



### **Back to School Information Packet**

- 💡🗣️ Elementary Academy (Grades 2-5) Junior Academy (Grade 6)
  - ✅ Academy Theme & ✅ Academy Leaders
  - ✅ Parent FAQ & ✅ Academy Daily Schedule
  - ✅ Important Dates & ✅ Supply Lists
- ✅ Parent FAQ on Attendance Guidelines & ✅ 2024-25 Academic Calendar
  - ✅ Annual FERPA Notification & ✅ Family Engagement Policy
  - ✅ Scholar Uniform Policy & ✅ Meet your New Superintendent

#### Important Links:

LSC Website: [www.libertysteamcharter.org](http://www.libertysteamcharter.org)  
French Toast Uniforms: [www.frenchtoast.org](http://www.frenchtoast.org)  
Online School Supply List: <https://shorturl.at/XW88M>  
Uniform Assistance Form: <https://shorturl.at/9xn04>  
Update School with New Contact Info: <https://shorturl.at/DpCIJ>

#### Important Phone Numbers:

Network Office: [803-569-1217](tel:803-569-1217) (Call or Text) HYPE After School Program: [803-934-9527](tel:803-934-9527)  
YMCA After School Program: [803-773-1404](tel:803-773-1404) Audri J's (Uniform Embroidery): [803-464-2360](tel:803-464-2360)  
French Toast (Uniforms): [1-800-373-6248](tel:1-800-373-6248)  
Apparell Express (Uniform Embroidery): [\(864\) 901-0063](tel:864-901-0063)  
Southern Print (Uniform Embroidery): [803-778-1122](tel:803-778-1122)  
Vinyl Hustle (Uniform Embroidery): [803-316-4274](tel:803-316-4274)



## Meet the Leaders Of the ELEMENTARY & JUNIOR ACADEMIES

**HARRIS**  
EA ACADEMY DIRECTOR (GRADES 1-5)

**CRIBBS**  
JA ACADEMY DIRECTOR (GRADE 6)

**HATFIELD**  
BOARD OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

**VAUGHN**  
SEAL OF CULTURE

**CARLISLE**  
TEACHING SUPPORT SPECIALIST

**BUTLER**  
CULTURE AND MATHEMATICS SUPPORT SPECIALIST & YEAR 1 LEADERSHIP LEAD

**HUGGINS**  
TEACHER SUPPORT SPECIALIST & YEAR 3 LEADERSHIP FELLOW

**PACK**  
SPECIAL POPULATIONS COORDINATOR

**CHAMBERS**  
CAMPUS DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**liberty** #TheLibertyDifference  
STEAM Charter School

[www.libertysteamcharter.org](http://www.libertysteamcharter.org) f i t in



**TEAM liberty** STEAM Charter School

Welcome to our Team & Family

## DR. BRENDA HAFNER

SUPERINTENDENT | NETWORK



### Let's meet... OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Brenda brings nearly 30 years of experience in education, serving as a teacher, principal, Chief of Schools, and Superintendent. Her student-centered leadership journey includes leading a magnet school for at-risk scholars, serving as a middle and high school principal, and overseeing 27 schools in Sumter School District as Chief of Schools, where she focused on coaching principals and strengthening leadership systems. Most recently, as Superintendent of Lexington School District Two, Dr. Hafner has led with integrity, humility, and a strong instructional focus aligned to South Carolina standards. We're excited to have Dr. Hafner lead us into the next phase of growth & development at LSC. She will officially begin her duties on July 1.

#TheLibertyDifference f i t in



*Welcome to our  
Team & Family*



**JENNIFER CRIBBS**  
ACADEMY DIRECTOR | JA



*Why I chose*  
**TO COMMIT TO LSC...**

"I sought this opportunity because I am passionate about developing scholars and continuing to build a culture of excellence. As the Inaugural Junior Academy Director, I look forward to using my 10 years of leadership and 20+ years of classroom teaching experience to partner with scholars, families, and staff to prepare our scholars for future success through strong academic foundations and meaningful pathways to college and career readiness."

**#TheLibertyDifference**



## Elementary Academy Daily Schedule (Grades 2-5)

7:40-8:00 am	Arrival & Breakfast
2 Hours	<b>Reading, Writing, &amp; Phonics</b> <small>(Small Groups Included)</small>
30 Minutes	<b>Flex Block</b> <small>(Science / Social Studies)</small>
1.5 Hours	<b>Math</b> <small>(Small Groups Included)</small>
30 Minutes	<b>Lunch</b>
30 Minutes	<b>Brain Break</b> <small>(Recess &amp; Read Aloud)</small>
30 Minutes	<b>SEL Lesson/Morning Meeting</b>
1.5 Hours	<b>Enrichment Classes</b>
3:20-3:40 pm	Dismissal

*Fridays are half-days for LSCEA. A modified schedule will include Community Culture Celebrations, SEL, academic remediation & enrichment with dismissal from 11:50 am -12:20 pm.*

## Junior Academy Daily Schedule (Grade 6)

7:40-8:00 am	Arrival & Breakfast
45 Minutes 45 Minutes	<b>Reading Writing</b>
45 Minutes	<b>Science</b>
45 Minutes	<b>Math</b>
35 Minutes	<b>Lunch/Recreation</b>
45 Minutes	<b>Eagles Excel</b>
45 Minutes	<b>Social Studies</b>
1.5 Hours	<b>Encore Classes</b>
3:20-3:40 pm	Dismissal

*This schedule shows time allocations; class order will vary by scholar schedule. Fridays are half-days for LSCJA. A modified schedule will include 1st-4<sup>th</sup> periods one Friday and 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> periods the next, with dismissal from 11:50 am -12:20 pm.*



**JULY 27**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL NEST FEST**  
*Drop-In Style | Grades K-1 (PA): 9am-Noon  
Grades 2-5 (EA): 2-4 pm | Grade 6 (JA): 5-6:15 pm*

**JULY 29**  
**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (FULL DAY)**  
*Kinder scholars begin with a staggered start: Jump Start Camp (July 29–August 4) for identified scholars, with all scholars reporting together on August 5.*

**\*ALL FRIDAYS AT LSC ARE HALF DAYS.**  
PA Dismissal: 11:40am–12:10 pm | EA/JA Dismissal: 11:50am–12:20 pm

**liberty** STEAM Charter School  
**#TheLiberty** *Difference*

WELCOME POSTCARDS MAILED FROM TEACHER JULY 22



## **Scholar Attendance Guidelines - Parent FAQ**

Below are responses to the most commonly asked questions regarding LSC's Attendance Policy:

1. **I told my child to inform his teacher that he was absent because he was sick. Do I have to send in a written note?** Yes, a written note is required every time your child is absent from school. The note should include your child's name, homeroom teacher/grade, parent name, a detailed explanation of the reason that he/she was absent from school, and a parent signature. Each year, scholars have up to five days that can be excused with a parent note. All days in excess of these limits, without acceptable reason or an excuse from a medical professional, will be considered unlawful.
2. **What happens if our family has planned an out of town trip that will require my child to miss school?** Out of town trips, vacations, and cruises are not acceptable reasons for lawful absences, and the days will count towards truancy unless you have any of your 5 parent notes left. If so, follow the guidelines above and send in the notes no later than 3 days after you return.
3. **How many days is my child allowed to miss because of sickness?** Only five days will be excused for illness with a parent note. An additional five days may be excused with acceptable documentation from a medical professional or service provider. In the event of a serious medical issue or illness, please consult the child's school to explore the potential for intermittent homebound/homebound instruction.
4. **My son/daughter missed school because of a transportation issue. Is this an excused absence?** No. We understand things happen but missing an entire day of school because of a transportation issue will not be excused.
5. **My child was absent from school because of a death in the family, are the two days for the funeral services excused?** Yes, the child will be excused for "bereavement" in the event of a death of an immediate family member. Upon return to school, please include a copy of the death notice, obituary, or program from the funeral services along with your written excuse.
6. **One of my children is sick, are his/her siblings able to be excused from school because of the medical appointment?** No, your child's absence may be excused only if they are sick and not if a parent or sibling is ill. The absence will be considered unlawful, and may lead to truancy.
7. **I took my child to the doctor, but I forgot to get a medical excuse note when we were in the office. Is it too late to submit the excuse?** No, please make every possible effort to secure a medical excuse note whenever your child is seen and misses any part of the school day. When in doubt, please request a note from the doctor's office as potential documentation. If you forget to get a note, you will have three days to get it to the school. Please contact the provider's office and explore the possibility of having an excuse faxed or sent to the school.
8. **We have already had 5 days excused with a parent note; can my child be excused for any additional days this year?** Unfortunately, LSC's attendance policy only allows for a total of five days excused with a parent note. Additional days without acceptable documentation will not be considered lawful absences.
9. **My child was seriously injured and is physically unable to attend school. What are the options?** In the event that your child is battling a significant illness, enduring a prolonged hospital stay, surgery or is physically unable to attend school, they may be eligible for homebound instruction with the approval of a medical professional. Please contact your child's teacher to explore this option and determine if it is in the best interest of your child to pursue intermittent homebound/homebound instruction during the period of illness.
10. **I signed my child out, why is the absence listed as unexcused?** Absences will only be considered excused or lawful if they meet one of the guidelines established by the Board of Directors. Parents are unable to excuse their children from school if the absence is not due to one of the established acceptable reasons. If a child misses more than 51% of the school day, it will be recorded as an absence when calculating chronic absenteeism.
11. **I know that the law dictates that 3 consecutive or 5 (or more) total unexcused absences meets the definition of truancy, but if I tell the school why my child was out, does it really impact their educational record?** We appreciate communication regarding the reasons why a student is absent. However, if the reason for the absences is unlawful and the days absent are not excused, the truancy will be indicated on their permanent record. Attendance is a factor considered for students who are at risk of retention.
12. **What is the rule LSC follows for retaining a scholar due to excessive absences?** LSC will automatically retain a scholar in their current grade for the following school year if s/he has 10 or more unexcused absences.
13. **What is an overnight suspension?** Any scholar whose parent fails to show for an Attendance Intervention Policy & does not communicate with the school for a rescheduled date/time will receive an overnight suspension where the child must be brought into the school with a parent to hold the required conference. The scholar would not be allowed to return to his/her regular class schedule without the conference held with the parent to establish the Attendance Intervention Plan. Excessive medical absences beyond 10 days will result in a wet doctor's signature with a total of 19 days or more medical absences resulting in summer school.



