(6) students must participate in the annual statewide testing program and the Basic Skills Assessment Program approved by the State Board of Education for their appropriate grade level. The tests must be administered by a certified school district employee either with public school students or by special arrangement at the student's place of instruction, at the parent's option. The parent is responsible for paying the test administrator if the test is administered at the student's home; and

(7) parents must agree in writing to hold the district, the district board of trustees and the district's employees harmless for any educational deficiencies of the student sustained as a result of home instruction.

At any time, the school district determines that the parent is not maintaining the home school program in keeping with the standards specified in this section the district board of trustees shall notify the parent to correct the deficiencies within thirty days. If the deficiencies are not corrected within thirty days, the district board of trustees may withdraw its approval.

(B) The district board of trustees shall provide for an application process which elicits the information necessary for processing the home-schooling request, including a description of the program, the texts and materials to be used, the methods of program evaluation, and the place of instruction. Parents must be notified in advance of the date, place, and time of the meeting at which the application is considered by the board and parents may be heard at the meeting.

(C) Within the first fifteen instructional days of the public-school year, students participating in home instruction and eligible for enrollment in the first grade of the public schools must be tested to determine their readiness for the first grade using the readiness instrument approved by the State Board of Education for public school students. If a student is determined to be "not ready" or is determined to lack the necessary emotional maturity, the parent must be advised by appropriate school district personnel whether a kindergarten or a first-grade curriculum should be used for the child. Nothing in this section may be interpreted to conflict with a parent's right to exempt his child from kindergarten as provided in Section 59 65 10(A).

(D) Should a student in a home schooling program score below the test requirements of the promotion standard prescribed for public school students by the State Board of Education for one year, the district board of trustees shall decide whether or not the student shall receive appropriate instructional placement in the public school, special services as a handicapped student, or home schooling with an instructional support system at parental expense. The right of

a parent to enroll his child in a private or parochial school as provided in Section 59 65 10(A) is unaffected by this provision.

(E) If a parent is denied permission to begin or continue home schooling by a district board of trustees, the decision of the district board of trustees may be appealed, within ten days, to the State Board of Education. Any appeal from the decision of the State Board of Education must be taken, within thirty days, to the family court.

Section 59-65-45.

Alternative home schooling requirements. (**OPTION 2**)

In lieu of the requirements of Section 59 65 40, parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools exempts the home school from the further requirements of Section 59 65 40.

The State Department of Education shall conduct annually a review of the association standards to ensure that requirements of the association, at a minimum, include:

(a) a parent must hold at least a high school diploma or the equivalent general educational development (GED) certificate;

(b) the instructional year is at least one hundred eighty days; and

(c) the curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature.

By January thirtieth of each year, the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools shall report the number and grade level of children home schooled through the association to the children's respective school districts.

Section 59-65-46.

Home schooling of foster child.

A foster parent may teach a foster child at home as provided in Sections 59-65-40, 59-65-45, or any other provision of law, if, in addition to any other requirements, home schooling of the child has been approved by the Department of Social Services or other agency having custody of the child.

Section 59-65-47.

Associations for home schools; requirements. **(OPTION 3)**

In lieu of the requirements of Section 59 65 40 or Section 59 65 45, parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of an association for home schools which has no fewer than fifty members and meets the requirements of this section. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of the associations exempts the home school from the further requirements of Section 59 65 40 or Section 59 65 45.

The State Department of Education shall conduct annually a review of the association standards to ensure that requirements of the association, at a minimum, include:

- (a) a parent must hold at least a high school diploma or the equivalent general educational development (GED) certificate;
- (b) the instructional year is at least one hundred eighty days;
- (c) the curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature; and
- (d) educational records shall be maintained by the parent teacher and include:
 - (1) a plan book, diary, or other record indicating subjects taught and activities in which the student and parent teacher engage;
 - (2) a portfolio of samples of the student's academic work; and
 - (3) a semiannual progress report including attendance records and individualized documentation of the student's academic progress in each of the basic instructional areas specified in item (c) above.

By January thirtieth of each year, all associations shall report the number and grade level of children home schooled through the association to the children's respective school districts.

South Carolina Law

Compulsory Attendance Ages: “five years of age before September first until...seventeenth birthday or” graduation from high school. Any parents whose child is “not six years of age on or before the first day of September of a particular school year may elect for their child” not to attend kindergarten, and then must sign a written document with the school district. S.C. Code & 59-65-47.

Required Days of Instruction: 180 days. S.C. Code & 59-65-50(A)/&59-65-45/&59-65-47.

Required subjects: Reading, writing, math, science, and social studies (grades 7-12) composition and literature. S.C. Code & 59-65-50(A)/& 59-65-45/&59-65-47.

Home School Statute: There are *three options* to legally home school:

Option 1: S.C. Code & 59-65-40. Parents “may teach their children at home if the instruction is approved by the district board of trustees.” The boards “shall approve” (they have no discretion) if:

1. The parent has either: (a) at least a high school diploma or GED (the basic skills exam was struck down by the S.C. Supreme Court – see below); (b) or earned a baccalaureate degree;
2. The instructional day is at least four and one-half hours, and the year at least 180 days;
3. The curriculum includes the required subjects listed above;
4. The parent presents a system of maintaining records as evidence of regular instruction including a) a plan book or other record of subjects taught and activities, b) a portfolio of the child's work, and a record of academic evaluations, with a semiannual progress report to be submitted to the school district;
5. The student has access to library facilities;
6. The student participates in the annual statewide testing program and the Basic Skills Assessment Program;
7. And the parents release the district from liability regarding their child's education.

Parents may appeal school district decisions to the State Board of Education within ten days. They may appeal State Board decisions to the Family Court within 30 days.

Option 2: Parents may teach their children at home by becoming members of the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools (SCAIHS) under S.C. Code § 59-65-45 (effective April 8, 1992). “In lieu of the requirements of § 59-65-40, parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools exempts the home school from the further requirements of § 59-65-40.” Under this option

parents or guardians must meet the following requirements: (1) hold at least a high school diploma or GED; (2) the instructional year is at least 180 days; and (3) the curriculum includes the required subjects listed above.

Home schoolers who become members of SCAIHS are exempt from all other requirements listed in Option 1 above.

Option 3. Parents may teach their children at home by becoming members of an association for home schools which has no fewer than fifty members under S.C. Code § 59-65-47 (effective June 20, 1996). “In lieu of the requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45, parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of an association for home schools which has no fewer than fifty members and meets the requirements of this section. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of the associations exempts the home school from the further requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45.” Under this option parents or guardians must meet the following requirements:

1. hold at least a high school diploma or GED;
2. an instructional year of at least 180 days;
3. the curriculum includes the required subjects listed above; and
4. educational records maintained by the parent include:
 - a. a plan book or other record of subjects taught and activities;
 - b. a portfolio of the child’s work; and
 - c. a semiannual progress report.

Teacher Qualifications: Parents must have a high school diploma or GED. The South Carolina Supreme Court in HSLDA’s case, Lawrence, et al. v. S.C. State Board of Education, 412 S.E.2d 394 (1991), found the basic skills exam (Education Entrance Examination) to be invalid and prohibited it from being required for home schoolers.

Standardized Tests: All students complying with § 59-65-40 (Option “1” above) must participate in the annual statewide testing program and the Basic Skills Assessment Program, and

if they do not perform well enough on the test to meet the public school promotion standard for advancing to the next grade, the school district will decide if they should be put in a public school, receive special handicapped services, or have instructional support for home schooling at the parents' expense. § 59-65-40(D). The tests must be administered by a "certified school district employee." Those who enroll in SCAIHS (Option 2) or another home school association (Option 3) are exempt from state testing.

Home Visits: On February 27, 1989, the Attorney General issued an opinion declaring that school districts have no authority to require home visits.

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About GCSHEA

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Table of Contents

GCSHEA Information

About GCSHEA	3
Responsibilities of Membership	5
Record Keeping	6
Planning Tips	8
Guidelines for Special Needs Membership	10
What is SCHEA and why should I join?	11
What is HSLDA and why do I need it?	12

GCSHEA

We operate under the following section on the SC Home School Law:

Option 3: SC Code 59-65-47

Requirements:

1. Parent or guardian must hold at least a high school diploma.
2. The instructional year must be at least 180 days. Per HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association), this law does not allow for sick days or teacher work days, there must be at least 180 actual days of instruction. The school year may begin any time on or after June 1st, but it must be completed by May 31st.
3. The curriculum taught must include the required subjects of Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, GCSHEA requires that a minimum of 75% of the planned curriculum be completed each year.
4. Educational records are to be maintained by the parent. They should include:
 - a. A plan book or other record of subjects taught and activities.
 - b. A portfolio of the child's work
 - c. A semiannual progress report (mid-year paperwork)

ABOUT GCSHEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association (GCSHEA) is an accountability organization which formed under South Carolina Code 59-65-47, in 1996. Membership in this association provides accountability in the state of South Carolina; however, the parents are ultimately responsible for compliance with all parts of the law and for the education of their children.

GCSHEA has a board of directors, composed of parents of student members, which establishes policies and oversees the general operations of the association. GCSHEA has an administrator who handles the daily functions and public contact for the association. GCSHEA has curriculum review committees that review all applications and Parent Report Cards submitted from the membership.

