



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

**SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE ACCESS  
PROGRAMS, STATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND  
GRANT PROGRAMS 2017**



# South Carolina College Access Programs

# College Access Programs

- ▶ **Step 1:** College Application Month
- ▶ **Step 2:** College Goal SC
- ▶ **Step 3:** Decision Day
  
- ▶ [www.sccango.org](http://www.sccango.org)
  - ▶ Tool kits, handouts, resources, videos



Register  
Now!!!

# College Application Month SC

- ▶ College Application Campaign for South Carolina
- ▶ Events run from September to November
- ▶ 226 Schools Registered
- ▶ College Rep Assistance and Fee Waivers!

▶ [www.sccango.org](http://www.sccango.org)

- ▶ Tool kits, handouts, resources, videos



Register  
Now!!!

# College Goal SC

- ▶ FAFSA Completion Campaign
- ▶ Events run from October 2017 to March 2018 (accepting pilot schools now)
- ▶ Register through SCCANGO.org for College Financial Aid Reps to support your event

- ▶ [www.sccango.org](http://www.sccango.org)

- ▶ Tool kits, handouts, resources, videos



Register  
Now!!!

# College Decision Day SC

- ▶ South Carolina's College Signing Day Program
- ▶ Events run from March to June
- ▶ Celebrate with your Seniors and invite your local colleges to join you!

- ▶ [www.sccango.org](http://www.sccango.org)
  - ▶ Tool kits, handouts, videos, resources



Register In  
February



# State Scholarship and Grant Programs

# State Scholarship and Grant Programs

- ▶ SC Need-based Grant
- ▶ Lottery Tuition Assistance
- ▶ SC HOPE Scholarship
- ▶ LIFE Scholarship
- ▶ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

# General Eligibility Requirements

## SC HOPE, LIFE, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, SC Need-based Grant, & Lottery Tuition Assistance\*\*

- ▶ US Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident\*
- ▶ SC Resident\*
- ▶ No felony convictions\*\*
- ▶ No second or subsequent alcohol/drug misdemeanors
- ▶ Not in default of any state or federal loans
- ▶ Enroll in a degree-seeking program at an eligible SC institution

*\*This must be determined at the time of high school graduation & college enrollment.*

*\*\*Excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance*

# State Scholarships & Residency: Basic Breakdown

Students must have their immigration status verified through a federal process as either a US Citizen or legal permanent resident before they can be awarded any State scholarship.

All students must be verified by the institution as a SC resident before they can be awarded any State scholarship.

A student who is NOT verified as a US Citizen or legal permanent resident **AND** who is not verified as a SC resident **at the time of their high school graduation** cannot receive State scholarships at the time of initial enrollment or at any point in the future.

# SC Need-based Grant

Must complete the FAFSA application each year and be determined "needy" based on Title IV

Can be used at any 2-year or 4-year public institution.

Must be considered a degree seeking student.  
Up to \$2,500 for full-time or \$1,250 for part-time.

# SC Need-based Grant Additional Programs

## Foster Care Youth

Up to the maximum  
\$2,500 SC NBG  
award/year, plus up to  
an additional \$2,000

*\*Student needs to work with the Financial  
Aid office, DSS, and CHE*

## College Transition Program

Programs at 5 eligible  
SC institutions for  
intellectually disabled  
students.

*\*Student needs to be determined  
needy by Title IV guidelines*

# Lottery Tuition Assistance

Complete  
the FAFSA  
application

Enrolled as a degree  
seeking student at  
one of the: 16  
technical schools, 2-  
year USC satellite  
campuses, or  
Spartanburg  
Methodist College

\$95\*/Credit  
hour up to  
\$1,140 for  
full time

\* Award amount may vary each term depending on  
availability of funding.

# SC HOPE Scholarship

## Eligibility:

**3.0 Cumulative GPA** (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation

No application Process.  
Institution reviews final high school transcript.