## 2026-27 Elementary (Grades 2-5) and Junior Academy (Grade 6) Family FAQ

#	Question	Answer
1	What time is the scholar drop off on Monday-Friday?	<p>7:35-8:00 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholars are marked tardy after 8:05 AM. Any tardy scholar in will grades 2-4 have to park and walk into the EA campus front office. Late scholars in grades 5 and 6 will park and sign-in through the JA campus front office. We only allow 5 late arrivals under our attendance policy.</li> </ul>
2	What will drop-off look like with two different carlines?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2nd-4th grade families will use the original carline that we have always used at the EA campus.</li> <li>5th and 6th grade families will use the carline for the Junior Academy addition. This will take some time to get used to, so please be flexible the first few weeks. Both lines will be double-stacked just like the other carline.</li> <li>If your family has scholars in <u>both</u> grade bands, you will <b>NOT</b> have to get in both carlines. Instead, you will drop off your scholars at the EA carline. 5th/6th grade scholars will walk over to the new addition, since they are older.</li> </ul>
3	What time is scholar pick up on Monday-Thursday?	3:10-3:40 PM - If a scholar is picked up late more than 3 times, the family may be called in for a conference and the scholar will be placed on an attendance plan.
4	What time is the scholar pickup on Friday?	11:50-12:20 PM - If a scholar is picked up late more than 3 times, the family may be called in for a conference and the scholar will be placed on an attendance plan.
5	Will there be an early release cut off time?	Early sign-outs will not be allowed after 2:15pm M-Th and 10:55am F to ensure a safe dismissal for all scholars. We only allow 5 early sign outs under our attendance policy.
6	What is the educational model?	For the purposes of consistency across campuses, every scholar in grades 2-5 begins their day with a 30 minute Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lesson. Scholars at the EA campus will receive 90 minutes of Math instruction, 2 hours of Reading/Writing instruction, two 45-minute enrichment classes, a 30-minute flex time for Science and Social Studies, a 30-minute lunch period and 20 minutes of recess daily. On Fridays, scholars will participate in various community-building activities, as well as differentiated small groups.

		Scholars at the JA campus will receive 45 minutes of instruction in all core classes (Math, Reading, Writing, Science, Social Studies, and Eagles Excel). They will also receive two 45 minute periods of encore classes.
7	Is early care offered?	Yes. We are committed to offering early drop off for families who need it beginning at 6:10AM for a monthly fee. Contact Mrs. Andrews for more information. We are excited to use a new platform this year for payments & supervision tracking. Stay tuned!
8	Are any after-school programs being offered?	We are open to any daycare who offers to pick up scholars at the request of their parents. Remember, HYPE is not operated physically on LSC campuses but we receive a certain number of spots on a first come, first serve basis. We will also have the YMCA offering paid aftercare at their facility. Please reach out to the YMCA or HYPE directly to sign-up. Visit the HYPE office to talk with Mr. Gadson at 415 Manning Avenue or by phone (803-934-9527). You can sign up with the YMCA at their facility on Miller Road.
9	How are school meals served?	All food is prepared at the mall campus this year and all scholars eat for free!
10	Has the staff been hired yet?	Yes, we are 100% fully staffed!
11	Will there be a School Resource Officer at the Elementary Academy?	Yes. Deputy Green will be with us again. We are excited and hopeful to announce another SRO for the Junior Academy soon!
12	Is there an outdoor play area?	Absolutely! We have a secured outside area (140 x 85 ft) for a large playground and PE field, which is enclosed by a 6 foot tall privacy fence. We also have a PE field and recess area on the Juni or Academy side (behind the mall).
13	How do report cards look at this Academy?	We will use the state uniform grading scale (A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, D 60-69, F 59 and below). Under a new state law this year, scholars will earn the grade earned - there is no minimum grade assigned this year.
14	Will my scholar take state standardized tests?	Third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders will participate in SC Ready state standardized testing (Math, Reading, & Writing plus Science for 4th and 6th) in the Spring. Second graders will participate in COGAT testing (a screener used to identify Talented and Gifted scholars) in the Fall. All scholars will complete MAP testing 3x (Fall, Winter, and Spring).
15	What will grading look like?	The EA campus will follow the state-wide uniform grading scale used in all public schools. There will be a minimum of nine grades collected over the course of a quarter with consistency across both grades as to what is taken for a grade to reinforce high expectations through rigorous coursework. There is NO grading floor. Scholars will receive the grade they earn. Graded work will be sent home bi-weekly in the NEST folder. The EA and JA campuses will fully utilize the Parent Portal component of our Power School database. Parents will be able to check their scholar's graded work as it is entered on a biweekly basis in the Parent Portal.
16	What is the uniform policy for this Academy?	Check out our board approved uniform policy for both campuses on our website <a href="#">here</a> . All skirts, skorts, shorts, and jumpers MUST be no more than 3 inches above the knee.

17	Is there access between the school and mall?	There is no indoor access between the two facilities.
18	Do you practice emergency drills at this campus?	Absolutely! We conduct all state-required, monthly drills, including: Fire, Active Shooter (Lockdown/Lockout), Tornado, and Earthquake.
19	Do these Academies offer extra academic services?	Yes, they offer academic intervention, academic enrichment (GT), resource, speech, OT, and PT to all scholars who qualify.
20	Are there two teachers in every classroom at this Academy?	No—only in our inclusion classrooms.
21	How many scholars are in each homeroom?	25 is the class size, and will be maintained all year at 25 throughout the year by filling any vacant seats from the enrollment lottery waitlist.
22	What will gifted education look like?	All identified gifted scholars will receive their weekly required time with a GT certified teacher.
23	What other types of grades will scholars receive?	They will receive grades for all of their classes, including Encore. Teachers are required to input a minimum of nine grades per quarter. For EA scholars, Encore grades will be NM (Not Met), P (Progressing), and M (Met). For JA scholars, Encore classes will receive letter grades.
24	Will SEL support be offered?	<p>Check In, Check Out Partners Friday rotation for CCC Mentoring, Morning SEL meetings (8-8:30 daily), &amp; SEL groups</p> <p>At Liberty STEAM Charter School, social-emotional learning (SEL) is a key part of our educational model, with the first 30 minutes of each day dedicated to a morning meeting focused on building these important skills. This year, we are excited to introduce Character Strong, our new SEL and character development program. Character Strong helps scholars develop kindness, empathy, responsibility, strong relationships, and positive decision-making skills. To monitor growth, scholars complete an SEL assessment at the beginning and end of the school year that measures skills such as emotion recognition, social perspective-taking, social problem-solving, and self-control. Scholars who need additional support may participate in interventions such as Eagles Take Flight mentoring, Check-In/Check-Out (CICO), or SEL small groups. These supports help ensure every scholar has the tools needed to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. EA &amp; JA will have additional SEL support from two new Scholar Support Specialists this year (counselors ).</p>
25	What will parent communication look like at this campus?	Parent Weekly digital newsletter, Dojo (class and schoolwide), & the One Call System.
26	What's the meal arrangement for next year?	ALL scholars will be offered FREE breakfast and lunch! Meals will be prepared at the Elementary & Junior academy campus this year. Our brand new state of the art cafeteria that will seat 1,000 at capacity will be ready in early Spring 2027.
27	Where can I find all the back to school info as it is coming over the summer?	Great question! All back to school information will be shared on social media but also kept on the home page of the LSC website.