We provide services such as:

- Maintaining records
- Reporting to school districts
- Consulting and advising
- Providing transcripts and diplomas
- Offering group standardized testing

Membership in GCSHEA is open to families who are home-educating their children in K5 thru 12th grades and are willing to abide by the Responsibilities of Membership.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

As members of Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association (GCSHEA), we understand and agree that we, the parents, are ultimately responsible for the education of our children. In keeping with this, we agree to do the following during the full duration of our membership in this association.

- _____ 1. Read and acknowledge the GCSHEA Statement of Faith.
- _____ 2. Read and uphold the policies in the appropriate GCSHEA Handbooks.
- _____ 3. Prayerfully select and plan for the education of our children.
- _____ 4. Plan an appropriate course of study for each student and provide the curriculum and materials necessary to implement the course of study.
- _____ 5. Teach the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and history or social studies; and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature. *
- _____ 6. Teach 180 days per school year* to end on or before May 31st.
- _____ 7. Maintain the following records: *
 - a. A daily plan book, daily diary, or other daily written record indicating subjects taught and activities in which the student and parent engage.
 - b. A portfolio of samples of the student's academic work.
- _____ 8. Submit the following reports and evaluations:
 - a. Parent Report Card, for each student by July 10th.
 - b. Midyear evaluation for each student* by January 10th.
 - c. End-of-year forms for each student* indicating at least 75% completion of coursework by June 10th.
- _____ 9. Make adequate library facilities available to each student.
- _____ 10. Ensure that students take a standardized test in the following grades: 4th, 5th, or 6th and again in 8th or 9th; and submit a copy of the scores to GCSHEA by July 10th. (Certificate of Education students see testing policy in HS Handbook)
- _____ 11. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend annual meeting regarding recent developments and changes in GCSHEA Policy.
- _____ 12. Strongly consider membership in the Home School Legal Defense Association.
- _____ 13. Pay the annual membership fees on time.
- _____ 14. Verify that the primary teacher has at least a high school degree or a GED. *
- _____ 15. Resolve any issues of truancy before seeking membership.

Any member who fails to abide by the Responsibilities of Membership and/or exhibits personal conduct that is not in accordance with the beliefs and philosophies of GCSHEA, may be removed from membership.

The Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association is not liable for the following: the ability of the parent to teach; the effectiveness of the academic instruction and/or results thereof; the ability of the student members to assimilate knowledge and develop skills; the success of any particular curriculum; low or inconsistent test scores of its student members; qualification for and/or acceptance to the job market; qualification for and/or acceptance to college; nomination and/or acceptance for scholarships.

The responsibility to achieve academic excellence within the home school environment belongs to each individual family.

Father's Signature

Date

Mother's Signature

Date

*Required by South Carolina law

Record Keeping

Why is recordkeeping important?

- Homeschool records are the documented proof of your student's education, achievements, and valuable experiences.
- Records can help if you are ever involved in a court case or legal situation that challenges your homeschool. Legally, recordkeeping enables you to demonstrate that you are providing an appropriate education for your child.
- You are not only keeping records for other people, you are keeping them for yourself. Keeping track of your child's schoolwork, grades, and test scores helps you gauge your student's progress, and plan for the next year.
- Good records are especially crucial when your student reaches high school. Keep records so you don't short change your student.

What kinds of records should I keep?

- Comply with your state homeschool law.
- SC law requires you to keep a plan/record book of daily work, a portfolio of sample work, and a semi-annual progress report.
- Daily attendance
- Log of daily hours spent on different subjects; lists of curricula used, subjects taught, and grades given, standardized test scores.
- Letters or other documentation from authorities and government officials.
- High School transcripts, SAT or ACT scores
- Lists of extracurricular activities, volunteer work, job experience and skills.
- Reading lists
- Resume
- Certification or licenses your student has received.

Doesn't GCSHEA keep my records?

- GCSHEA keeps copies of the Parent Report Cards. GCSHEA also keeps a copy of all standardized test scores provided to us by you, the parent. We highly recommend that you keep a copy of these records in your files as well.

What should I keep for my child's portfolio of sample work?

- Some people keep everything for every child.
- The minimum requirement would be a sampling of each subject including 1 daily work per course per month, 1 test per course per month, 1 writing sample per month. For math, work and corrections should be shown.
- Some colleges require copies of textbook covers and tables of contents and extensive reading lists for the entirety of the high school years.

When do I start assigning letter/numerical grades?

- GCSHEA does not require a numerical grade until your student takes a course for high school credit.

- Know your student. If a letter/numerical grade would motivate your child to do their best work – then do it. If you don't want to pressure your child (or yourself) with grades, then don't worry about it. Middle school would be a good time to transition from the S, I, N grade to letter or numerical grades.

- Although GCSHEA only requires S, I, N on the Parent Report Card, it is fine if you want to use letter or numerical grades.

- Keep in mind, if you choose to transfer to another homeschool association or place your child back in a traditional school, your Parent Report Card will be your record of your child's progress. Letter grades may be more consistent with other educational institutions. South Carolina's grading scale is in the High School Section, please see SC Uniform Grading Policy for more information on grading.

Planning Tips

As teachers, the new school year is a great opportunity for us to evaluate where we are now and where we are going. SC Law requires that 180 days of school be completed each year.

GCSHEA requires that 75% of the planned curriculum be completed each year. Within this framework, there is a lot of room for both flexibility and creativity. According to HSLDA, under Option III of the Home School law, there are no specific requirements set forth to define a day of school (in contrast, Option I requires at least 4.5 hours of instruction be completed to count a day of school). This can allow freedom for days that you may want to focus on fewer subjects, work on projects, take educational field trips, etc. It can also relieve stress on days where more time is needed to complete a task than was planned or on days when things are just not flowing. This freedom cannot take the place of good planning; instead it should work with it. Good planning is important to ensure that the necessary curriculum is being covered and to avoid a pressure filled end of the year crunch. It can also bring structure and flow to the home school day.

The following tips on good planning have been compiled after reading several articles from the HSLDA website, including “Lesson Planning – A Strategy for Success” by Vicki Bentley and “Planning Tips” by Kara Murphy. They also include some of my own thoughts as well as advice I’ve received from other home school parents.

Planning can keep us focused and on track; it can also have pitfalls. Beware of:

1. Unrealistic planning – plans for what you should and would like to be doing without taking an honest account of what you really can do. Be careful not to plan too much for a given day. Plan a framework, have optional tasks that can be added or removed as time allows. Do not feel you must do every subject every day.
2. Over planning – planning down to the minute detail. Consider using an outline; leave room to adjust the specifics. For example, the number of problems to be completed on a work page or the number of pages to be read can be adjusted as time allows or as progress dictates.
3. Planning too far in advance – when you record tasks to be accomplished in advance, leaving no room to adjust, you can create frustration and an unnecessary feeling of being behind.

Be realistic. Think in terms of overview. Decide on a basic timeframe, and plan more specifically in smaller increments. Remember your curriculum is a tool, not a master. Recognize things you may be able to skip or combine. Take extra time for skills as needed. Make time for the life skills and character training as well as academics.

Be willing to take breaks, to take time off from a subject or skill, or to seek out a different perspective or approach when faced with a skill that is causing you or your child frustration.

Consider giving your child an overview of their daily or weekly tasks. Clear expectations can help your child “see” where things are heading and can give motivation to work forward if they know the “finish line” is near. Be careful not to “reward” hard work by adding additional assignments just because time allows. Sometimes working ahead is appropriate and helpful, but if extra work is added when a child completes an assignment, this could cause frustration.

Recognize that there will be tough days, sick days, good weather days, catch-up/laundry days and so on. Consider working educational game days or free/bonus days into your schedule. These days can be a welcome change of pace if you are caught up. They can also give you room to catch up or catch your breath if needed.

As we look to the new school year, this statement offers great wisdom and advice. “Plan prayerfully and realistically, execute those plans diligently, but hold them loosely.” Be encouraged! Have a blessed school year!

“Planning Tips” by Kara Murphy (article)

“Lesson Planning: Strategy for Success” HSLDA’s Homeschooling thru the Early Years Newsletter September 2010

Guidelines for Special Needs Membership

Definition: GCSHEA defines special needs as a student who is two or more years behind grade level.

Services Provided: GCSHEA offers accountability for special needs students. GCSHEA is not equipped, trained or staffed to provide assistance in special needs counseling. Therefore, in addition to our established membership procedures, membership for special needs students must include the following:

1. Independent documentation (other than the parent) of the nature and degree of the learning disability (i.e. a doctor's evaluation, independent testing results, a letter from a special needs counselor or a public school official).
2. Annual consultation with a special needs consultant and a report from the consultant that includes a progress report and plan for the school year.
3. Annual standardized testing as deemed appropriate by the special needs consultant.
4. Submission of the GCSHEA parent progress report for special needs children along with the Parent Report Card listing curriculum, number of school days, etc.

Options for Special Needs Consultants include HSLDA, your local school district, and private consultants.

What is SCHEA and why should I join?