Must attend an eligible SC 4-year institution

Up to \$2,800  
For the 1st academic year only  
(2 terms)

# SC HOPE to LIFE

**SC HOPE**

**After 1<sup>st</sup> academic year:**

Earn an average of 30  
credit hours; *and*

3.0 LIFE GPA

**LIFE**

# LIFE Scholarship

## Eligibility at a 2-year institution

- **3.0 Cumulative GPA** (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation

## Eligibility at a 4-year institution

- Earn **2** of the following **3** requirements:
  - 3.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation
  - 1100/SAT or 24/ACT
  - Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class (if applicable)

# LIFE Scholarship

## Terms of Eligibility

- Up to 4 consecutive semesters of eligibility at a 2-year institution
- Up to 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility at a 4-year institution

## Up to \$5,000 per academic year

- Not to exceed to the Cost of Attendance
- Must attend an eligible SC institution

# "Facts of LIFE" Scholarship

NO application process

Not required to begin college immediately after high school

Can *earn* LIFE Scholarship after 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> academic year

Student has until the end of an academic year to earn the GPA/Credit hours

Dual Enrollment and college enrollment while in high school and/or prior to enrolling in college

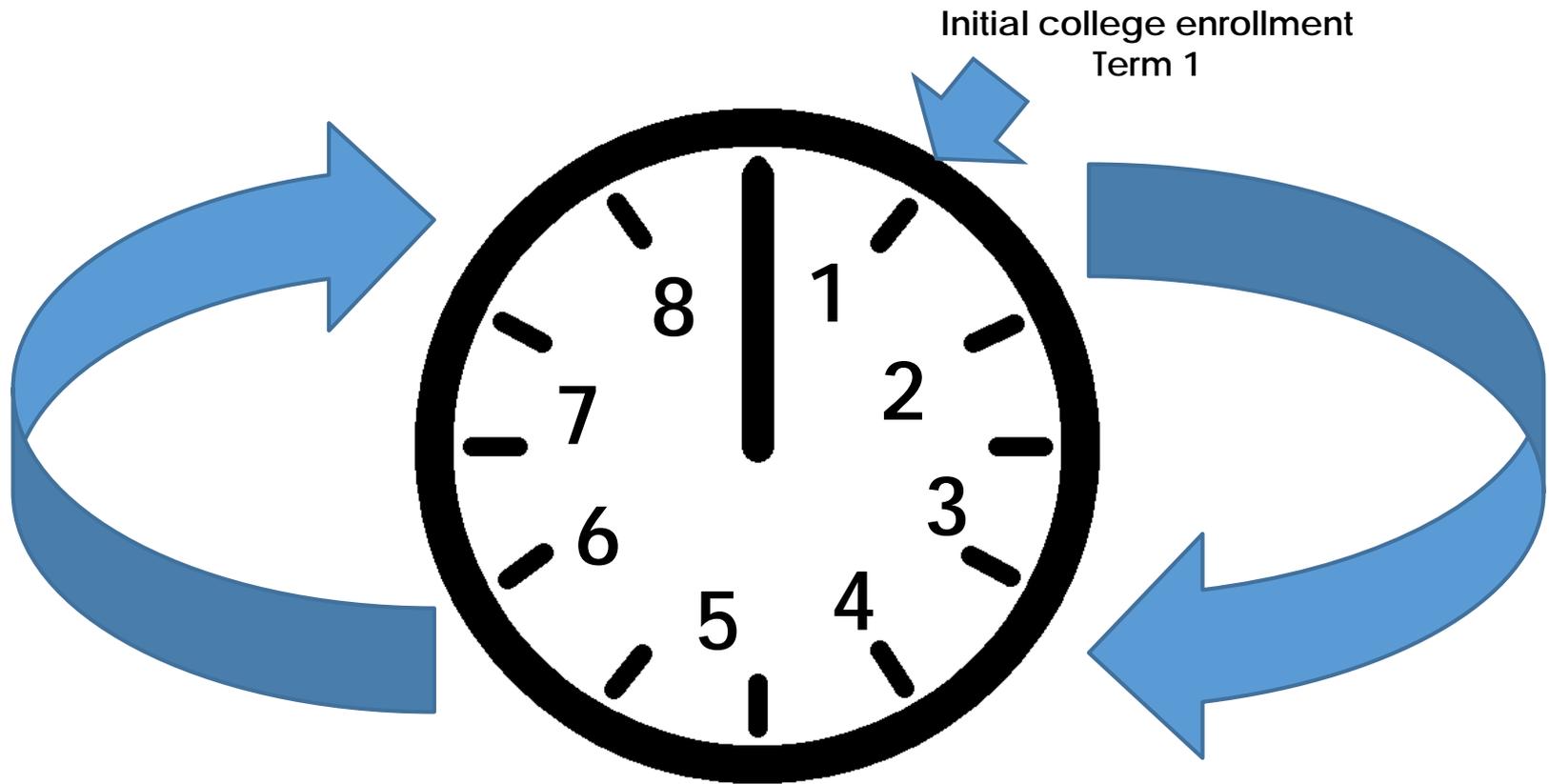
Grades and credit hours earned at colleges and universities (in-state, out-of state, abroad)