28	What can my child do this summer to avoid the summer slide and be ready for the first day of school?	Continue to read at least 20 minutes per day! Complete the Summer Challenge packet that was sent home with all scholars.
29	What is the theme for the Elementary and Junior Academies?	We are Eagle Airlines, taking flight to S.O.A.R. to new heights! Each grade level has chosen a different continent. Each homeroom class has chosen a different destination located on that continent to build their classroom theme.
30	When will we find out who our scholars' teachers are?	Our teachers return from Summer break on July 22nd. They will receive their rosters and send a welcome back postcard in the mail that day. On July 27th, from 2-6 pm (drop-in style: 2nd-5th grades 2-4pm and 6th grade 5-6pm), we will hold our "Nest Fest" and Meet the Teachers event. We can't wait to host you on Eagle Airlines!
31	Who are the teachers?	<p><b><u>2nd Grade Flight Crew:</u></b>  Mrs. Purcell and Ms. Cousar (SPED inclusion)  Ms. Vaughn  Ms. Harrell (ELA/SS)  Ms. Pringle (Math/Science)  Mrs. Fulwood  Ms. Beauchamp</p> <p><b><u>3rd Grade Flight Crew:</u></b>  Ms. Lim (ELA/SS)  Mrs. Page (Math/Science)  Ms. Raby and Mrs. Pack (SPED inclusion)  Mrs. Thompson  Mrs. Stanfield  Mrs. Johnson</p> <p><b><u>4th Grade Flight Crew:</u></b>  Mrs. Dixon (ELA/SS)  Mr. Archie (Math/Science)  Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Ploe (SPED inclusion)  Mrs. K. Williams  Ms. J. Williams (Math/Science)  Ms. Hallman (ELA/SS)</p> <p><b><u>5th Grade Flight Crew:</u></b>  Mrs. Joe (ELA/SS)  Ms. Johnson (Math/Science)  Mrs. Prescott and Ms. Gebhardt (ELA/SS SPED inclusion)  Mrs. Prescott and Dr. Douglas (Math/Science SPED inclusion)  Mrs. Butler  Ms. Castillo</p> <p><b><u>6th Grade Flight Crew:</u></b>  Mrs. McKnight (Inclusion)  Mr. Pea (Social Studies)  Ms. Johnson-Walters (Science/PLTW)  Ms. Graves (Math)  Mrs. Munn (Reading)  Mrs. Adams (Writing)</p>

		<p>Mr. Blanding (Eagles Excel)</p> <p><b>Special Populations:</b>  Caroline Rogers  Andrew Russell  Stephanie Hickmon  Kerry Fuller  Robbie Derk  Emily Burns  Kaitlyn Ward  Stacey Mooneyham</p>
32	Who are the Encore (Enrichment) teachers?	Mrs. Andrews, 2nd-5th Physical Education Mr. Odom, 2nd-6th Physical Education Mrs. Denny, 2nd and 3rd STEAM Project Lead the Way Ms. Wilson, 4th and 5th STEAM Project Lead the Way Ms. Jones, 3rd-6th Performing Arts Mr. Brown, 2nd-6th Music Mr. Hatfield, 2nd-6th Music Mrs. Mahon, 6th Orchestra (part-time) Ms. Tellez, 2nd-4th Spanish Mrs. Marquez, 5th and 6th Spanish Ms. Edwards, 2nd, 4th-6th Art
33	Who are the intervention teachers?	Ms. Hickmon, Mrs. Fuller, Ms. Derk, Mrs. Ward, & Mrs. Burns
34	Will LSC offer speech, OT, and PT this year?	Yes! Any scholar whose IEP requires this accommodation will be provided these services. LSC has a full-time speech language therapist, occupational therapist, and psychologist on staff!
35	Will there be technology?	Yes, each classroom will have a classroom set of chrome books that will not go home, as well as an interactive display board!
36	I have heard about changes to the school's attendance policy. Can you share more?	<p>Yes! Attendance is going to continue to be a major focus area for the new school year with additional incentives as well as parent consequences to reinforce attending the full school day and arriving at school on time. We have very high expectations for scholar &amp; staff attendance. For example, scholars will be allowed five parent notes &amp; medical notes (excluding those with additional medical certification). Parent notes must be submitted within three days of the absence.</p> <p>Violation of attendance policy will result in attendance intervention plans (AIPs) if continued there will be an attendance hearing before our Board of Directors as well as notification to SC Department of Social Services. Any scholar who has 10 or more unexcused absences will automatically be retained for the following school year. Any scholar who has 10 or more medical notes will be required to participate in an intervention plan meeting to learn more about what additional supports are needed to ensure the scholar is meeting grade level mastery standards. Any scholar who missed 10% or more (19 or more days) that are medically excused will be required to attend summer school (PRIDE).</p> <p>Any scholar who violated an attendance plan in place during the 2025-26 school year or was chronically absent for any reason will be required to begin the year on an Attendance Success Plan. Summer PRIDE Camp (our version of summer camp) will</p>

		<p>be required for any scholar who is on the Chronic Absenteeism List this year unless medical homebound services have been provided and the missed seat time has been accounted for. If a scholar is required to attend Summer PRIDE Camp for attendance but does not attend with 95% ADA, then s/he will be retained in the same grade for the following school year.</p> <p>We will continue to follow the “rule of five,” but tighten up on overnight suspensions that will be required to force a family conference the day the violation occurs that triggers the next step in the policy. The “rule of five” means that scholars should only have five absences with a parent note, five late arrivals, five early sign outs, and five late pick ups.</p>
37	Are there any changes with the Code of Conduct?	The revised Scholars Code of Conduct from Spring 2023 reflects the Board of Directors renewed commitment to maintaining a high standard of behavior expectations for scholars that offers a balance of consequences to deter unacceptable behavior but also additional social-emotional learning supports. Scholars in grades 6-8 can expect stronger consequences for behavior violations.
38	I’ve heard about possible changes in the Discipline Model?	Starting this school year, we will be implementing Conscious Discipline, a research-based approach that helps scholars build self-regulation, emotional awareness, positive relationship skills, and responsibility. Through this approach, scholars will learn how to manage emotions, solve problems, make responsible choices, and contribute to a safe, supportive, and respectful school community.
39	Who is Dr. Hafner & Mrs. Cribbs? What happened with Dr. Ivey?	Liberty is excited to welcome Dr. Brenda Hafner as Superintendent and Mrs. Jennifer Cribbs as the founding Academy Director of our Junior Academy. As Liberty enters its next chapter, Co-Founder Dr. Trevor Ivey has transitioned from the organization to launch the Liberty STEAM Charter School Foundation, where he will support fundraising, high school development, and advocacy efforts that advance Liberty’s mission. Sally Harris will serve as the “principal” of grades 2-5 while Jennifer Cribbs will serve as the “principal” of grades 6-8.
40	What happened to Corporal Pinckney at the Mall Campus? Is Officer Horton going anywhere?	He received a promotion to be an Investigator with the Sumter County Sheriff’s Office and will no longer serve as an SRO at LSC. We are hoping to welcome a new SRO to our team & family soon for the mall campus. No changes are expected with Corporal Horton’s assignment at the PA campus.
41	When do I get to meet my scholar’s teachers and drop off the back to school supplies?	On July 27 from 2-4 pm (grades 2-5), all VIPs and scholars can stop by the EA campus to meet teachers, leaders, and other staff members. Our 6th grade families are asked to come between 5-6:15 pm. It’s a drop-in, so come when you can. We’ll have Kona Ice there for a cool-down treat! You can bring your scholar’s school supplies bagged & tagged with their name.
42	What’s left with the renovation at the mall?	We are awaiting the issuance of our Certificate of Occupancy from the Office of School Facilities at SC Department of Education later this month. We will be acquiring 14 new classrooms, a set of new restrooms, and 3 new project labs. The cafeteria, multipurpose gym, & performance arts center on the backside is still in the phase 5 renovation project. Dr. Ivey will be working on the high school project & will share more details soon. Exciting!
43	I heard scholars get to pick enrichment classes this year. Is that true?	Yes, as part of our charter, scholars are allowed to select one enrichment class called an “encore” class beginning in 6th grade that they will take all year long. We will be launching a band, orchestra, drama, choir, piano, dance, & art in our first year. Scholars in grades 2-5 can look for some extra curricular opportunities.



# LSC ATTENDANCE POLICIES:

## EXCESSIVE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

*Please see the process below that will be followed in the case of excessive unexcused absences.*

**3 Unexcused Absences** - Phone call made to family (teacher/leadership).

**4 Unexcused Absences** - Excessive absences letter sent home.

**5 Unexcused Absences or 3 Consecutive Absences** - AIP Must be Scheduled & Held within 72 Hours by SSC)= Office Referral Input into PowerSchool Incident Management.

## AS ABSENCES CONTINUE

### 1st Violation:

Academy Director Assigns Overnight Suspension to Require an AIP Meeting the Next Day. VIP Notified the Scholar will be added to the Attendance Watchlist for the Next School Year.

### 2nd Violation:

\*Additional Contact from School that Includes Home Visit or Administrative Outreach.\*

### 3rd Violation:

Academy Director Assigns Overnight Suspension to Require an AIP Meeting the Next Day; Referral #2 entered into PowerSchool Incident Management.

### 4rd Violation:

Academy Director Assigns Overnight Suspension to Require an AIP Meeting the Next Day.

### 5th Violation:

LSC School Attorney Makes Referral to Family Court

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

**5 Parent Notes** will be accepted for the year. VIP must submit parent note within 5 days to the Scholar Services Coordinator.

**10 Medical Notes** accepted for the year (with the exception of chronic illness or other documented medical needs). \*\*Once a scholar has 10 medical absences, the school will hold an initial wellness intervention plan meeting. Additional medical absences will result in the school implementing additional interventions (Wellness Plan) with the school attendance team. If a scholar has 19 or more medical absences as of May 15th, s/he will be required to make up missing seat time (10% of the school year) in the summer PRIDE program.

## TARDY & LATE PICKUP POLICY

**5 Unexcused Tardies or 5 late pickups** result in a separate Intervention Plan meeting. **Upon the 5th tardy or late pickup**, the school will hold an initial Tardy Intervention Plan Meeting. **After the 5th tardy or late pickup**, the school will implement the same interventions for excessive absences (board member conference, overnight suspension, & possible referral to family court) and the scholar's re-enrollment privileges will be in jeopardy for the following school year.



# LSC ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES:

## MONTHLY PERFECT ATTENDANCE

- Scholar receives a monthly shout-out on School Communication Platform (i.e. Dojo, etc.).
- Scholar receives one SOAR token.
- Traveling Trophy is Awarded to 1 Class on Each Grade Level with the Highest ADA (Average Daily Attendance).

## QUARTERLY PERFECT ATTENDANCE

- VIPs will earn 1 volunteer hour for each quarter of perfect attendance.