SCHEA is a statewide organization whose mission is to monitor legislation in order to preserve homeschool rights in South Carolina and to encourage homeschool families and the organizations that serve South Carolina homeschoolers.

SCHEA was formed in 1987 to support home educators in South Carolina and to perform a lead role to create legal protection for home education in South Carolina. SCHEA, working with many other concerned individuals and organizations, was instrumental in convincing the state legislature to create the first South Carolina law requiring recognition of home schooling in 1988. Today, committed volunteer home school families from across the state continue to work through SCHEA to create opportunities, give support to the home school community, and promote an accurate and favorable image of home education in South Carolina.

SCHEA is not a government entity, therefore, our membership database is strictly confidential. Your membership in SCHEA helps support homeschoolers across the state, however, your SCHEA membership does not fulfill the obligation required within one of the three legal homeschool options. SCHEA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

What we offer:

SCHEA monitors legislation on the state and federal level that could affect home schoolers and provides alerts and updates when such legislation requires swift action on the part of home schoolers.

- SCHEA operates an information system networked with support groups across the state communicating events and announcements.
- SCHEA sponsors the state chapter, [Rho Gamma, of the Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society](#) to recognize academically gifted homeschooled students in South Carolina.
- SCHEA offers additional educational and unity-building opportunities through regional leadership training seminars.

For our members, SCHEA offers:

- A SCHEA Membership Card
- A weekly newsletter, SCHEA's Landscape, which informs families of upcoming statewide home schooling events, encourages members through relevant articles, lists useful resources, and keeps them current on pertinent information and legislative news concerning South Carolina home educators.
- Personal assistance, and a resourceful website, for those needing information on South Carolina's [home school laws](#), finding a [homeschool organization](#), and generally [getting started as a homeschooler](#).
- Promotion of local organizations groups around the state who [partner with SCHEA as member support groups](#).

SCHEA does a lot! SCHEA members are the reason that these and other homeschool support measures are in place to encourage South Carolina home education. Without member support, these homeschool services could not be provided. It is each of us doing what we can to ensure the success and freedom to homeschool in South Carolina.

If you support these purposes and ideals, we invite YOU to partner with home schoolers from across the state and [join SCHEA](#).

What is the HSLDA and why do I need it?



Home School Legal Defense Association is a nonprofit advocacy organization established to defend and advance the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedoms. Through annual memberships, HSLDA is tens of thousands of families united in service together, providing a strong voice when and where needed.

HSLDA advocates on the legal front on behalf of our members in matters which include conflicts with state or local officials over homeschooling. Each year, thousands of member families receive legal consultation by letter and phone, hundreds more are represented through negotiations with local officials, and dozens are represented in court proceedings. HSLDA also takes the offensive, filing actions to protect members against government intrusion and to establish legal precedent. On occasion, HSLDA will handle precedent-setting cases for nonmembers, as well.

HSLDA advocates on Capitol Hill by tracking federal legislation that affects homeschooling and parental rights. HSLDA works to defeat or amend harmful bills, but also works proactively, introducing legislation to protect and preserve family freedoms.

HSLDA advocates in state legislatures, at the invitation of state homeschool organizations, by assisting individual states in drafting language to improve their homeschool legal environment and to fight harmful legislation.

HSLDA advocates in the media by presenting articulate and knowledgeable spokesmen to the press on the subject of homeschooling. HSLDA staff members are regularly called upon for radio, television, and print interviews, and their writings are frequently published in newspapers and magazines across the country. HSLDA's own bimonthly magazine, *The Home School Court Report*, provides news and commentary on a host of current issues affecting homeschoolers. And its two-minute daily radio broadcast, *Home School Heartbeat*, can be heard on nearly 500 radio stations.

HSLDA advocates for the movement by commissioning and presenting quality research on the progress of homeschooling. Whether it's in print, from the podium, or on the air, HSLDA provides insightful vision and leadership for the cause of homeschooling.

Home School Legal Defense Association . . . tens of thousands of American families working through more than 50 dedicated staff members to preserve each other's right to homeschool . . . together, "Advocates for Family & Freedom."

BENEFITS- Full time attorneys, Representation in the work place, Discounts, GPA Smart Store, Online Curriculum Market (like e-bay), Lobbying on state and federal levels, Media relations, High School, Elementary and special needs coordinators

WHAT IS THE COST? Since GCSHEA is a member group with HSLDA, you can get a discount on your membership fees. They also offer scholarship and payment plans. The GCSHEA group number is 299212. You can apply online via the link on our website. You can visit their website at www.hslda.org.

GCHSEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association

Member Handbook

Checklists for Paperwork

Revised January 2018



Table of Contents

Checklists for Paperwork

Renewal Membership	3
Beginning of the Year Paper Work	4
Mid-Year Paper Work	5
End of the Year Paper Work	6

Checklist for Paperwork

KEY: Membership Paperwork **Elementary Paperwork** **High School Paperwork**

Renewal Paperwork – June 10th deadline:

- Fill out the Renewal Members Application form if you are a returning member with no breaks in membership. (If you are applying for new membership, please see the Checklist for New Member Application.)
- Read and sign the Responsibilities of Membership form. Please initial each line.
- Fill out Assigning High School Grades Form.
- Mail fees and forms to GCSHEA, P.O. Box 49362, Greenwood, SC 29649.

KEY: Membership Paperwork Elementary Paperwork High School Paperwork

Beginning of School Year - July. 10th deadline:

- Fill out one High School Parent Report Card per high school student

Student Name, Grade, School Year, College Prep or General,

Part I. Academic Schedule

(Subject; Texts, Teacher Developed Course, GCS, PCAG, or PTC (with course name); Beginning Date; Ending Date; Grade Level; CP/Honors/DW; Number of Credits),

Part II. AGREEMENT, ATTENDANCE, AND SIGNATURES Part A

Starting Date, Beginning: Teacher Signature, and Date.

Please follow the example of High School Appendix A. The form is considered incomplete unless all highlighted areas are filled out correctly.

- Fill out High School Courses Worksheet. This sheet helps you stay on track for graduation.
- Fill out (as needed) Elective Course Evaluation Form, High School Work Study Form, PE Course Evaluation Form, Course Description Form or Outline for each Instructor Developed Course.
- Fill out *Elementary School Parent Report Card* form per Elementary student:

Student Name, Grade, School Year

Part I. Attendance

A.) Starting Date

Part II. ACADEMIC SCHEDULE Part A

Subjects, Texts, Grade Level

Part IV. SIGNATURE

Curriculum is in hand/will be ordered, Beginning Teacher Signature, and Date.

Please follow the example in the Elementary Section. The form is considered incomplete unless all highlighted areas are filled out correctly.

- **Fee Schedule Form**
- **Make copies of each form to keep in your file. For the Parent Report Card, you should have one for your file, one for beginning of year, one for mid-year, and one for end of year - 4 total per student. If you are saving the forms on your computer to continue to fill out, be sure to**

keep at least one hard copy for your file during each time of year (just in case of computer issues).

☐ Mail fees and forms to GCSHEA, P.O. Box 49632, Greenwood, SC 29649

KEY: Membership Paperwork Elementary Paperwork High School Paperwork

Mid- Year – January 10th deadline:

☐ Fill out one High School Parent Report Card for each high school student:

PART II. EVALUATION Part B: Mid-Year

(Grade, %Completed)

PART III. AGREEMENT, ATTENDANCE, AND SIGNATURES Part B

Mid-Year Date, Number of days completed, Mid-Year: Teacher Signature, Date

Please follow the example of High School Appendix B. The form is considered incomplete unless all highlighted areas are filled out correctly.

For semester courses which are completed by mid-year, give final numerical grade and indicate clearly that the course is complete.

This is also the time to add any second semester courses to the High School Parent Report Card if they have not already been submitted.

☐ Fill out (if needed) Elective Course Evaluation Form, High School Work Study Form, PE Course Evaluation Form

☐ Fill out *Elementary School Parent Report Card* form per Elementary student:

Student Name, Grade, School Year

Part I. Attendance

B.) Mid-Year Date, Number of Days completed

Part II. ACADEMIC SCHEDULE Part A

Grade, % Completed

Part IV. SIGNATURE

Mid-Year Teacher Signature, and Date.

Please follow the example in the Elementary Section. The form is considered incomplete unless all highlighted areas are filled out correctly.

For semester courses which are completed by mid-year, give final numerical grade and indicate clearly that the course is complete.

This is also the time to add any second semester courses to the High School Parent Report Card if they have not already been submitted.

- Mail forms and any grade reports/transcripts from outside schools for any completed courses to GCSHEA, along with any remaining account balance.
- Keep a copy of all your forms.

KEY: Membership Paperwork Elementary Paperwork High School Paperwork

End-of-Year - June 10th deadline:

- Fill out one High School Parent Report Card for each high school student:

Part II. EVALUATION Part C) End-of-year

(Grade, Final % Completed)

Part III. AGREEMENT, ATTENDANCE, AND SIGNATURES (Part C)

End-of-Year Date, Number of days completed, End-of-Year: Teacher Signature and Date, End-of-Year Student Signature and Date.

Please follow the example of Appendix C. The form is considered incomplete unless all highlighted areas are filled out correctly.