# LIFE GPA

Includes "F" and "D" Grades

Grades and credit hours earned while enrolled in college (including summer school)

# The LIFE "clock"



# A "Walk Through LIFE"

End of 1<sup>st</sup>  
Academic  
Year

Earn a 3.0  
Cum LIFE  
GPA

Earn at  
least 30  
credit hours

End of 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Academic  
Year

Earn a 3.0  
Cum LIFE  
GPA

Earn at  
least 60  
credit hours

End of 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Academic  
Year

Earn a 3.0  
Cum LIFE  
GPA

Earn at  
least 90  
credit hours

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Application Periods

- ▶ Any eligible student will need to be a part of the Early or Late Award application process during their year of graduation
- ▶ TWO opportunities to apply:
  - ▶ Early Award: Mid-October - December 15<sup>th</sup>
  - ▶ Late Award: Mid-April - June 15<sup>th</sup>

*\*a student cannot use Early Award documentation for the Late Award\**

*\*\*a student cannot apply or earn the PFS once they have graduated high school\*\**

*\*\*\* Late award is awarded LATE → usually after tuition bill is due. Please let students and parents know.*

# Counselor driven application process

- ▶ The online application and application materials must be submitted via the high school/home school association and in the Commission office by the established deadlines
  - ▶ **Fill out online application** (*posted on SC Guidance Listserv or contact CHE staff*)
    - ▶ Please add student email address (personal → not school).
  - ▶ **Eligible applicant form**
  - ▶ **Certification & Authorization Form** (*print; give to students to sign.*)

# Counselor driven application process con't

## ▶ Student transcript

- ▶ Early Award: submit an 11<sup>th</sup> grade transcript for all applicants;
  - ▶ Only submit 10<sup>th</sup> grade transcripts if student did NOT rank in 11<sup>th</sup> grade (if using rank)
  - ▶ DO NOT send final end of year transcript in May/June.
- ▶ Late Award: submit a 12<sup>th</sup> grade transcripts for all applicants;
  - ▶ Only submit 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade transcripts if student did NOT rank in 12<sup>th</sup> grade (if using rank)

## ▶ Student test scores

- ▶ High school score report
  - ▶ SAT – please sign OR stamp the student score report
- ▶ Please have students taking the Nov/June test, send scores to CHE via SAT 4313; ACT 6326.