## YEARLY PERFECT ATTENDANCE

- Scholars who have earned perfect attendance for the entire school year will be recognized in end of year celebrations.

## LIBERTY LANGUAGE DEFINED

- AIP - Attendance Intervention Plan
- TIP - Tardy Intervention Plan
- WIP - Wellness Intervention Plan
- PRIDE - Pathways to Respect, Innovation, Discipline, & Excellence (Summer School)
- ASP - Attendance Success Plan

\*\*Scholars who who have missed 10% or more of the school year for medical reasons will be required to participate in summer school unless they have been on medical homebound to make up the seat time.

\*\*Scholars who have missed 10% or more of the school year for combined absence reasons (medical, suspension, unexcused, and/or excused) may be required to participate in summer school (school discretion).

\*\*10 or More Unexcused Absences will result in the scholar automatically being retained in the same grade the following year.

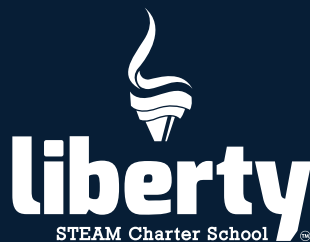
\*\*Tardies & late pick ups will follow the same intervention plan schedule as unexcused absences



## SOUTH CAROLINA ATTENDANCE LAW

A scholar who is not in school misses valuable instruction. South Carolina attendance laws, part of the Education Improvement Act of 1984, became effective beginning with the 1984-85 school year. Recognizing the importance of daily attendance, you should know that:

1. Children from ages 5 - 17 are required to attend school on all days that school is in session.
2. Absences are to be used only for sickness and emergency situations.
3. A note from the parent/guardian or doctor should be sent to the school immediately following each absence. (Only 5 parent notes are accepted as excused per school year).
4. Any notes or excuses that are submitted after 5 days of absence will not be valid.
5. Parents will be contacted after 3 consecutive or 5 total unexcused absences.



[www.libertysteamcharter.org](http://www.libertysteamcharter.org)

**ATTEND TODAY. ACHIEVE TOMORROW.**



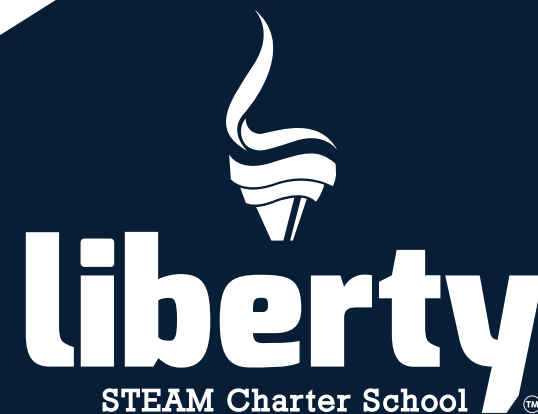
## LSC ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

In order for scholars to be counted present for the day, they must be present for more than half the day.

**Monday - Thursday 51% = 226 mins**

**Friday 51% = 136 mins**

*\*Scholars with excessive absence, tardies, or late pick ups are considered not to be in good standing with Liberty's re-enrollment policy for the following school year.*



**ATTENDANCE  
POLICY**

\*\*LAST REVISED MAY 2026



# 2026 - 27 SUPPLY LIST

## KINDERGARTEN

### ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- 1 Primary Composition Journal  
(MEAD Brand Has Blank Space at Top for Drawing)
- Headphones with Cord  
(No Earbuds, No Wireless, and No Rechargeable)
- 6 Packs of Crayola Crayons (24 Count)
- 1-2 Pair 5" Scissors (Blunt Tip)
- 1 Pack of Thin Dry Erase Markers (Black)
- 4 Packs of Sharpened #2 Pencils  
(12 Count)
- 4-6 Glue Sticks
- 1 Plastic Pencil Box
- 1 Zipper Cloth Pouch with 3 Holes
- 1 Multi-Pack of Play-Doh

### WISHLIST

- 1 Antibacterial Hand Soap  
(Refill Bottles Are Welcomed)
- 1 Bottle of Hand Sanitizer (8 oz)
- 3 Boxes of Tissues
- 2 Rolls of Paper Towels
- 2 Containers of Disinfectant Wipes
- 2 Big Pink Erasers
- 1 Ream of White Cardstock
- 1 Ream of Colored Cardstock
- 1 Box of Band-Aids
- 1 Pack of Pocket Dividers  
(Last Name A-M)
- 1 Box of Quart Ziploc Bags  
(Last Name A-M)
- 1 Package of Heavy Duty  
Clear Page Protectors  
(Last Name N-Z)
- 1 Box of Gallon Ziploc Bags  
(Last Name N-Z)

## 1ST GRADE

### ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- 4 Packs of Crayola Crayons (24 Count)
- 2 Primary Composition Journals  
(MEAD Brand Has Blank Space at Top for Drawing)
- 1 Pack of Big Pink Erasers (3 Count)
- 1 Pair 5" Scissors
- 1 Zippered Pencil Pouch
- 12-24 Jumbo Glue Sticks
- 4 Packs of Sharpened #2 Pencils  
(12 Count)
- 1 Container of Lysol Wipes
- 2 Boxes of Tissues
- 1 Pack of Dry Erase Marker Black (4 Pack)
- 2 Rolls of Paper Towels
- Headphones with Cord  
(No Earbuds, No Wireless, and No Rechargeable)

### WISHLIST

- 1 Ream of Cardstock (White or Colored)
- 1 Pack of Construction Paper
- 1 Hand Soap (Girls)
- 1 Box of Quart Ziploc Bags (Girls)
- 1 Box of Gallon Ziploc Bags (Boys)
- 1 Bottle of Hand Sanitizer (Boys)

PLEASE NOTE THAT LSC IS SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT NOT ALL FAMILIES ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO FINANCIALLY PROVIDE ALL REQUESTED SUPPLIES. WE FURTHER RESPECT THE FACT THAT PRICES ARE HIGH ALL THE WAY AROUND RIGHT NOW. NO SCHOLAR AT LSC WILL BE PENALIZED FOR NOT BRINGING IN SUPPLIES. KNOW THAT WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ANY SUPPORT THAT CAN BE PROVIDED. PARENTS ARE ASKED TO BRING THESE SUPPLIES, BAGGED AND TAGGED WITH THEIR SCHOLAR'S NAME, TO THE BACK TO SCHOOL NEST FEST ON JULY 27TH DURING YOUR CAMPUS-DESIGNATED TIME.



# 2026 - 27 SUPPLY LIST

## 2ND GRADE

### ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- 2 Packs of Crayola Crayons (24 Count)
- 1 Composition Notebook
- 1 Pack of Big Pink Erasers (3 count)
- 1 Pair 5" Scissors
- 1 Zippered Pencil Pouch
- 1 Ruler
- 2 Packs of Sharpened #2 Pencils (12 Count)
- Headphones with Cord (No Earbuds, No Wireless, and No Rechargeable)

### WISHLIST

- 1 Ream of Copy Paper
- 1 Pack of Washable Elmer's Clear Glue Sticks
- 1 Ream of Cardstock
- 2 Boxes of Tissues
- 1 Pack of Expo Dry Erase Marker Black (4 Pack)
- 2 Bottles of Hand Sanitizer
- 1 Box of Sandwich Ziploc Bags

## 3RD GRADE

### ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- 2 Packs of Crayola Crayons (24 Count)
- 2 Composition Notebooks
- 2 Plastic 3-Prong, 2-Pocket Folders (1 Red and 1 Blue)
- 1 Pack of Cap Erasers
- 1 Pair 5" Scissors
- 1 Zippered Pencil Pouch
- 1 Ruler
- Headphones with Cord (No Earbuds, No Wireless, and No Rechargeable)
- 3 Packs of Sharpened #2 Pencils (12 Count)
- 1 Pack of Index Cards
- 3 Packs of Expo Dry Erase Marker Black (4 Pack)
- 1 Pack of Colored Pencils
- 1 Pack of Markers

### WISHLIST

- 1 Double Pack of Paper Towels
- 1 Ream of Copy Paper
- 3 Packs of Washable Elmer's Clear Glue Sticks
- 1 Pack of Construction Paper
- 2 Boxes of Tissues
- 1 Box of Gallon Ziploc Bags (Boys)
- 1 Pack of Highlighters
- 1 Box of Sandwich Ziploc Bags (Girls)
- 1 Container of Lysol Wipes

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# 2026 - 27 SUPPLY LIST

## 4TH GRADE

### ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- 2 Packs of Crayola Crayons (24 Count)
- 4 Composition Notebooks
- 2 Plastic, 2-Pocket Folders Hole-Punched (1 Red and 1 Blue)
- 2 Packs of Big Pink Erasers (3 count)
- 1 Pair 5" Scissors
- 1 Hole Punched Pencil Pouch
- 1 Pack of Wide Ruled Paper
- 2 Packs of Crayola Colored Pencils
- 4 Packs of Sharpened #2 Pencils (12 Count)
- 2 Packs of Expo Dry Erase Marker Black (4 Pack)
- 4 Washable Elmer's Clear Glue Sticks
- Headphones with Cord (No Earbuds, No Wireless, and No Rechargeable)

### WISHLIST

- Double Pack of Paper Towels
- 1 Ream of Copy Paper
- 1 Pack of Construction Paper
- 2 Boxes of Tissues
- Box of Gallon Ziploc Bags (Boys)
- 1 Bottle of Hand Sanitizer
- Box of Sandwich Ziploc Bags (Girls)
- 1 Container of Lysol Wipes
- 1 Ream of White or Colored Cardstock