- Fill out (if needed) Elective Course Evaluation Form, High School Work Study Form, PE Course Evaluation Form

- Fill out one Elementary School Parent Report Card form per elementary student:

Part I. ATTENDANCE

B.) Ending Date, Number of Days completed

Part III. EVALUATION Part C End-of-Year

Grade, % Completed

Part IV. SIGNATURE

End-of-Year Teacher Signature, and Date.

Please follow the example in the Elementary Section. The form is considered incomplete unless all highlighted areas are filled out correctly.

- Mail forms and copies of grade reports/transcripts for courses completed outside the home to GCSHEA.
- Keep a copy of all your forms.

REMEMBER: Late fees will apply for all paperwork due throughout the year. Please mark your calendar now with the paperwork deadlines. You may also want to keep a list of those dates posted in a conspicuous location, along with a copy of the fee schedule.

GCHSEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association

Elementary

Post Office Box 49362

Greenwood, SC 29649

864-229-9003

admin@gcshea.org

www.gcshea.org

Revised January 2018



Beginning of the Year

Table of Contents

Beginning of the Year Parent Report Card	3
Middle of the Year Parent Report Card	4
End of the Year Parent Report Card	5
Curriculum Sources	6
Helpful Home and Homeschool Websites	7

Beginning of the Year

PARENT REPORT CARD ELEMENTARY						
Student Name:	Mark John Appleseed	Grade:	4	School Year	2017-2018	
I. ATTENDANCE						
A) Starting Date: 06/01/2017 (date)						
B) Mid-Year as of: _____ actual days completed (should be approx. 90) (date) (number)						
C) Ending Date: _____ actual days completed (total for year by May 31st) (date) (number) (at least 180 instructional days are required by law)						
II. ACADEMIC SCHEDULE			III. EVALUATION			
SUBJECTS - TEXTS - GRADE LEVEL			B) Mid-year		C) End of year	
			Grade	% completed	Grade	% completed
LANGUAGE ARTS: (The basic elements of Language include grammar, composition (writing), and reading. If reading is not part of a standard curriculum, a reading list is required. Attach an extra sheet if necessary. Spelling is also highly recommended.)						
English 4	BJUP	4				
Adventures in Reading 4	BJUP	4				
Handwriting 4	BJUP	4				
MATH:						
Math 4	Saxon	4				
SCIENCE:						
Astronomy	Apologia	4				
HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:						
Heritage Studies 4	BJUP	4				
OTHER:						
Spelling 4	BJUP	4				
Art – Painting	BJUP	4				
PE – Gymnastics	YMCA	4				
IV. SIGNATURE						
The above curriculum: Is in hand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will be ordered by: _____ (date)						
Beginning: Teacher Signature:			Brenda M. Appleseed		Date: 06/01/2017	
Mid-Year: Teacher Signature:			_____		Date: _____	
End-of-Year: Teacher Signature:			_____		Date: _____	
INSTRUCTIONS:						
Evaluation Codes: S = Satisfactory I = Improving N = Needs Improvement and/or traditional A,B,C etc.						
♦ Record a letter grade or code listed above and % of curriculum completed for mid-year and end of year.						
♦ Submit this form at beginning-of-year (July. 10), mid-year (Jan. 10), & end-of-year (June 10).						
♦ Sign & date this form each time you send it in - beginning, mid-year and end-of-year.						
Return to: GCSHEA P.O. Box 49362 Greenwood, SC 29649						

End of the Year

PARENT REPORT CARD ELEMENTARY							
Student Name:	Mark John Appleseed	Grade:	4	School Year	2017-2018		
I. ATTENDANCE							
A) Starting Date:	<u>06/01/2017</u>	(date)					
B) Mid-Year as of:	<u>12/10/2017</u>	<u>93</u>	actual days completed (should be approx. 90)				
	(date)	(number)					
C) Ending Date:	<u>05/03/2018</u>	<u>185</u>	actual days completed (total for year by May 31st)				
	(date)	(number)	(at least 180 instructional days are required by law)				
II. ACADEMIC SCHEDULE				III. EVALUATION			
SUBJECTS - TEXTS - GRADE LEVEL				B) Mid-year		C) End of year	
				Grade	% completed	Grade	% completed
LANGUAGE ARTS: (The basic elements of Language include grammar, composition (writing), and reading. If reading is not part of a standard curriculum, a reading list is required. Attach an extra sheet if necessary. Spelling is also highly recommended.)							
English 4	BJUP	4	S	50%	S	100%	
Adventures in Reading 4	BJUP	4	S	48%	S	80%	
Handwriting 4	BJUP	4	S	53%	A	76%	
MATH:							
Math 4	Saxon	4	A	65%	A	100%	
SCIENCE:							
Astronomy	Apologia	4	A	46%	A	100%	
HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:							
Heritage Studies 4	BJUP	4	S	62%	S	100%	
OTHER:							
Spelling 4	BJUP	4	S	50%	S	88%	
Art – Painting	BJUP	4	S	50%	S	96%	
PE – Gymnastics	YMCA	4	S	50%	S	100%	
IV. SIGNATURE							
The above curriculum:		Is in hand	<u>X</u>	Will be ordered by:		_____	(date)
Beginning: Teacher Signature:	<u>Brenda M. Appleseed</u>			Date:	<u>06/01/2017</u>		
Mid-Year: Teacher Signature:	<u>Brenda M. Appleseed</u>			Date:	<u>12/12/2017</u>		
End-of-Year: Teacher Signature:	<u>Brenda M. Appleseed</u>			Date:	<u>05/06/2018</u>		
INSTRUCTIONS:							
Evaluation Codes: S = Satisfactory I = Improving N = Needs Improvement and/or traditional A,B,C etc.							
♦ Record a letter grade or code listed above and % of curriculum completed for mid-year and end of year.							
♦ Submit this form at beginning-of-year (July. 10), mid-year (Jan. 10), & end-of-year (June 10).							
♦ Sign & date this form each time you send it in - beginning, mid-year and end-of-year.							
Return to: GCSHEA P.O. Box 49362 Greenwood, SC 29649							

Curriculum Sources

A Beka Books 1-800-874-2352 www.abeka.com

Amazon

Apologia

Audio Memory 1-800-365-SING (7464) www.audiomemory.com (Sing & learn World Geography, Grammar, States & Capitals, History, Bible, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Fraction and Division)

Beautiful Feet Books- 1-800-889-1978 www.bfbooks.com (publisher of History Through Literature study guides, classical literature and timelines)

Bob Jones University Press 1-800-845-5731 www.bjupress.com

Children's Books- www.childsbooks.com (store in Lyman, SC)

Christian Book Distributors- www.christianbook.com

Classical Conversations www.classicalconversations.com

eBay

Learning Things- www.learningthings.com (thousands of homeschool curriculum books and resources) Rainbow Resources- www.rainbowresource.com (over 40000 homeschool and educational items available)

Rock Solid - www.rocksolidinc.com

Saxon

Sonlight Curriculum (literature-based studies) www.sonlight.com

Timberdoodle (proponents of hands on, relaxed approach to home education)
www.timberdoodle.com

Veritas Press- www.veritaspres.com (classical educational material)

Helpful Home and Homeschool Websites

www.hslda.org – HSLDA website- tons of info and articles on homeschooling from preschool through high school

www.debrabell.com - Debra Bell's site- The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling

www.homeschooltracker.com - A free basic computer-based planner

www.valuesdrivenfamily.com - Managing the Family Project

www.sizzlebop.com - Help for the highly distractible child, mate or mom- home of the famous ditty list by Carol Barnier

www.pbslearningmedia.org - PBS website loaded with free educational material

www.education-world.com/standards - listings of state standards

www.chartjungle.com – free homeschool forms, charts and calendars and more

www.grovepublishing.com - Cathy Duffy Top 100 Picks for Homeschooling- reviews of homeschool curriculum

www.areasonfor.com website for A Reason For curriculum – has some free previews and K-2 readers you can access online

www.artistshelpingchildren.org - How to make your own art supplies

www.donnayoung.org - printable homeschool forms- planning calendars, charts, handwriting samples, play money for math, science lab sheets & more

www.thehomeschoolmom.com - lots of freebies- good Get Organized link

www.abcteach.com - printable worksheets and free activities, games, unit studies and puzzles

www.etvstreamlinesc.org - Discovery Education's digital video-based learning resource (over 50,000 videos available to download for free), teacher center also available

www.spellingcity.com - VocabularySpellingCity.com is dedicated to helping students, teachers, parent-teachers, and school systems. VocabularySpellingCity is an award-winning site with ongoing introduction of new features, many based on input from existing users. Our mission: efficient game-based study of literacy skills using any word list.

GCHSEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association

High School

General Guidelines

Revised January 2018



Table of Contents

Recommended High School Parent Meeting	3
Diploma Requirements	3
Class Ranking Policy	4
Determination of High School Grade Level	4
Required Documentation	4
For Seniors Only	5
For Juniors Only	5
Sample Work Portfolio	6

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES for HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Before a student starts high school, it is important for the parent(s) and student to map out each of the high school years. Decisions need to be made concerning the number and types of courses the student should take each year, keeping in mind the college/career the student desires to pursue after high school. (See appendices J, K, and L for high school course planning sheets.)