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

- ▶ For schools that have an official policy on rank that has been reviewed by Commission staff for compliance with the established Regulations:
  - ▶ Rank in the top 6% at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup>, or the 11<sup>th</sup>, or the 12<sup>th</sup> grade academic year
- ▶ Earn a 1200 on the SAT/27 on the ACT (through the June test administration of the graduating year)
- ▶ Earn a 3.5 cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP)

**OR**

Alternate Criteria (without regard to rank)

- ▶ Earn a 1400 on the SAT/32 on the ACT (through the June test administration of the graduating year)
- ▶ Earn a 4.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP)

# Early Awards Timeline

Sept-Oct

- Announcement through the **SC Guidance Listserv** regarding opening of application period.

Dec.

- **December 15<sup>th</sup>** application deadline. All application materials **MUST** be in the CHE office by 5:00PM. Should the deadline fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is the preceding Friday.

Mid-March

- Students will receive e-mail regarding scholarship eligibility.
- Students **MUST** complete Designation Form to be awarded funds.

# Late Awards Timeline

April

- Announcement through the **SC Guidance Listserv** regarding opening of application period.

June

- **June 15<sup>th</sup>** application deadline. All application materials **MUST** be in the CHE office by 5:00PM. Should the deadline fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is the preceding Friday.

Mid-August

- Students will receive e-mail regarding scholarship eligibility.
- Students **MUST** complete Designation Form to be awarded funds.

# The “Decline” Difference

## Declination Form (Declining to Apply)

- Student will **NOT** be a part of a PFS application period
- Declination form is signed by parent **AND** student

I understand that it is the recommendation of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education that I apply for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and decline at a later date if necessary; however, I have decided to **NOT** apply because of the reason marked below.....

I further understand that my decision to decline to apply for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is a permanent decision. I am relinquishing all rights to receive this scholarship at a later time by completing and submitting this form. This means that if I change my mind and would like to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship at a later time, then I would not be eligible, because I never applied and was never awarded the scholarship.

## Designation Form (Apply but decline)

- ▶ Student has been a part of a PFS application period;
- ▶ Student has been determined to be PFS recipient;
- ▶ Student has decided to attend an eligible 4-year institution- out -of -state
- ▶ Student **DECLINES** the award to attend out-of-state institution:
  - ▶ Declining allows for a student to maintain their eligibility should they return to an eligible SC institution
  - ▶ Still must meet renewal requirements

# Student Notifications/ Designation Form

- ▶ Early Award: Mid-March
- ▶ Late Award: Mid-August
  - ▶ Student tuition bill WILL be due prior to being awarded the Palmetto Fellow Scholarship.
  - ▶ Students CAN accept the LIFE Scholarship and use it towards their bill.
- ▶ Deadline to submit Designation Form: August 31st



E-mail!

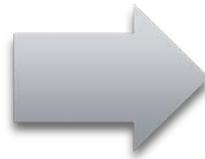
# Designation Form

- ▶ In order for the student to receive scholarship funds they **MUST** complete the DESIGNATION FORM
  - ▶ This is the SOLE responsibility of the student
  - ▶ The student is provided this form via email to the email listed on the electronic application

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Award Breakdown

1<sup>st</sup> Year

- Up to  
\$6,700



2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and  
4<sup>th</sup> Years

- Up to  
\$7,500

# Important Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Points

- ▶ The student **MUST** attend an eligible 4-year institution the fall semester **immediately** following high school graduation
  - ▶ Enrolling in a 2-year institution during a fall or spring semester forfeits the student's PFS eligibility → This includes Bridge Programs.
  - ▶ Not enrolling the fall semester upon high school graduation forfeits the student's PFS eligibility
- ▶ A student who attends an out-of-state institution can use any remaining terms of the PFS should they transfer to an eligible SC institution and meet the PFS renewal requirements

# How do I keep the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship?

3.0 cumulative  
institutional GPA

(Cannot transfer grades  
from other colleges)

Earn 30 credit hours  
each academic year

Does NOT include AP, IB,  
Dual Enrollment, CLEP or  
exempted credit hours

# LIFE & PFS Enhancements

Must be enrolled in an eligible major at their home institution

Must Earn 14 credit hours of math and/or science by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> academic year  
(AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, CLEP and Exempted courses)