## 5TH GRADE

### ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- 2 Packs of Crayola Crayons (24 Count)
- 4 Composition Notebooks
- 4 Boxes of Tissues
- 1 Pack of Cap Erasers
- 1 Pair 5" Scissors
- 1 Zippered Pencil Pouch
- 1 Pack of Expo Markers
- Headphones with Cord (No Earbuds, No Wireless, and No Rechargeable)
- 2 Packs of Sharpened #2 Pencils (12 Count)
- 1 Pack of Highlighters
- 1 Pack of Clear Scotch Tape
- 1 Pack of College Ruled Paper

### WISHLIST

- 1 Double Pack of Paper Towels
- 1 Ream of Copy Paper
- 3 Packs of Washable Elmer's Clear Glue Sticks
- 1 Pack of Highlighter
- 1 Box of Gallon Ziploc Bags (Boys)
- 1 Bottle of Hand Sanitizer
- 1 Box of Sandwich Ziploc Bags (Girls)
- 1 Container of Lysol Wipes
- 1 Pack of Crayola Markers
- 1 Pack of Crayola Color Pencils
- 1 Pack of Dividers
- 1 Pack of Red and Blue Pens

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# 2026 - 27 SUPPLY LIST

## 6TH GRADE

### ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- Folders with Pockets & Prongs  
(2 Blue, 2 Black, 2 Red, 2 Purple, 2 Green)
- 3 Packs of Sharpened Pencils (12 Pack)
- 3 Rectangular Pink Erasers
- 4 Highlighters  
(At Least 2 Different Colors)
- 1 Pack of Colored Pencils
- 12 Glue Sticks
- 4 Rolls of Scotch Tape
- 5 Dry Erase Markers (Black)
- 5 1" 3-Ring Binders  
(1 Black, 1 Red, 1 Green, 2 White)
- 6 Packs College-Ruled Loose-Leaf Paper
- 1 Pack of Subject Dividers  
(At Least 8 Dividers)
- 1 Pack of 3" x 3" Post-It Notes  
(6 Separate Pads of Post-It Notes)
- 1 Pack of Pens - Blue or Black
- 2 Packs of 3" x 5" Index Cards
- 1 Pencil Pouch or Pencil Box\*
- Headphones with Cord  
(No Earbuds, No Wireless, and No Rechargeable)

### WISHLIST

- Double Pack of Paper Towels
- Boxes of Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Lysol Wipes
- Clear Page Protectors
- Pencil Cap Erasers
- 3" x 3" Post-It Notes
- Lysol Disinfectant Spray
- Reams of White and/or Colored Paper (Any Color)
- Expo Markers (Any Colors)
- File Folders
- Binder clips
- Ziploc bags

\* The Items That Must Fit in the Pencil Pouch or Box Are as Follows:  
2 Highlighters, 3 Pencils, 2 Pens,  
1 Glue Stick, 1 Pack of Colored Pencils, 2 Dry Erase Markers,  
1 Pad of Post-Its, and 1 Pink Eraser

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# 2026 - 27 SUPPLY LIST

## SUPER SPROUTS

### ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- 1 Pack of Washable Markers
- 3-4 Glue Sticks
- 2 Heavy Duty Plastic 3-Prong, 2-Pocket Folders with Clear Pocket on the Front (1 Blue, 1 Green)
- 2-3, 3 oz Cans of Play-Doh (Any Color)

### WISHLIST

- Roll of Paper Towels
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Antibacterial Liquid Hand Soap (Pump or Refill)
- Box of Tissues
- 3-Hole Heavy Duty Page Protectors
- 5 Mil Laminating Pouches (Letter Size)
- Hook and Loop Dots (i.e. Velcro)
- White or Colored Card Stock (Letter Size)

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June 5, 2026

*RE: FERPA Notification for the 2026-27 School Year*

Dear VIP (Very Important Parent/Guardian):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows schools to release “directory information” i.e, scholar’s name, address, photograph, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, diploma or certificate, awards received, and other similar information. LSC considers photographs to include digital images, including digital photographs and recordings related to school or school-sponsored events, activities, and special recognition, as “directory information.” In additional, federal laws require schools to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories—names, addresses, and telephone listings—unless parents have advised the school that they do not want their scholar’s information to be disclosed.

During the course of your child’s educational career at LSC, he or she will participate in a variety of academic, fine arts, and other events and activities in which he or she may be photographed or interviewed by school staff or news media. We proudly share the LSC story in a variety of ways. Information about your child may appear in newspaper articles, on television, in radio broadcasts, on displays, on the website, on social media, or in school promotional pieces (yearbooks, awards programs, newsletters, etc.). The release of “directory information” allows us to publicize your scholar’s accomplishments.

Please note that individual scholar records, including scholastic information, standardized test data, health records, and other similar information **are not** available public inspection. This information is only available to scholar’s parents/guardians or to the student of legal age.

If you object to the release of this information, please notify your Campus Academy Director in writing no later than August 7, 2026. If you do not submit a written objection, the school will be able to release this information as appropriate.

The use of any “directory information” by Liberty STEAM Charter is for the promotion of our scholars and the school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via phone (803-316-7849) or email (tivey@libertysteamcharter.org). Thank you for the opportunity to serve your family!

In it together,

Dr. Trevor Ivey, NBCT; Co-Founder & Executive Director

803-569-1217  
info@libertysteamcharter.org

Primary Academy: 15 School Street Sumter, SC 29150	Administrative Offices: 117 North Main Street Sumter, SC 29150	Elementary & Junior Academy: 1057-E Broad Street Sumter, SC 29150
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Sumter County's First  
Tuition-Free  
K-12 Public Charter School

**Inspiring Minds Towards Excellence**

## 2025-26 LSC Scholar Profile

Total Students: 1,061

Poverty: 70%

Minority Scholars: 65%

Special Education: 14%

Multi-Language Learners: 1%

Total Staff Count: 140

Total Campuses: 3

Teachers of Record Holding State Certification: 97%

### Administrative Offices

108 North Main Street

Sumter, SC 29150

803-569-1217

[info@libertysteamcharter.org](mailto:info@libertysteamcharter.org)

[WWW.LIBERTYSTEAMCHARTER.ORG](http://WWW.LIBERTYSTEAMCHARTER.ORG)

**Primary Academy**  
Grades K-1

15 School Street  
Sumter, SC 29150

**Elementary Academy**  
Grades 2-5

1057 Broad Street, Suite E  
Sumter, SC 29150

**Junior Academy**  
Grade 6

1057 Broad Street, Suite E  
Sumter, SC 29150

### Dr. Brenda Hafner - Superintendent

LaQuanya Chambers - Campus Director of Family & Community Engagement

Dr. Michelle McDonald, NBCT - Coordinator of Talent Development

Heather Green - Director of Finance

Gifford Shaw - Director of Development

Nicky Pack - Special Populations Coordinator

Amy Hansen - Executive Assistant & Board Liaison

### Primary Academy Leadership Team

**LeAndrea Montgomery - Director**

Rashyra Smiling - Dean of Curriculum Instruction

Emeral Franklin - Culture Leader Fellow

Eunisha Sweeney - Operations Leader Fellow

Valarie Smith - Teacher Support Specialist

Emeral Franklin - Culture Interventionist & Leader Fellow

### Elementary & Junior Academy Leadership Team

**Sally Harris - Elementary Academy Director**

**Jennifer Cribbs - Junior Academy Director**

Emily Hatfield - Dean of Curriculum & Instruction

Dexter Butler - Culture and Athletics Support Specialist & Leader Fellow

Katie Huggins - Teacher Support Specialist & Leader Fellow

Kelli Carlisle - Teacher Support Specialist

# Collaborating with Families for Scholar Success



**SCHOOL-FAMILY COMPACT  
FOR ACHIEVEMENT  
2026-27**

## WHY

LSC is committed to being an open doorway to quality educational opportunities and a passport to economic and personal achievement. As a result, we know we must collaborate with families to achieve these results for our scholars.

## WHAT

LSC's School-Family Compact for Achievement is an agreement developed among parents, families, scholars, and teachers explaining how we will work together to ensure every scholar achieves or exceeds grade-level standards.

## HOW

LSC's School-Family Compact for Achievement includes:

- Sharing LSC's Improvement Plans & Goals
- Focusing on Scholar Learning Skills
- Helping Scholars Develop Skills Through Highly Qualified Teachers & High-Quality Instruction
- Sharing Homework & Study Strategies Families Can Use at Home
- Communicating Consistently with Families About Scholar Progress
- Providing Opportunities for Families to Volunteer, Observe, and Participate in the Classroom

## Areas of Emphasis for Scholar Achievement

At LSC, our daily activities for each grade level foster consistency, resulting in a positive learning culture. These activities include:

- Read-Alouds
- SEL Morning Meetings
- Community Culture Celebrations
- Enrichment Classes:
  - Digital Literacy & Visual Arts
  - STEM Project Lead the Way
  - Music & Yoga
  - Spanish
  - Performance Arts (Band, Drumline, Orchestra, Piano, Choir, & Art)
  - Physical Education & Mixed Martial Arts
  - STEAM Project Lead the Way- Launch
- Vocabulary, Writing, & Phonics
- Guided Reading
- Math & Problem-Solving
- Science & Social Studies
- After-School Enrichments:
  - Drum Line
  - Theatre
  - Color Guard
  - Step Team
  - Tutoring

## Goals for Scholar Achievement

LSC is committed to standards-based, rigorous academics and to being a portal for scholar growth, character development, teacher development, and collaborative family and community partnerships. In addition to creating an enthusiastic culture of learning, emphasizing the social and emotional well-being of our scholars, our goals for ongoing scholar achievement include:

- To improve literacy and numeracy fluency so that scholars grow into confident, competent readers and problem solvers;
- To present scholars with academically rigorous content that is enjoyable, attainable, relevant, and transferable;
- To help all scholars achieve mini-goals that will lead to reading successfully on grade-level; and
- To achieve proficient or higher on state and national exams.