Please be advised: a diploma from GCSHEA is a considerable achievement! However, it is NOT a diploma from the South Carolina Department of Education or the South Carolina School System and may be viewed differently by colleges and/or employers.

RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PARENT MEETING

For seventh through twelfth grade students receiving credit for high school courses, parents are strongly encouraged to attend the high school meeting held around March of each year. This meeting will be organized by the administrator, and members will be notified of date and location by email or the website. Please check the website calendar regularly for any updates.

This high school meeting is designed to notify parents of changes in the Home School law, the Commission of Higher Education's rules, the Department of Education's rules, and GCSHEA's policies. Parents are ultimately responsible for making sure their students meet all these requirements.

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Students seeking a high school diploma will need to meet the following requirements:

1. Completion of all previous grade levels and/or mastery of the prerequisite courses needed to complete high school level courses.
2. Completion of 24 credits as required by South Carolina law. Please note: South Carolina Homeschool law requires that the curriculum each year includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature.
3. Submission to GCSHEA of standardized test scores for grades 8 or 9.
4. Submission to GCSHEA of transcripts and/or documentation of any high school credits received prior to GCSHEA membership.
5. Submission of all required forms by the designated deadlines (See appendices A, B, & C)
6. Payment of all fees. (Check the current GCSHEA Fee Schedule.)

CLASS RANKING POLICY

GCSHEA ranks every high school student that is enrolled. Students are ranked within each class (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior). Rank is determined at the end of each academic year on or before June 10th. Every course taken must have a numeric grade which is calculated by the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy. Every student must have a minimum of 24 credits to graduate. All credits are calculated to determine the GPA excluding Physical Education and Drivers Ed which are only given a pass/fail grade.

DETERMINATION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADE LEVEL

The grade level of a high school student is determined by the level of the English course taken and the number of previous credits received.

FIRST SEMESTER 9th GRADE: The student is enrolled in a 9th grade English course and has accumulated no more than 5 credits.

FIRST SEMESTER 10th GRADE: The student is enrolled in a 10th grade English course and has accumulated at least 6 credits.

FIRST SEMESTER 11th GRADE: The student is enrolled in an 11th grade English course and has accumulated at least 12 credits.

FIRST SEMESTER 12th GRADE: The student is enrolled in a 12th grade English course and has accumulated at least 18 credits.

An English course must be completed each year while the student is in high school.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Parents must submit the following forms each year to be reviewed and approved by the High School Committee:

1. Membership Application form
2. Responsibility of Membership form
3. Parent Report Card (Appendix A)
4. An outline is required for instructor developed courses (Please see Appendices D,E,F for examples). All courses must be pre-approved. Should any course need to be added after the August 10th deadline, the administrator must be contacted prior to beginning the course. The high school review committee reserves the right to deny approval of any late submissions.
5. High School Work Sheet (Appendix K)
6. Assigning High School Grades and Enrollment Policy form (Appendix V)

For Seniors only:

1. **Intent-of-Graduation** form must be submitted to GCSHEA before August 10th of the 12th grade school year.
2. **Graduating Seniors must submit end of year paperwork by May 10th** to receive approval for graduation. Students enrolled in GCS courses should submit documentation of current GCS course averages at this deadline.

For Juniors only:

February 1st – College Junior Scholar Nomination Information is due!!

Please send in test scores (SAT, ACT, PSAT) and information about your college of choice. Some colleges accept nominations for students who have met requirements for their Junior Scholar Programs. This is not only an honor but can help with the cost of applications and get you on the radar for private scholarships and programs. Please contact the administrator if you have any colleges to which you would like to be nominated.

SAMPLE WORK PORTFOLIO

Sample work for each course must be kept in a portfolio, in accordance with South Carolina law. Sample work in your portfolio should represent the content of the course as stated on the Parent Report Card form. All sample work should be corrected and clearly labeled with the student's name, course name, and date work was completed. (For a list of sample work ideas see appendix I)

The use of "test" on this page could include any piece of work used in evaluating the student's mastery.

The following is the minimum required sample work to be kept on file in the home:

Math:	1 assignment and 1 test per 9 weeks
Social Studies:	1 assignment and 1 test per 9 weeks
Science:	1 assignment, 1 test, 1 lab per 9 weeks
Foreign Language:	1 assignment and 1 test per 9 weeks
Electives:	Documentation of hours spent on course work (see appendix M) and/or written sample work if appropriate

English:

Literature: 1 assignment and 1 test per 9 weeks

Grammar: 1 assignment and 1 test per 9 weeks

Composition: 1 sample per 9 weeks

Composition: a written assignment of at least one full page.

Term Paper:

9th grade (2-4 pages recommended)

10th grade (3-6 pages recommended)

11th grade (4-10 pages recommended)

12th grade (5-12 pages recommended)

Term Paper - a more extensive written assignment representing research on a topic, including bibliographies and footnotes. A single term paper can be used for more than one course: the length would be doubled for two courses, tripled for three, etc. This is the appropriate place to teach standard formats for papers.

GCHSEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association

High School

Curriculum Policies

Revised January 2018

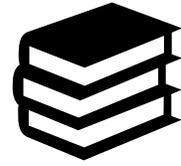


Table of Contents

High School Credit	3
7th And 8th Grade Students Seeking High School Credit	3
Computer Science	4
Courses Taken Outside the Home	4
Drivers Education	5
Dual Enrollment Information	5
Instructor-Developed Courses	6
Physical Education	6
Saxon Math Credit Policy	7
Science Lab Policy	7
Transfer Credits	8
Transcripts	8
Work Study	8
GCSHEA Guidelines for Classical Conversations	9
Requirements for Honors Courses	11

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

One credit will be earned upon completion of approved coursework with a passing grade. “Completion” means finishing at least 75% of a standard curriculum’s content and objectives as listed on the Parent Report Card or accomplishing the minimum number of 120 hours of an instructor developed course submitted for that school year. The completion of 75% does not apply to any instructor developed courses. Those are based on a minimum of 120 hours of instruction. If using standard curriculum, the High School Committee follows the publisher’s guidelines for granting credit. Each course must receive a numerical grade per the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy (see the grading scale in Appendices Q and R). **Be advised that the policy description is much more important than the grade ranges! All courses must be pre-approved.**

7th and 8th GRADE STUDENTS SEEKING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

A student may earn up to 5 high school credits in 7th and 8th grades. However, 3 courses are recommended for most students.

Per the SC Uniform Grading policy “When approved by ...the parents, a student promoted to the seventh or eighth grade may take units of ninth grade or higher work for high school credit. The high school courses offered must be limited to core, career and technology education, and foreign language courses that are currently in the 9–12 section of the Activity Coding System for the Student Information System.”

Please remember: South Carolina Home school law requires that the curriculum each year includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature. It is not recommended to use high school credit in the 7th and 8th grade to lighten the load in 12th grade. You will still need to take the required courses to meet the law.

The course work must be clearly high school level, using published high school level materials and methods of evaluation. Instructor Developed Courses are discouraged due to the increased scrutiny colleges have for courses taken for high school credit by 7th and 8th graders. As an accountability group, we want to maintain the standards set by the State of SC Commission on Higher Education for awarding high school credits, and continue to support the flexibility, ingenuity, and passion of homeschooling parents and students. If you have special circumstances and would like to teach an Instructor Developed Course before 9th grade, please submit your course description outline and the High School Committee will consider it for approval.

1. Required high school forms must be submitted by the designated deadlines.

- The annual membership fee and high school course fees for 7th and 8th graders must be paid by the designated deadlines. Check the current GCSHEA Fee Schedule.
- Honors credit may be earned in 7th and 8th grade. Please refer to GCSHEA Honors credit guidelines.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Appendix R:
Approved Courses for a Computer Science Unit as Required in Regulation 43-234**

Courses	Units	Courses	Units
Arts, AV Technology, and Communications Cluster		Information Technology Cluster	
*Architectural Design w/CADD	1	*Advanced Computer Repair and Service	1
*Graphic Communication	1	*Computer Operating Systems	1
*Mechanical Design w/CADD	1	*Advanced Computer Operating Systems	1
Business Management and Administration Cluster		*Cyber Security Foundations	1
Computer Applications	½	Database Design & Programming w/ SQL	1
Digital Desktop Publishing	1	Database Programming w/ PL-SQL	1
Digital Input Technologies	½, 1	*Exploring Computer Science	1
Digital Literacy	½	Foundations of Animation	1
Digital Multimedia	½, 1	*Game Design and Development	1
Google Applications	1	*GIS (Geographical Information Systems) 1, 2	1
Google Basics	½	Information Technology Foundations	1
Image Editing 1, 2	1	*IT Fundamentals	1
Integrated Business Applications 1, 2	1	*Java Fundamentals and Java Programming	1
Keyboarding	½	*Networking Fundamentals	1
Multimedia Basics	½	*Advanced Networking	1
Social Media in Business	1	SAS Programming 1, 2	1
Computer Education		Web Page Design and Development 1, 2	1
*AP Computer Science A	1	Marketing Cluster	
Information Technology Cluster		Digital Media Marketing	1
Advanced Animation	1	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Cluster	
*Advanced Cyber Security	1	*Aerospace Engineering	1
*Computer Forensics	1	*Biotechnical Engineering	1
Computer Programming 1, 2	1	*Civil Engineering and Architecture	1
Computer Programming w/ C++ 1, 2	1	*Computer Integrated Manufacturing	1
Computer Programming w/ Java 1, 2	1	*Digital Electronics	1
Computer Programming w/ Visual Basic 1, 2	1	*Introduction to Engineering Design	1
*Computer Repair and Services	1	*Principles of Engineering	1

*Local School Districts must document mastery of keyboarding proficiency for these courses.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATING A COURSE NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED ABOVE AS SATISFYING THE COMPUTER SCIENCE REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION

- The course must provide 90% to 100% of hands-on instruction as it relates to the computer functions, operation, and manipulation of the computer.
- The course must emphasize one or both of the following areas of instruction:
Programming
Software applications
- The required computer science unit may consist of a combination of two half-units of courses that qualify as computer science.
- Courses in which the computer is used as a tool and/or an enhancement for learning subject matter would not qualify based on the above criteria for computer science designation.