Starts the student's 2<sup>nd</sup> academic year (6 semesters) at a 4-year institution only

Up to an additional \$2,500

# Enhancements

## LIFE Scholarship

1<sup>st</sup> Year

- Up to \$5,000

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, &  
4<sup>th</sup> Years

- Up to \$7,500 with Enhancement

## Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

1<sup>st</sup> Year

- Up to \$6,700

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, &  
4<sup>th</sup> Years

- Up to \$7,500
- Up to \$10,000 with Enhancement

# Students with Disabilities

Register with  
the Office of  
Disability  
Services



May be eligible  
for  
accommodations



May be  
eligible for  
Reduced  
Course load

# General State Scholarship & Grant Information

- ▶ No State Scholarships or grants may be used at an out-of-state institution at any time
- ▶ Academic Common Market
  - ▶ Allows for South Carolina residents who are enrolled in specific programs at out-of-state institutions to be charged only the applicable in-State tuition by the institution in which the student is enrolled
  - ▶ <http://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/LearningAboutCollege/AcademicCommonMarketInformation.aspx>

# General State Scholarship & Grant Information

## ▶ Graduation Bulletin/Program

- ▶ If the school chooses to designate scholarship recipients in such programs, we would ask that you include the following disclaimer language:
  - ▶ *"The designation of scholarship recipients on this program or in any media is preliminary, based on information provided by the high schools and students at the time of this printing, and is subject to final confirmation and approval by the eligible higher education institution and/or the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education."*

# Transcript Requirements: Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

## ALL transcripts must identify SC UGP GPA

- ▶ All state scholarships and grants are based on the SC UGP, therefore all transcripts must specifically state "SC UGP."
  - ▶ For the purposes of awarding state scholarships the transcript must comply with the **SC UGP**. Any transcript that just states, "Weighted and Unweighted GPA" OR "Total GPA" will not be accepted.

All final official transcripts must be date calculated between the date of the **high school graduation** (May-June) and no later than  
**June 15<sup>th</sup>**

- ▶ The final grades/ranking cannot include grades earned after the official graduation date of the senior class or end of the school year (PFS only). Summer school grades earned after high school graduation cannot be used in the calculation.

# Transcript Requirements: Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

In order to determine eligibility for the State scholarship programs, the financial aid office/institution and/or CHE for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship must have an official transcript on file that demonstrates the following items:

- ▶ **A valid signature:**
  - ▶ Principal for the Public High Schools
  - ▶ Designated Signee for independent/homeschool associations
- ▶ **SC UGP GPA** must be demonstrated and rank (if school ranks)
- ▶ The **date calculated date** to be date calculated no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> (regardless of academic year)
  - ▶ For the LIFE Scholarship and the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Late Award the transcript **MUST** demonstrate that it is the **final** official transcript, as well as reflect a **graduation date**
- ▶ If a student is using rank as an eligibility criteria, the high school/home school association **must** have a policy on rank, and rank **must** be demonstrated on the official transcript (*this also applies to rank reports when required*)

# Scholarship Eligibility

- ▶ For those schools that have a grading scale that substantially deviates from the SC UGP:
  - ▶ If the institution determines that a state-approved standardized grading scale substantially deviates from the SC UGP, the grading scale must be submitted to CHE for further review
  - ▶ If CHE confirms the grade scale deviation, a transcript conversion to the SC UGP must be completed
  - ▶ If the institution is not converting the grades, the high school must submit converted transcript in addition to the original official high school transcript
    - ▶ No handwritten or strikethrough edits can be demonstrated on the submitted transcript for scholarship eligibility determination

# Rank & State Scholarship Eligibility

- ▶ For the purposes of the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS) programs two students may not occupy the same rank.
  - ▶ LIFE Scholarship: Top 30% of the graduating class (NOT rounded up to the next whole number)
  - ▶ PFS: Top 6% (rounded up to the next whole number)

# Rank & State Scholarship Eligibility

- ▶ In the event of a tie, the high school/home school association is responsible for determining the legitimate rank for each eligible applicant.
  - ▶ For the purposes of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship the student's GPA may need to be truncated past two decimal points in order to determine the true rank for each student.
  - ▶ *Inquire about your School District or Board's approved policy*
- ▶ Commission staff will NOT be able to participate in a process to determine a student's true rank.