## Teaching the Whole Child

LSC is committed to reaching the whole child through a longer school day and school year. Every weekend during the school year, the school's doors are open to provide additional enrichment opportunities that are not available within the confines of a traditional school day. Offerings include:

- Car Maintenance
- Glitter and Sparkle & United Eagles Empowerment
- Archery, Bowling, Football, Soccer, Golf, Tennis, Basketball, Cheer, Softball, Track and Field, & Baseball.
- Cooking, Painting, First Aid, & Chess
- Make Up Artistry & Fashion Design
- Chorus & Theatre
- Intro to French & Hispanic Culture
- Crime Scene Investigation, Robotics, & Gardening
- STEAM
- Line Dancing
- Yoga & Mixed Martial Arts
- Bucket Drumming
- Mental Health
- Financial Literacy
- Ninja Warriors

## Jointly Developed

LSC is proud to be a Title I school! LSC's stakeholders — scholars, teachers, staff, and families — contributed to the School-Family Compact through surveys, open discussions, and email feedback. Teachers emphasize showcasing scholar work to demonstrate rigorous academic standards. Parents value updates on scholar progress through multiple platforms. Annually, we review and seek family input to enhance our School-Family Compact.

## Family Engagement Highlights

- Welcome to Liberty Family Orientation
- Valentine's Family Dance
- Parent Teacher Organization
- Books & BINGO
- Start with Stories & Waffles with Writers
- Glow Read a Book
- Sunrise with Someone Special
- Fall Festival & Smiling with Santa
- Dandelion Military Families
- Family Movie Night
- Dads on Duty
- Dads Chili Cook-Off
- Kindergarten Readiness Sessions
- PEACE Sessions
- PATH Career Exposure Program
- For Hopes & Dreams Conferences (K & 5th Grade)
- Crossover Ceremony (5th Grade)
- Formal Graduation Ceremonies (K & 5th Grade)



## Communicating About Student Learning

### Scholar Eagle NEST Folders (K-5) + Binders (6)

Every week, all scholars take work folders or binders with lessons and skills they will be working on in the coming week. For example, these may include a list of sight words, sample math problems to master, and notes about fun and engaging science experiments. Whether it's pumpkin painting, popcorn tasting, or creating a volcano using root beer and yogurt, teachers provide information on what families can expect. Homework is given on Mondays via the NEST folders or binders as a menu board for scholars to work through over the week and submit on Thursdays.

### Newsletters

LSC sends a variety of newsletters to families regularly to communicate specific scholar learning and also to highlight important upcoming events at the school. Each Sunday, Parent Weekly is sent out electronically via the school-wide One Call Text text message portal and Class Dojo. A wealth of information is included here, including announcements, updates, successes, deadlines, and snapshots of scholars reading, learning, and presenting. Weekly copies of this newsletter are housed on the Primary, Elementary, or Junior Academy tab of the website. Once a quarter, a school-wide community newsletter is sent out via email, reflecting on the past month and looking ahead to upcoming exciting events.

### Class Dojo & One Call Now

All teachers utilize Class Dojo to share class news and updates, individual scholar academic performance, behavior charts, and video clips of new lessons. Families also have access to electronic anchor charts, allowing them to use the same instructional resources to reinforce learning at home. Lastly, all parents have the ability to receive a daily text message from the school that includes a question of the day, the cafe menus, and important announcements through the One Call Now text message portal.

All parents who are listed as the scholar's primary guardians in PowerSchool are automatically enrolled in the One Call Now platform.

### Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok, & Twitter

LSC maintains a robust presence on all six major social media platforms —Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok, and Twitter —and commands an impressive combined following of 13,000+ individuals. LSC believes in this powerful approach in helping to share its story with the general public. At a minimum, there are three posts made each day that could include scholar learning being featured, video message updates, and culture celebration shout-outs that reinforce the core values for which we stand as a learning community.

### Community Culture Celebrations

Staff and scholars are explicitly taught to demonstrate the three Eagle Core values every day - Stand up and Own It, Power of Team, and Growth Mindset. Each day, three scholars from the classroom are recognized with S.O.A.R. Tokens - one for each core value. During the weekly Community Culture Celebration, each grade level comes together for a "pep rally"- style event to recognize special scholars who have gone above and beyond in demonstrating the S.O.A.R. values. Families are invited to participate in the celebration both in person and virtually through our social media platforms. Doing this reinforces and incentivizes the type of character we believe makes a well-rounded scholar capable of tackling the challenges of the 21st century.

### Websites at Home

All scholars have access to MyOn & Accelerated Reader, Amira, IXL, iReady (Grade 1), and Beast (GT Learners Only) through their Clever Badge, even when away from school, using their classroom login accounts. At the beginning of each year, scholars' login information is sent home in the Eagle Nest Folder or Binder.





# Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy

## LSC is an Open Door to Quality Engagement

At Liberty STEAM Charter School, we recognize that a scholar's education is a responsibility shared among parents, families, the community, our teachers, and administrators. We're all in this together! Creating positive school, home, and community partnerships are essential to carrying out the shared responsibility of high-quality and inclusive academic opportunity and achievement. Our engagement policy represents a formal partnership between LSC and our parents and families and our commitment to carrying out successful school-parent/family-scholar connections, communication, and experiences. At LSC, parent engagement is not encouraged—it is an expectation. We believe scholar success requires a strong partnership between the school, the family, and the scholar, with each party holding themselves and one another accountable. We proudly set a high bar for family involvement because our scholars deserve nothing less.

## The Purpose of the LSC Engagement Policy

LSC families are our partners in the education of our scholars. The *LSC Parent & Family Engagement Policy* exists to accomplish three critical goals:

1. Support and secure strong, effective partnerships among parents, families, the community, and LSC to consistently improve academic quality and student performance.
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist LSC in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to consistently improve scholar achievement and school performance, and;
3. Comply with Title I, Part A requirements regarding establishing a parent and family engagement policy according to Section 116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

## LSC Engagement Policy Expectations

LSC is committed to fostering and promoting successful parent and family engagement and strives to maximize this engagement by implementing programs, activities, and procedures that emphasize effective partnerships, along with our shared responsibility for high academic achievement and LSC scholar success.

Along with our school-parent/family-scholar commitment, our engagement policy expectations include:

1. Embrace Liberty's commitment to preparing scholars for a choice-filled life by valuing multiple pathways to success, including college, career, military, and workforce opportunities.
2. Parent/families volunteering at least 10 hours per school year in traditional or non-traditional ways and reported & verified through Track it Forward with documentation.
3. Parents/families attending celebrations and exhibitions of scholar accomplishments, academic or artistic.
4. Parents/families attending scheduled quarterly academic conferences, organized home visits, and other essential meetings.
5. Parents/families attending the annual *Welcome to Liberty* event (new family orientation) and back-to-school bash in early August.
6. Parents/families attending the weekly *Community Culture Celebrations* to recognize and support scholar achievements.
7. All new parents and scholars to LSC are expected to successfully complete the new scholar enrollment roadmap.
8. As part of its commitment to collective leadership in family engagement, all parents are expected to follow the Communications Tree to resolve concerns at the lowest level possible before escalating to school leadership.
9. All parents are expected to attend & participate in at least one (1) PEACE session each year of their scholar's attendance at LSC.
10. All 5th-grade parents and scholars at LSC are expected to successfully complete the New Scholar Roadmap & 6th Grade College, Career, & Military Roadmap to be in good standing with the board-approved enrollment policy.
11. Follow the expectation of "No more than Five" in the board-approved attendance policy - no more than 5 excused absences, 5 late arrivals, or 5 late pick-ups.

## LSC's Commitment to Advancing Our Parent & Family Engagement Policy

In addition to regularly scheduled family-teacher meetings, volunteer opportunities, reliable transportation for scholars in need, and consistent communication on scholar progress, LSC is committed to the continual advancement of our connectivity, communication, and engagement with parents and families. As such, we ensure greater accessibility and assistance through the following:

1. Hold an annual meeting, which is held prior to November 1st of each year, to inform parents/families of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation, as well as parent's rights under Title I;
2. Ensure all parents/families have a clear understanding of state academic standards, academic assessments, how to monitor their scholar's progress, and how to work with LSC teachers to improve their scholar's achievements;
3. Provide materials and training to help parents/families work with their scholars, such as literacy and technology training;
4. Provide meaningful opportunities for parent/family-teacher consultations.

## Parent & Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, LSC will evaluate our *Parent & Family Engagement Policy* content and effectiveness and all related activities to improve the academic quality of Title I schools. In addition to the bimonthly Possip feedback survey, LSC commits to collecting formal feedback from parents regarding their level of satisfaction regarding parent & family engagement at three checkpoints in the year: August, December, and May. These formal surveys will be administered electronically. We will post these surveys on our website, social media, and other communication platforms (Dojo, Remind, etc).