Computer-based courses recommended to be added in any of these categories may count as part of the computer science requirement if they meet the criteria outlined below, and an innovative course application has been submitted and approved by the Office of Career and Technology Education. Innovative applications may be submitted to Anthony L. Dillon, Education Associate, SC Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street—Room 922, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.

Updated November 2015

Courses Taken Outside the Home

A GCSHEA student may take high school courses at private schools, technical colleges, or other facilities for high school credit. **The student will receive full credit for the course when a copy of the school's official report card or transcript is submitted to GCSHEA along with the final Parent Report Card. All courses must be pre-approved.**

Driver's Education

Driver's Education may be taught as a high school course to earn half (½) a credit. The course may be taught by the parent or a combination of parent instruction and a state-approved Driver's Education course instructor. The course should include both "classroom" instruction and "behind the wheel" instruction for a minimum of 40 hours. South Carolina law requires a minimum of 10 hours of night-time driving. **When the course has been completed, submit a copy of the student's driver's license with the course description form and record of hours completed.** Please note: the DMV has requirements which are subject to change. Please check with them when planning.

When applying for a beginner's permit, **notify the GCSHEA Administrator at least two weeks in advance** of your DMV visit. You will need a current letter from the Administrator stating that your student is still a member in good standing (this serves as your proof of address) as well as your original Membership Letter.

When applying for a restricted license, **notify the GCSHEA Administrator at least two weeks in advance.** You will need another letter from the Administrator stating that your student is still a member in good standing and the Administrator will need to complete the school section of the DMV's PDLA form.

Drivers Ed will be listed on the transcript with a PASS or FAIL grade.

Dual Enrollment Information

Courses taken at local colleges for dual enrollment will receive high school credit through GCSHEA. Parents must contact Piedmont Technical College, Anderson University, Lander University, etc. to enroll their students. Usually the college supplies a form requiring the administrator's signature. When enrolling your child, please allow at least two weeks for GCSHEA's Administrator to complete those forms.

Regarding the awarding of credit, please note the following:

- 1) College courses must be pre-approved (as any other high school courses).
- 2) On the Parent Report Card, indicate where the course will be taken. (Section I. Academic Schedule)
- 3) Upon completion of a college level course, submit a copy of the college transcript and/or an email from the college dual enrollment office giving a number grade for the course.
- 4) Many colleges assign only letter grades on final reports. You may have to request a numerical grade. If you are unable to retrieve a numerical grade from your instructor,

GCSHEA will assign a numerical grade based on your student's letter grade, using the SC Uniform Grading Scale designation.

Instructor-Developed Course

When the typical curriculum does not contain course work that meets the student's needs or interests, the parent may personally design a course. An outline stating the complete course objectives and activities should be submitted with the Parent Report Card form (see Appendices A – F for examples). The completion of 75% does not apply to any instructor developed courses. Those are based on a minimum of 120 hours of instruction.

Physical Education

South Carolina law requires one PE credit acquired during the 9th –12th grade. Additional PE credits can be earned as electives. PE credit will be listed on the transcript with a PASS or FAIL grade. You must complete the minimum of 120 hours for a whole credit and the minimum of 60 hours for ½ credit (Percentage completion does not apply to PE).

Choose one of the following methods of credit completion:

1. According to the SC Commission on Higher Education College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements for Entering College Freshmen Beginning in Academic Year 2019-2020, one unit of physical education to include one semester of personal fitness and another semester in lifetime fitness. Exemption applies to students enrolled in Junior ROTC and for students exempted because of physical disability or for religious reasons.
2. Participation in a season of a competitive sport for ½ credit (60 hours of participation); two seasons (any sport) for 1 full credit (120 hours of participation). This may include club sports, baseball leagues, public school varsity athletics, GCS athletics, etc.
3. Participation in an instructor-developed course which includes 120 hours of participation in a variety of physical activities such as bicycling, track, swimming, etc. Parents need to submit a detailed outline for their instructor-developed PE course (see Appendices F and G).
4. Participation of 120 hours in one physical activity for excelling in that one activity. (This may include ballet, gymnastics, karate, etc.)

Saxon Math Credit Policy

Be advised: Saxon now has two separate Math series. This policy follows the 2nd and 3rd Edition series.

- Algebra 1: 1 credit after completing a minimum of 75% of a Saxon Algebra 1 curriculum, recommend listing as Algebra 1 on the transcript.
- Algebra 2: 1 credit after completing a minimum of 75% of a Saxon Algebra 2 (2nd or 3rd Edition) curriculum, recommend listing as Algebra 2 on the transcript.
- Geometry: 1 credit after completing a minimum of the first 55 lessons of Saxon Advanced Math (2nd or 3rd Edition) and Algebra II (2nd or 3rd Edition), recommend listing as Geometry on the transcript

*Because the Saxon curriculum incorporates geometry in Algebra 1 and Algebra 2, these courses are prerequisites for the Geometry credit to be given in conjunction with the first 55 lessons of Saxon Advanced Math (2nd or 3rd Edition)

Pre-Calculus (or) Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus: 1 credit for Pre-Calculus (**or**)

½ Trigonometry/1/2 Pre-Calculus after completing through lesson 110 of Saxon Advanced Math (2nd edition), recommend listing as Pre-Calculus (**or**) Trigonometry/Precalculus on the transcript.

*For Geometry and Pre-Calculus (or Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus), the minimum lesson numbers must be reached, not just 75% of those numbers. Also, editions other than the ones listed will be considered upon request.

Science Lab Policy

All Biology Labs must include a dissection unit.

One source for dissection equipment is Home Science Tools (1-800-860-6272 or www.homesciencetools.com).

Physical Science is not considered a “lab science” by most colleges, though most courses do incorporate lab exercises. However, it is considered valuable preparation to more advanced high school courses and therefore does qualify for high school credit.

Erskine College offers science lab courses for home schooled students.

Transfer Credits

Transfer credits must be approved by the High School Committee. A New Member High School Student Transfer Fee will be assessed for each credit transferring into GCSHEA. Each credit will be charged a \$30.00 transfer fee per credit.

Transcripts

Transcript requests must be mailed or e-mailed to the GCSHEA Administrator. Please include the address of the high school, college, university or work place to which want the transcript sent. Also include a contact at that facility so the Administrator may address the transcript to them. **Allow 2 weeks for the Administrator to mail the transcript.** You are allowed 10 free transcripts beginning in the 7th grade. Please see the Fee Schedule if more than 10 are requested. Only courses completed and approved by the High School Committee will be listed on the transcript.

Work Study

A GCSHEA Work Experience Description & Evaluation form must be completed and approved by the High School Committee before credit can be awarded (see Appendix H). A student can earn elective credits through work experience by the following:

1. Salaried work, apprenticeship, or volunteer work
2. A ½ credit may be earned per semester for an average of 5 - 10 hours of work/week.
3. One full credit may be earned per semester for an average of 11 - 20 hours of work/week.
4. A maximum of 4 high school credits may be earned in the 7th through 12th grades through work experience.

GCSHEA Guidelines for Classical Conversations

GCSHEA recommendations for high school credit with Classical Conversations Challenge courses. If a student is enrolled in a Challenge class with a tutor, the following credits may be earned:

Challenge B Logic: Intro and Intermediate Books = 1 credit

Mock Trial = ½ credit

Henle Latin I, Units 1-5 = 1 credit (if Units 1-5 of Henle I book are completed))

Challenge I: English 9 with Composition Honors 1 credit AND American Literature Honors 1 credit

Recommended Requirements: completion of 15 reading assignments and 13 writing assignments.

Grammar portion of grade must be documented by one of 3 options:

- 1) Henle Latin, I taken along with Literature
- 2) Grammar is taught by grading the writing assignments with an additional vocabulary/spelling element
- 3) A separate grammar curriculum may be added such as, BJU, ABEKA or Essentials with an additional vocabulary/spelling element if not included.

A 4-5-page research paper must be written as described in the GCSHEA Guidelines for Honors Courses

(OR)

English 9 Honors 1 credit

Recommended Requirements: 8-10 reading assignments and 6-7 writing assignments.