# Ranking Policies

- ▶ In order for a student to use rank from any in-state, out-of-state, public, private, virtual, or charter high school or home school association the process is which rank is determined must be the same for each student.
- ▶ A rank policy\* is considered the following:
  - ▶ Based on the SC UGP;
  - ▶ Ranks ALL academic classes at the END of each academic year (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>);
  - ▶ Includes the entire class. If the entire class is not included when calculating class rank, then rank CANNOT to be considered;
  - ▶ Rank and SC UGP must be demonstrated on the official transcript submitted to CHE or eligible SC institution

*\*Please Note: In accordance with **62-1200.10 C (3): Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement and 62-320 C (4): Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Application**, "High schools or home school associations shall not use ranking for the sole purpose of obtaining eligibility for the state scholarships."*

# Ranking Policies

- ▶ The rank policy and rank policy information needs to consistent in all places rank information is provided
  - ▶ School profile
  - ▶ Student/parent handbook
  - ▶ School website
  
- ▶ Made available to:
  - ▶ Students/parents
  - ▶ SC Commission on Higher Education staff
  - ▶ SC colleges and universities that award State scholarships

*Please Note: A Rank Report is required to be submitted to Commission staff and/or eligible SC institution by any independent/private high school or homeschool association should a student be using rank as an eligibility criteria for any of the State scholarship programs. (In compliance with Regulation 62-1200.10)*

# Early Graduates

## Early Graduate:

Student graduates mid-year

- ▶ For scholarship eligibility the student can **ONLY** use SC UGP GPA
  - ▶ **CANNOT** use rank
- ▶ SC HOPE/LIFE Scholarship
  - ▶ Complete Early Graduate application at planned institution of attendance
- ▶ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
  - ▶ Only **ONE** opportunity to apply
  - ▶ the Early Award application period of their senior year
  - ▶ Can receive LIFE Scholarship during Spring semester\*. Will receive the PFS the following terms of remaining eligibility.

## Graduating Early:

Student graduates academic year(s) early

- ▶ SC HOPE/LIFE Scholarship
  - ▶ Eligibility is based on the end of the academic year with their "new" graduating class
- ▶ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
  - ▶ Can apply during the Early or Late Award application period
  - ▶ Early Award Application period can only use end of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade GPA and rank
  - ▶ Late Award application period can use the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade rank, must use end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade GPA

# Year Round Scholarships

Eligible  
SC HOPE,  
LIFE, and  
Palmetto  
Fellows  
recipients



Earn  
continued  
eligibility  
by the  
end of the  
Spring  
term



Eligible  
to use  
funds for  
a  
Summer  
term



- \*Enrolled full-time
- \*Uses a term of eligibility
- \*Eligible for Fall if eligible at the end of Spring

# UPDATES

- Class of 2018: New SAT Redesign only
  - Can still “Super Score” highest Math section with highest Evidence-Based Reading & Writing Score

# CHE Contact Information

## **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk**

Director of Student Services

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Program Manager

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## **Ms. Tanya Weigold**

Scholarships and Grants

Program Manager

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## **Ms. Leslie Williams**

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Scholarships and Grants

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# Other Contact Information

## **Academic Common Market**

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## **SC College Access Programs**

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## **PowerSchool Questions**

**SC Department of Education**

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Mr. Daniel Ralyea

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# Websites

- ▶ [www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov)
- ▶ [www.sccango.org](http://www.sccango.org)
  - ▶ Register for your College Access events now!