



November 14, 2005

TO: Principals and Headmasters, Public and Private South Carolina High Schools, and Presidents, South Carolina Home-School Associations

FROM: Student Services Division

RE: Transcripts for LIFE Scholarship Eligibility

A student may qualify for the LIFE Scholarship at a four-year institution by meeting two of the following three criteria: earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on UGS; rank in the top 30% of graduating class; and score at least 1100 on the SAT/24 ACT. According SC Code of Law 59-5-68, State Scholarship eligibility will be determined by the students' achievement on the Uniform Grading Policy **only**.

As of May 1, the graduating class consists of all diploma eligible students and students who finished their high school curriculum in December prior to graduation for LIFE Scholarship eligibility. This number may be different from the number of students who actually will receive a diploma. This number would exclude certificate eligible students (non-diploma).

Students who graduate from high school after attending summer school may qualify for the LIFE Scholarship at four-year institutions based upon their GPA and SAT/ACT score. These students may not use class rank to qualify since rank cannot be re-calculated after summer school. Students who have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the UGS but not the SAT/ACT score may qualify for the SC HOPE Scholarship during their freshmen year. Students may earn the LIFE Scholarship for their second, third, or fourth year.

**Please refer to the SC Department of Education's detailed instructions for formatting and printing transcripts for the LIFE Scholarship program. The link is**

<http://www.myschools.com/offices/tech/dts/documents/GPAandTranscript05.doc>

According to the LIFE Scholarship regulations 62-900.55, only eligible four-year and two-year public and independent institutions may award the LIFE Scholarship to students. High schools must not inform students that they are LIFE Scholarship recipients.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about the Uniform Grading Policy, please contact the State Department of Education at (803) 734-8396. For any questions regarding the LIFE Scholarship, please contact the SC Commission on Higher Education at (803) 737-2260.

cc: Guidance Counselors, Public and Private S.C. High Schools  
District Directors of Guidance  
Assistant Superintendents of Instruction