Parents are involved in parent & family engagement through its monthly PEACE sessions, its monthly Parent Teacher Organization meetings (also streamed on YouTube), as well as the monthly Pro Dads meetings. Childcare is available during these meetings. Feedback is collected & analyzed every six weeks from parents & scholar through the Possip platform. LSC commits to a robust social media and website presence to promote its unique educational model (including curriculum, instruction, & assessment).

**Dr. Brenda Hafner**  
Superintendent  
108 North Main Street  
Sumter, SC 29150

**LeAndrea Montgomery**  
Primary Academy Director  
15 School Street  
Sumter, SC 29150

**Sally Harris**  
Elementary Academy Director  
1057 Broad Street, Suite E  
Sumter, SC 29150

**Jennifer Cribbs**  
Junior Academy Director  
1057 Broad Street, Suite E  
Sumter, SC 29150



# Title I Compact for Success

Liberty STEAM Charter, with parents of the scholars participating in activities, services, and programs, creates this compact that outlines how the parents, school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement. Doing this allows the parents to play a vital role in their child's education and assist them in achieving high standards. This compact will be reviewed and revised annually by the parents, teachers, and leadership team of Liberty STEAM Charter.

## **Liberty STEAM Charter School will:**

- Provide highly qualified teachers and a safe school environment.
- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective manner to help our scholars achieve their goals.
- Provide opportunities for parent-teacher conferences quarterly or as needed throughout the school year.
- Provide observation and volunteering opportunities within the school.
- Provide an open line of communication between the home and the school by way of phone calls, emails, newsletters, and the school website.
- Provide reasonable access to staff through availability for conferences, phone calls, emails, and other electronic communication.
- Provide parents with bi-weekly, interim, and quarterly reports on their scholar's academic progress.
- Provide instruction with an interesting and challenging curriculum that promotes scholar achievement and motivates scholars to learn.
- Set high expectations for learning and academic achievement.
- Model LSC's Staff Core Values of Urgently Pursue Excellence, Make the Impossible Possible, & Bring the Joy.

*Dr. Brenda Hafner*

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Superintendent Dr. Brenda Hafner

*LeAndrea Montgomery*

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Primary Academy Director LeAndrea Montgomery

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Classroom Teachers

## **As parents we will support our children's learning in the following ways:**

- Ensure that my child attends school every day **on time** in uniform and gets an adequate amount of sleep.
- Provide a quiet time and place for homework.
- Read with my child daily and document their progress on the million-word reading logs.
- Monitor my child's progress through the Eagle NEST folder.
- Check Dojo on a daily basis and respond to communication from teachers.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Attend school events.
- Complete all feedback surveys the school sends to me, including Possip text message survey, mid-year & end-of-year satisfaction surveys, & the SCDE Report Card Climate Survey.
- Volunteer and join school organizations and committees whenever possible.
- Complete 10 hours or more of volunteer service to the school.
- Model LSC's VIP Core Values of Be the Change, Promoting Integrity, and Be a Positive a Partner.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

## **As a scholar, I will:**

- Come to school in the required uniform prepared to learn with a positive attitude.
- Show Respect
- Obey rules
- Accept Responsibility
- Rise to Excellence
- Model LSC's Scholar Core Values of Growth Mindset, Team Player, & Stand Up and Own It.

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Scholar Signature



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*Dr. Brenda Hafner*

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Superintendent Dr. Brenda Hafner

*Sally Harris*

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Elementary Academy Director Sally Harris

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*Dr. Brenda Hafner*

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Superintendent Dr. Brenda Hafner

*Jennifer Cribbs*

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Junior Academy Director Jennifer Cribbs

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Scholar Signature

# HOUSEHOLD LETTER

## FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Liberty STEAM Charter School** offers healthy meals every school day.

### WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **South Carolina SNAP** or **TANF**, are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Income Eligibility Guidelines Effective from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027										
Household size	REDUCED PRICE MEALS – 185%					FREE MEALS – 130%				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568	20,748	1,729	865	798	399
2	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770	28,132	2,345	1,173	1,082	541
3	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972	35,516	2,960	1,480	1,366	683
4	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175	42,900	3,575	1,788	1,650	825
5	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377	50,284	4,191	2,096	1,934	967
6	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579	57,668	4,806	2,403	2,218	1,109
7	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781	65,052	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
8	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983	72,436	6,037	3,019	2,786	1,393
For each additional family member, add	10,508	876	438	405	203	7,384	616	308	284	142

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Micah Vaughn (mvaughn@libertsteamcharter.org)**.
3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: your campus Front Office Coordinator.
4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Ashley Cook (acook@libertsteamcharter.org)** immediately.
5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit [www.libertsteamcharter.org](http://www.libertsteamcharter.org)

# HOUSEHOLD LETTER

## FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

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to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact **Ashley Cook** ([acook@libertysteamcharter.org](mailto:acook@libertysteamcharter.org)) if you have any questions about the online application.

6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **August 7, 2026**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Ashley Cook** ([accok@libertysteamcharter.org](mailto:accok@libertysteamcharter.org))
11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact **Ashley Cook** ([accok@libertysteamcharter.org](mailto:accok@libertysteamcharter.org)) to receive a second application.
16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **South Carolina SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call South Carolina Department of Social Service (DSS) at (800) 616-1309.

If you have other questions or need help, contact **Deneshia Dinkins** ([ddinkins@libertysteamcharter.org](mailto:ddinkins@libertysteamcharter.org)).

Sincerely,

**Liberty STEAM Charter School Administration**

# 2026-2027 Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

**RETURN TO Campus Front Office Coordinator  
Primary, Elementary, or Junior Academy Campus**

**STEP 1** List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need space for more names.

List ALL children in the household. Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This includes children not related to you in your household.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Grade	Foster Child	Migrant	Runaway	Homeless
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check all that apply

If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the Application Instruction's Step 1: Part C & Part D.

**STEP 2** Do any household members (including you) participate in: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

**NO** → Go to STEP 3.    
  **YES** → Write case number here and proceed to STEP 4.    
 CASE NUMBER (NOT EBT NUMBER):     
 Write only one case number in this space.

**STEP 3** List ALL household members and income for each member (before taxes and deductions)

**A. All Adult Household Members (Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related, including you.)**  
 List all Adult Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How often received?					Public Assistance, Child Support, Alimony	How often received?				Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA Benefits, All Other Income	How often received?			
		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x Month	Monthly	Annual		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x Month	Monthly
	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)     
 Last Four Numbers of Social Security Number of Primary Wage Earner or other Adult Household Member (If Applicable)     
 Check if no Social Security Number     
 Please see application's back for list of income sources.

**B. Child Income**

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Include the TOTAL income (before taxes and deductions) received by ALL children listed in STEP 1 here.

Child Income \$     
 How often received?    
 Weekly     
 Every 2 Weeks     
 2X Month     
 Monthly     
 Annual

**STEP 4** Contact information and adult signature. **RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL:** Insert school address here

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (confirm) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

           
 Print Name of Adult Signing the Form     Signature of Adult     Today's Date  
                           
 Mailing Address (if available)     City     State     Zip     Phone (optional)     Email (optional)

**SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME** For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

Sources of Income			Examples of Income for Children
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages</li> <li>A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits</li> <li>A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions</li> <li>Net income from self-employment (farm or business)</li> </ul> <p><b>If you are in the U.S. Military:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances)</li> <li>Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment benefits</li> <li>Workers' compensation</li> <li>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</li> <li>Cash assistance from State or local government</li> <li>Alimony payments</li> <li>Child support payments</li> <li>Veterans' benefits</li> <li>Strike benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)</li> <li>Private Pensions or disability benefits</li> <li>Income from trusts or estates</li> <li>Annuities</li> <li>Investment income</li> <li>Earned interest</li> <li>Rental income</li> <li>Regular cash payments from outside household</li> </ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money</li> <li>A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust</li> </ul>

**OPTIONAL** Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

**Ethnicity (check one):**  Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race)  Not Hispanic or Latino

**Race (check one or more):**  American Indian or Alaska Native  Asian  Black or African American  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  White

Return this completed form to your child's school. **\*Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.**

**DO NOT FILL OUT** For school use only.

**Annual Income Conversion:** Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Total Income	How often?					Household size	Categorical Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility		
<input type="text"/>	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x Month	Monthly	Annual	<input type="text"/>		Free	Reduced	Denied
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Determining Official's Signature	Date	Confirming Official's Signature			Date	Verifying Official's Signature	Date			

**Use of Information Statement**

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met.

Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, 'Check if no Social Security Number'. Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number.

Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

**Return completed form to your child's school.**

**The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1)mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2)fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3)email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



June 5, 2026

Dear LSC Families:

In compliance with the requirements of the *Every Students Succeeds Act*, Liberty STEAM Charter School would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/or other instructional staff members. As we soon head into the 2026-27 school year, the following information may be requested:

- Whether your scholar's teacher (s)— has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher;
- Whether the child is provided services by additional and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's lead teacher/teaching fellow's professional qualifications, please contact your Campus Academy Director. Thank you for your continued support of the work we are engaged in – we truly appreciate all that you do!

In it together,

Dr. Trevor Ivey, NBCT; Co-Founder & Executive Director

803-569-1217  
info@liberysteamcharter.org

Primary Academy: 15 School Street Sumter, SC 29150	Administrative Offices: 117 North Main Street Sumter, SC 29150	Elementary & Junior Academy: 1057-E Broad Street Sumter, SC 29150
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# PRIMARY & ELEMENTARY ACADEMIES



**SHOES (SNEAKERS OR TENNIS SHOES):**  
UNIFORM SHOES CAN BE ANY COLOR BUT MUST BE RUBBER-SOLED  
AND APPROPRIATE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION. THEY CANNOT  
BE SLIDERS, SANDALS, CROCS, OR FLIP FLOPS.