Grammar portion must be documented by one of the 3 options listed above.

A 4-5-page research paper must be written as described in the GCSHEA Guidelines for Honors Courses.

All other credits listed in the Challenge 1 Scope and Sequence are accepted by GCSHEA if the student attends a class with a tutor and 75% of the curriculum is completed. These courses are Non-Honors. If Honors credit is requested, please see GCSHEA Guidelines for Honors Courses.

Latin I, Units 6-14 = 1 credit (if Henle I book is completed)

GCSHEA Guidelines for Classical Conversations (continued)

Challenge II: English 10 with Composition Honors 1 credit, AND British Literature Honors 1 credit.

Recommended Requirements: completion of 15 reading assignments and 13 writing assignments.

Grammar portion of grade must be documented by one of 3 options:

- 1) Henle Latin II taken along with Literature
- 2) Grammar is taught by grading the writing assignments with an additional vocabulary/spelling element
- 3) A separate grammar curriculum may be added such as, BJU, ABEKA, or Essentials with an additional vocabulary/spelling element if not included.

A 5-6-page research paper must be written as described in the GCSHEA Guidelines for Honors Courses.

(OR)

English 10 Honors 1 credit

Recommended Requirements: 8-10 reading assignments and 7-8 writing assignments.

Grammar portion must be documented by one of 3 options listed above.

A 5-6-page research paper must be written as described in the GCSHEA Guidelines for Honors Courses.

Henle Latin II Honors = 1 Honors Credit if Henle Latin I, Units 1-5 were completed in Challenge B, 8th grade; and if Henle Latin I, Units 6-14 were completed in Challenge I, 9th grade per the Publisher's guidelines.

(OR)

Henle Latin II (Non-Honors) = 1 Credit if Henle Latin I, Units 1-5 were completed in Challenge I, 9th grade; and if Henle Latin I, Units 6-14 were completed in Challenge I, 9th grade.

You will then receive Honors credit when taking Henle Latin III during Challenge III as the third year Latin per the Publisher's guidelines.

Foreign Language

For the 3rd and/or 4th year of the language

75% of the curriculum

Project and/or paper (3-5 pages, 3 sources, related to subject)

Suggested Grade Composition: 60% tests
 40% homework, project/paper, practical usage (i.e.:
 volunteering at La Puerta, mission trip, etc.)

Requirements for Honors Courses (continued):

Fine Arts:

Due to the wide variety of courses available in this category, please complete Appendix Y to show the High School Committee how the Course is more in depth and more rigorous than a College Prep Course to qualify for honors credit.

Additional comments:

1. If a student is in the 30th percentile or below in standardized testing in the Reading Core, they are not eligible for Honors in Language Arts or Social Studies. If a student is in the 30th percentile or below in standardized testing in the Math Core, they are not eligible for Honors in Math or Science. (Further guidelines for low test scores are on page 20).
2. Alternatives to these guidelines and other courses may be considered for honors credit on a case by case basis.
3. Curriculum currently **NOT recognized** as Honors include but are not limited to:
 - a. Life Pac
 - b. Math-U-See 4.
4. Curriculum currently **recognized** as Honors include but are not limited to:
 - a. Apologia
 - b. Abeka
 - c. BJUP
 - d. Saxon
5. Please see the SC DOE Appendix A SC Honors Framework Implementation Guide for the requirements for honors courses.

BE ADVISED: GCSHEA cannot guarantee that any public or private high school, college, or university will accept Honors credits from us. If you transfer out of GCSHEA, you may have to justify the Honors credits. The receiving institution may or may not grant your request for Honors credits.

GCHSEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association

High School

General Track of Study

Revised January 2018



Table of Contents

Explanation of General Track, Credit Requirement Minimum	3
Credit Recommendations and Four-Year Plan	4

GENERAL TRACK OF STUDY

EXPLANATION OF GENERAL TRACK

TRACK I - GENERAL PROGRAM is the minimum requirement for a GCSHEA diploma.

LANGUAGE ARTS	4 Credits
MATHEMATICS	4 Credits
SCIENCE - Lab Classes = 1	4 Credits
U.S. HISTORY/Constitution	1 Credit
ECONOMICS	0.5 Credits
U.S. GOVERNMENT	0.5 Credits
SOCIAL STUDIES	1 Credit
PHYSICAL EDUCATION/or Junior ROTC	1 Credit
COMPUTER SCIENCE (including keyboarding)	1 Credit
FOREIGN LANGUAGE or career and technology education	1 Credit
ELECTIVES	6 Credits

MINIMUM TOTAL 24 Credits *

* Based on current South Carolina Department of Education high school graduation requirements. See Appendix S.

For a listing of possible high school courses, see Appendix J; for planning sheet, see Appendices K and L.

Please note: South Carolina Homeschool law requires that the curriculum each year includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature.

GCHSEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association

High School

College Track of Study



Revised January 2018

Table of Contents

Explanation of College Preparatory Track, Credit Requirement Minimum	3
Credit Recommendations and Four-year Plan	5
Possible Requirements for College Admissions	6
Planning Your High School Resume	7
Helpful Websites for High School and College Planning	8

College Preparatory Track of Study

COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM is a suggested college preparatory program. This track is for students who plan to pursue a four-year college degree. These are minimal requirements for 4-year public college admission.

TRACK II - COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM

LANGUAGE ARTS*	4 Credits
MATHEMATICS **	4 Credits
SCIENCE *** (Lab Classes = 3)	4 Credits
U.S. HISTORY/CONSTITUTION	1 Credit
ECONOMICS	0.5 Credits
U. S. GOVERNMENT	0.5 Credits
SOCIAL STUDIES	1 Credit
PHYSICAL EDUCATION or ROTC	1 Credit
FOREIGN LANGUAGE (same language) ****	2 or 3 Credits
COMPUTER SCIENCE	1 Credit
FINE ARTS	1 Credit
ELECTIVES	4 or 5 Credits
MINIMUM TOTAL	24 Credits *

*Language Arts – All four units must have strong reading (including works of fiction and nonfiction), writing, communicating, and researching components. It is strongly recommended that students take two units that are literature based, including American, British, and World Literature. Completion of **College Preparatory English I, II, III, and IV** will meet this criterion. An English course must be taken every year.

** Math – Your math credit can start in 8th grade with Algebra 1.

A mathematics course must be taken every year. These units must include Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. A fourth higher-level mathematics unit should be taken before or during the senior year. The course should be taken from Algebra III/trigonometry, precalculus, calculus, statistics, discrete mathematics or a capstone mathematics course.

(continued on next page)

Explanation of College Preparatory (continued)

*** Science – Plan for lab sciences based on your career or college choice. Two units must be taken in two different fields of the physical, earth, or life sciences and selected from among biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science. The third unit may be from the same field as one of the first two units (biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science) or from any laboratory science for which biology, chemistry, physics and/or earth science is a prerequisite. Courses in general or introductory science for which one of these four units is not a prerequisite will not meet this requirement. It's strongly recommended that students desiring to pursue careers in science, mathematics, engineering or technology take one course in all four fields: biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science. Physical Science is accepted as a prerequisite to the three required units. A science course must be taken every year.

***Foreign Language – Please check with your college of choice because requirements vary. Some require all three years to be in the same language, while others require a mixture of two or more languages.

For minimum state requirements, please see the General Track.

For a listing of possible high school courses see Appendix J; for planning sheet, see Appendices K and L.

For more information, see Appendix U from the Commission of Higher Education.

Please note: South Carolina Home school law requires that the curriculum each year includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature.

Credit Recommendations and Four-Year Plan
Track II – College Preparatory Program

CREDIT SUGGESTIONS	SUGGESTED FOUR YEAR PLAN
English (9, 10, 11 & 12) 4 Includes Literature (1 English Lit, 1 American Lit.), Composition, Grammar, Vocabulary & Spelling. Must have 1 class per year.	Freshman - 6 English I _____ Algebra I or Geometry* _____ Physical Science _____ Foreign Language _____ Social Studies _____ PE _____ * Algebra I 8th Grade
Mathematics (see CHE requirements) 4 Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-calculus, Calculus, Trigonometry. Must have 1 class per year.	Sophomore - 6 English II _____ Geometry or Algebra II _____ Biology _____ US History _____ Foreign Language _____ Computer Science _____
Science (see CHE requirements) 4 (3 must be lab sciences) Physical Science, Biology , Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry , Physics Must have 1 class per year.	Junior - 6.5 English III _____ Algebra II or Pre-Calculus _____ Chemistry _____ Government _____ Foreign Language _____ 1 Elective _____
Social Studies 3 (Required: US History and Constitution, economics/government) World History, Geography Western Civilization Must have 1 class per year.	Senior - 5.5 English IV _____ Pre-calculus or Calculus _____ Lab Science _____ Economics _____ 2 Electives _____
Physical Education or ROTC 1 2 different sports seasons = 1 credit or 120 hours = 1credit	Total 24
Foreign Language 2 - 3 2 - 3 credits of the same language	Total 24
Fine Arts 1	
Computer Science 1	
Electives 4 - 5	
Total 24	

Possible Requirements for College Admission

1. High School Record:

- Transcript - list of High School courses the student has completed, and grades received.
- Diploma
- GPA (Grade Point Average) - see Appendices Q and R
- List of Books Read
- Copy of Title Page and Table of Contents of textbooks used.

2. Test Scores:

SAT, SAT II, and ACT tests are an important part of the college admissions process. Each college has their own requirements for the type of test to take and the score necessary to qualify for scholarship and enrollment. It is important to check with the college of your choice to know that college's requirements for admissions.

3. Special Talents & Interests:

Music, art, athletics, and/or drama experience.

4. Extracurricular Activities:

Community service, church activities, employment, clubs

Note: Do not plan to count as "extracurricular" any activities for which you are awarding actual academic credit.

5. Awards:

Academic or extracurricular recognition received during grades 9 – 12

6. Essay:

Where required

7. Letters of Recommendation and Alumni Legacy

8. Personal Interview

9. Application Date:

This date is important if the student declares early decision (early decision is when a student commits to the college by a certain date, which often results in more financial

aid). In general, plan to have college application(s) submitted by November in the senior year.

Planning Your High School Resume

Purpose: To display/organize achievements, skills, activities, and talents obtained while in high school. Colleges want to see variety in a student's activities. They will be looking for qualities such as initiative, commitment, integrity, discipline, and leadership ability. This is an important way to demonstrate the well-roundedness of a student, to show his ability to achieve academically while also developing character and gaining experience outside the classroom.

Planning: Start planning at the beginning of your high school career the different activities and opportunities in which you want to participate. Consider opportunities/activities available through school, church, community, and family. Keep records of time involvement and specific duties or experiences for grades 9-12; experiences prior to 9th grade are helpful to the student, but generally not relevant for college admissions (see Appendix M).

Activities to Consider:

Sports: GCS, Civic Center, YMCA, 4-H, Private Organizations, Public Schools

Recommendation: At least one year of a sport

Community Service: Meals on Wheels, Literacy Council, PALS After School Programs, 4-H, Humane Society, Food Bank, Soup Kitchen, Nursing Home Visitations, Habitat for Humanity

Recommendation: Two years of activities

Fine Arts: Art, Dance/Ballet, Drama, Music; many colleges require one credit unit of Fine Art.

Recommendation: One year of experience or exposure.

Leadership Opportunities: Teaching Assistant, Club Officer, Sunday school teacher, Youth Board Member, Work Experience, CAP, 4-H, and Scouts.

Recommendation: Two years of experience

Travel/Cross Cultural Experiences: Mission Trips, Exchange Program, Local International Activities.

Recommendation: One Activity

Awards: Keep records of awards or recognition in any of the above areas of participation.

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE PLANNING

For college-bound students, parents need to take steps each year to plan for academic requirements, testing, financial aid, scholarships, etc. GCSHEA wishes to direct you to valuable resources for your decision-making. Parents should use the internet and consult a variety of sources to gather information regarding plans and deadlines for the college preparatory process. Google is a good search engine on which you may type words/phrases related to your questions. Below are a few places to start - not an exhaustive list - but useful in your quest.

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

www.hsllda.org

The website supplies pages FULL of advice and information on testing, curriculum planning, assigning credits, college planning, extracurricular planning and more. Don't miss this site. Many of the questions parents of high school students often have are answered well here. Membership with HSLDA is not required, but may be obtained here, as well.

College Board

www.collegeboard.org

This is the SAT test registration/info website as well as a source for college planning info. Look under "For Parents" which will take you to a page on which you may choose a link to "Planning for college" (which includes junior and senior year "action plans," giving month by month timelines for these crucial years). You may also link to "Apply to college" and many other pages.

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

www.che.sc.gov

Look under "Scholarships and Grants."

U.S. Department of Education Student Guide to Financial Aid

www.ed.gov/prog_info/SFA/StudentGuide

Fast Web Scholarships

www.fastweb.com

"Scholarship Central," college profiles, etc.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Required by most colleges from all applicants. Essential in your financial journey each year of college.

GCHSEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association

Standardized Testing Policy

Revised January 2018



Table of Contents

Standardized Testing Policy	3
College Entrance Testing Information	4

STANDARDIZED TESTING POLICY

- 1. Standardized Testing:** GCSHEA strongly recommends annual standardized testing for all elementary (grade 3 and above) and high school students. Standardized testing will be required at two levels for GCSHEA students - once in the 4th, 5th or 6th grade and again in the 8th or 9th grade. Areas to be tested include the subject areas of Math, Reading, Language, Science, and Social Studies. A copy of the test scores shall be submitted with the GCSHEA Parent Report Card by July 10th. GCSHEA will continue to offer IOWA testing as a group for those who desire or need testing services. GCSHEA accepts the IOWA, Stanford, PSAT, PLAN, SAT, and ACT.
- 2. Low Test Scores:** If a student scores below the national percentile of 30 on standardized tests in subject area totals, a letter acknowledging the low scores will be sent from GCSHEA to the parent with an offer for counseling or consultation for remediation in the appropriate areas. The responsibility will be upon the parent to seek assistance from GCSHEA if desired. The letter will serve as a document in the student's file that GCSHEA provided accountability and demonstrated a willingness to offer assistance in meeting the student's needs.
- 3. Benefits of testing:** Standardized achievement tests can measure your child's ability to recall certain facts, basic skills and concepts common to the grade level tested. It can assess your child's development of learning if the same test is used from year to year. It can help determine your child's academic strengths and weaknesses as well as the effectiveness of your curriculum and teaching methods or emphasis when the results are combined with your own observations. It also gives your child testing experience and promotes development of test taking skills for testing that may be required for higher education institutions.
- 4.** Standardized tests should be viewed as an assessment tool that helps you in your homeschool experience. Use the results along with your own informed evaluation of your child's knowledge and skills gained from your daily observations of your student's work to determine your child's progress.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTING INFORMATION

1. GED (General Educational Development): The GED test is a group of five multiple-choice tests that measure a student's general knowledge and thinking skills. A student must be at least 17 years of age and not enrolled in school to qualify to take this test.
2. PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) A precursor to the SAT, this test is only offered once each year typically in October. It is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test for 11th graders. The junior year is the important year for taking this test. Some colleges have scholarships based on the PSAT taken the junior year. Taking the test in 9th and 10th grade is recommended as practice for the one that counts in 11th grade. GCSHEA students are allowed to test with GCS students. Please do not call GCS to inquire or register. Call or e-mail the GCSHEA office for information.
3. SAT I (Scholastic Assessment Test offered several times each year) - The SAT I is a test that covers critical reading, math, and a writing section. Because courses and grading systems vary widely from school to school, scores on standardized tests such as the SAT I help colleges compare the academic achievements and abilities of all students regardless of their school background. Students should take this test during the fall or spring semester of the junior year and/or fall semester of the senior year, although the SAT I can be taken during any year of high school. To request a registration bulletin and practice material go to www.collegeboard.com. GCSHEA recommends that you register for this test online at the College Board website. Check with the college of your choice on what test (SAT or ACT) is preferred for admission.

SAT and ACT scores are used to determine eligibility for South Carolina scholarships (LIFE and Palmetto Fellow). View the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education website (<http://www.che.sc.gov/>) for the current requirements for the scholarships.

4. SAT II (Scholastic Assessment Test - Subject Tests) - The SAT II is offered in specific subject areas. Colleges may require one or several of the SAT II subject tests upon admission for placement purposes. The student should check with the colleges in which he is interested before deciding which test to take. Check the College Board website for additional information.
5. Plan Test - The PLAN test is the preliminary test to the ACT test. The PLAN test has a career assessment portion that helps the student in planning for the future. It is recommended that the PLAN test be taken in the fall of the 10th grade. GCSHEA students are invited annually to test with GCS. Students will register through GCSHEA.

6. ACT (American College Testing Program offered several times a year) - The ACT is an alternative to the SAT I and is the test of choice for some colleges and universities. The ACT assessment includes four curriculum-based tests that measure a student's educational development in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. The student should take this test during the fall or spring semester of the junior year or fall semester of the senior year. Check with the college of your choice on what test (SAT or ACT) is preferred for admission. For registration information and practice materials go to www.act.org.
7. GCHSEA has its own CEEB Testing Code now. Please use 410004 on all tests and scores will be forwarded to GCSHEA.

GCHSEA

Greenwood Christian School Home Educators Association

CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION PROGRAM

Revised January 2018



(Non-Diploma Program)

The Certificate of Education Program is designed for students in the 9th - 12th grades who are seeking accountability to comply with the law, but do not desire a GCSHEA diploma. This program is for students who do not meet the standards set by the state to receive a diploma.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

1. Completion of grades K - 8.
2. Submission to GCSHEA of a transcript and/or documentation of any high school course work done in the 9th - 12th grades prior to GCSHEA membership.
3. Submission of a completed yearly Parent Report Card form, listing the curriculum and grade levels for the subjects required by law: literature, composition, math, science, and history/social studies.
4. Submission of a completed Parent Report Card form.
5. Payment of all fees.
6. Submission to GCSHEA of scores of standardized tests taken in grades 8 or 9. Standardized testing is required in grades 8 or 9.