**SOCKS:**  
CREW STYLE IN BLACK, NAVY, WHITE, OR GREY

## OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES



UNDERSHIRT

TIGHTS

- LIBERTY POLOS ARE EXPECTED TO BE WORN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY.
- SCHOLARS MAY DRESS DOWN OR WEAR SPECIALIZED LSC SHIRTS ONLY ON FRIDAYS.
- OUTERWEAR CAN BE WORN IN BLACK, WHITE, GREY, OR NAVY BLUE AND DOES NOT REQUIRE AN LSC LOGO (ANY LOGO MUST BE SMALLER THAN THE APPROVED LSC LOGO FOUND ON YOUR SCHOLAR'S UNIFORM)

## WHERE CAN I BUY UNIFORMS?

**ONLINE @ FRENCH TOAST**



**AUDRI J'S BOUTIQUE**

465 RAST STREET  
SUMTER, SC 29150

*\*\*Select Uniform Pieces Available\*\**

FAMILIES IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT  
Emeral Franklin, Primary Academy Culture Interventionist (efranklin@libertysteamcharter.org)  
Micah Vaughn, Elementary Academy Dean of Culture (mvaughn@libertysteamcharter.org).



# JUNIOR ACADEMY



**SHOES (SNEAKERS OR TENNIS SHOES):**  
UNIFORM SHOES CAN BE ANY COLOR BUT MUST BE RUBBER-SOLED AND APPROPRIATE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION. THEY CANNOT BE SLIDERS, SANDALS, CROCS, OR FLIP FLOPS.

**SOCKS:**  
CREW STYLE IN BLACK, NAVY, WHITE, OR GREY

## OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES



UNDERSHIRT

TIGHTS

- LIBERTY POLOS ARE EXPECTED TO BE WORN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY.
- SCHOLARS MAY DRESS DOWN OR WEAR SPECIALIZED LSC SHIRTS ONLY ON FRIDAYS.
- OUTERWEAR MAY BE WORN IN BLACK, WHITE, GRAY, NAVY, OR RED AND DOES NOT REQUIRE AN LSC LOGO. THE JUNIOR ACADEMY LOGO IS ALSO PERMITTED. ANY LOGO MUST BE SMALLER THAN THE APPROVED LSC LOGO FOUND ON YOUR SCHOLAR'S UNIFORM.

## WHERE CAN I BUY UNIFORMS?

**ONLINE @ FRENCH TOAST**



**AUDRI J'S BOUTIQUE**

465 RAST STREET  
SUMTER, SC 29150

*\*\*Select Uniform Pieces Available\*\**

FAMILIES IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT  
Emeral Franklin, Primary Academy Culture Interventionist (efranklin@libertysteamcharter.org)  
Micah Vaughn, Elementary Academy Dean of Culture (mvaughn@libertysteamcharter.org).



# Our Uniform Philosophy

At Liberty STEAM Charter School (LSC), we ground ourselves foundationally in equity for all scholars to ensure transformational learning outcomes. This will leave our scholars ready to enter the world with integrity, love, and a true sense of excellence. LSC has instituted a uniform dress code for all scholars to create a consistent and safe environment free of distractions. We believe that a higher standard of dress encourages greater respect for individuals, scholars & others and results in a higher standard of behavior. Scholars who come to school dressed properly will excel academically and conduct themselves appropriately while at school.

This belief is supported by research into the benefits of uniforms. However, conventional wisdom suggests that mandatory uniform policies benefit scholars on specific behavioral issues (attendance and self-control) and academic outcomes. Uniform policies also affect school environments and student outcomes by providing a visible and public symbol of commitment to school improvement and reform. Our goal is to offer a cost-effective uniform that gives all scholars equal access to school pride, regardless of family income level. The standard LSC uniform consists of:

## **Primary Academy**

- A heather gray, navy blue or white LSC polo shirt (short-or long-sleeve) to be worn with khaki or navy blue pants, jumper, skirt, or shorts or a navy blue polo dress. Polo shirts without the LSC logo on it are not acceptable.

## **Elementary Academy**

- A heather gray, navy blue or white LSC polo shirt (short-or long-sleeve) to be worn with khaki or navy blue pants, jumper, skirt, or shorts or a navy blue polo dress. Polo shirts without the LSC logo on it are not acceptable.

## **Junior Academy**

- A heather gray, navy blue, white or red LSC polo shirt (short or long sleeve) to be worn with khaki or navy blue pants, jumper, skirt or shorts. The French Toast navy/red plaid skirt is also an option. For an optional formal uniform, the French Toast navy/red plaid tie (boy or girl style) can be worn with a white button down shirt only. Navy, white, gray, black or red sweaters and sweater vests must have the original Liberty embroidery or new Junior Academy logo. The Junior Academy logo is ONLY for outerwear (jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts).

## **All scholars:**

- Pants with loops are to be worn with a black or brown belt
- White or black tights/socks (no identifiable sock logos of any kind)
- White or black undershirt (short or long sleeve)
- The black, grey or blue school jacket, crew sweatshirt, or hoodie with the LSC logo is optional but recommended for the cooler months
- Uniform shoes must be black, white, grey or navy blue rubber soled and appropriate for physical education but cannot be sliders, sandals, crocs or flip flops.
- Boots that help with traction for safe walking can only be worn during inclement (snow or ice) weather days. Fashionable boots, belts, eyeglasses, etc., are never permitted. Jackets, hoodies and un-logo sweaters of any sort are not allowed to be worn in the classroom.

At the primary academy level, we recognize that scholars rely heavily on their parents to ensure they are dressed appropriately. **A daily uniform check will be conducted by the academy campus culture team.** Parents of scholars not in compliance will be contacted via phone/letter. Remember, as part of the *Commitment to Excellence* signed upon confirmation of your scholar's enrollment, you committed to partner with the school to ensure uniform expectations are met. Any family needing financial assistance to ensure these expectations are met should contact the academy academy counselor.

**FRIDAYS:** Every Friday at LSC is an early release day for staff professional development. On these days, scholars are encouraged to express their individuality by "dressing down" that adheres to the non-uniform dress code policy adopted by the LSC Board. LSC specialized shirts can only be worn on these days.

**Uniform Partners:** Full service uniform purchasing can take place at our French Toast online store as well as Audri J's Boutique here in Sumter. Families can also take already purchased approved uniform tops to Zebra Custom Designs, The Vinyl Hustle, or Southern Print to get our logo embroidered.

# 2026-2027 Academic Calendar Modified Year-Round



JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2		4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15			18
19			22	23	24	25
26	27	28		30	31	

AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6		8	★	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7			10
11		13	14	15	★	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER						
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	★	19	20	21
22						28
29	30					

DECEMBER						
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		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16			19
20						26
27						

JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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17		19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY						
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28						

MARCH						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	★		27
28						

APRIL						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						3
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	★	29	30	

MAY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25			★	29
30						

JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17		19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## Important Dates

- 07/03** 4th of July (Observation)
- 09/07** Labor Day
- 09/30** 45th Day
- 10/09-13** Fall Break
- 11/11** Veteran's Day
- 11/23-27** Thanksgiving Holidays
- 12/21-01/01** Winter Holidays
- 01/18** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 02/15** President's Day
- 03/04** 135th Day
- 03/26-04/02** Spring Holidays
- 05/31** Memorial Day
- 06/18** Juneteenth (Observation)

## Calendar Legend

- First Day for 1st-6th & Last Day for All**
- First Day for Kindergarten**
- Holiday/No School**
- Half-Day for Scholars**
- Teacher PD OR In-Service/Workday**
- Benchmark Testing**
- New Staff Academy**
- Interim Reports**  
09/09, 11/18, 02/12, 04/28
- Report Cards**  
10/16, 01/13, 03/25, 05/28

## First & Last Days

- 07/13** First Day for Network Leaders
- 07/13** First Day for Academy Leaders
- 07/16** First Day for Operational Staff
- 07/22** First Day for Instructional Staff
- 07/29** First Day for 1st - 6th
- 08/05** First Day for Kindergarten
- 05/28** Last Day for All Scholars  
(Early Release at 12 pm)
- 06/04** Last Day for Instructional Staff
- 06/04** Last Day for Operational Staff
- 06/11** Last Day for Academy Leaders
- 06/30** Last Day for Network Leaders

## School Hours

- Primary Academy (Grades K-1)**  
Arrival 7:30-7:50 AM & Dismissal 3:10-3:30 PM
- Elementary Academy (Grades 2-5)**  
Arrival 7:40-8:00 AM & Dismissal 3:20-3:40 PM
- Junior Academy (Grades 6-8)**  
Arrival 7:50-8:10 AM & Dismissal 3:30-3:50 PM
- Friday Half-Days for Staff Development**  
Primary Dismissal: 11:40 AM - 12:00 PM  
Elementary Dismissal: 11:50 AM - 12:10 PM  
Junior Dismissal: 12:00 PM - 12:20 PM

## Quarter Start & End Dates

- Quarter 1**  
Start: July 29  
End: October 06
- Quarter 2**  
Start: October 07  
End: January 07
- Quarter 3**  
Start: January 08  
End: March 17
- Quarter 4**  
Start: March 18  
End: May 28

- Total Scholar Instructional Days: 190
- Total Network Leader Days: 223
- Total Academy Leaders Days: 212
- Total Operational Staff Days: 204
- Total Instructional Staff Days: 200
- Inclement Weather Days:
  - October 12
  - February 15
  - April 02