

ACADEMIC ADVANTAGE ASSOCIATION  
HANDBOOK



2015-2016

**Academic Advantage Association**

**P.O. Box 806**

**Lyman, SC 29365**

**Our office is at:**

**Lifelong Learning Resources**

**557 Hammett Store Rd**

**Lyman, SC 29365**

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## About Academic Advantage Association (AAA)

### *Who Are We?*

**Academic Advantage Association** is a South Carolina Option III homeschool association. We have assisted homeschooling parents in South Carolina since 2005. Our goal is to provide the accountability required by the South Carolina Home School Statute. We strive to do so with the least amount of intrusion into member homes and with as little expense as possible.

We believe parents make the best decisions about teaching approaches and curriculum most well-suited to their children's needs. You know your child better than anyone else – even 'the experts'. Our main objective is to support parents, as needed, to create the best learning environment possible.

Each of our employees homeschooled his or her children and has over twenty years of homeschool experience. We understand the challenges and rewards of homeschooling and can offer advice based upon first-hand experience. We are familiar with dozens of brands of homeschool curriculum and provide curriculum to families around the United States and abroad.

Our offices are located at our retail store, Lifelong Learning Resources (557 Hammett Store Rd, Lyman, SC 29365). We stock hundreds of homeschool products. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Association members may reach us during office hours via phone and email. You may speak to us in person when visiting the store. Our updated website provides information about South Carolina's homeschool legislation as well as services we provide. You will find helpful articles covering homeschooling activities, resources, and encouragement. We add articles based on questions we receive, so check the website often.

### *What Legal Requirements Guide Our Activities?*

Statute SC 59-65 permits and guides home education in South Carolina. The law makes homeschooling compulsory for children from ages 5 through 17. *Section 10 of the legislation does permit parents with a child "not six years of age on or before the first day of September of a particular school year" to elect for their child not to attend kindergarten. Parents who choose to waive kindergarten for a 5-year-old student must sign a written document with the school district notifying the district of their decision.*

The law also allows parents to choose between three options when registering to homeschool. Each option is explained in a separate section of the legislation.

SC-59-65-40, Option I: *Parents may register their children with the school district in which they reside.*

SC-59-65-45, Option II: *Parents may register their children under the auspices of the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools (SCAIHS).*

SC-59-65-47, Option III: *Parents may register their children with associations set up for the specific purpose of assisting parents who educate their children at home.*

**Academic Advantage Association operates under Option III.** Section 47 stipulates three requirements for a bona fide homeschool association. *Associations must have at least 50 members. They must, by January 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, report the number and grade level of children home schooled through the association. Finally, they must see that their members meet the following requirements:*

1. *The teaching parent must hold at least a high school diploma or a GED.*
2. *The school year must have at least 180 days.*
3. *All students must receive instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students in grades 7-12 substitute literature for reading, and must also add composition.*
4. *The teacher must keep accurate records of the subjects taught and curriculum used and must also verify the student's progress in each subject. To do this, parents must use some sort of log or plan book, prepare a semi-annual progress report for each student, and keep a portfolio of each student's academic work.*

#### ***What services do we provide?***

We offer **four membership levels** from which parents may choose:

***Basic package*** - insures compliance with state laws regarding homeschooling. The cost is **\$25.00 per family from May through August**. Families registering from September 1<sup>st</sup> through April pay \$50.00.

The application form requires parents provide Academic Advantage Association with contact information. The application also asks for a list of the curriculum parents plan to use in each academic area with each homeschooled student.

**Members receive a membership letter and card.** Present your card to organizations offering educators' discounts. Be watchful for teacher appreciation sale days! A handbook is available for members. You may request a hard copy or download one from the website.

**At the end of each school year, parents receive a Statement of Completion form to sign and return to our office.** This form asks parents to verify compliance with the four guidelines required by South Carolina law (see page 5). Completion of this form assures AAA members are following laws governing homeschooling in South Carolina.

***Plus package*** – insures compliance with state laws regarding homeschooling. It includes the services of the Basic package plus a report card (grade card) for each student. **The Plus Package costs \$40.00 per family from May through August**. Families registering from September 1<sup>st</sup> through April pay \$65.00.

The application form requires parents provide Academic Advantage Association with contact information. The application also asks for a list of curriculum parents plan to use in each academic area for each homeschooled student.

**Members receive a membership letter and card.** Present your card to organizations offering educators' discounts. Be watchful for teacher appreciation sale days! A handbook is also available for members. You may request a hard copy or download the handbook from our website.

**Parents opting for the Plus package provide AAA with the final grades and attendance records for each child upon completion of 180 days of schooling.** We use your information to create an official report card on our letterhead. (See the grade report form on page 26 of this handbook.) You may download the grade reporting form from our website, and mail, or email, it in to our office. We will mail you a hard-copy report card in return.

**At the end of each school year, parents receive a Statement of Completion form to sign and return to our office.** This form asks parents to verify compliance with the four guidelines required by South Carolina Law (see page 5). Completion of this form assures AAA members are following the laws governing homeschooling in South Carolina. Parents choosing the Plus Package may submit student grades along with their Statement of Completion form.

**High School package** – is for families who have children in grades 9-12 and also insures compliance with state law. This package includes report cards for children in grades K5-8 and transcripts\*\* for students in grades 9-12. **This package does not include the graduation ceremony.** Parents who opt for this package and later decide to opt into graduation services must pay an additional fee. **The High School Package costs \$50.00 per family from May 1st through August 31<sup>st</sup>.** Families registering from September 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> pay \$75.00.

The application form requires parents provide Academic Advantage Association with contact information. The application also asks for a list of curriculum parents plan to use for each academic subject with each homeschooled student.

**Members receive a membership letter and card.** Present the card to organizations offering educators' discounts. Be watchful for teacher appreciation sale days! A handbook is available for members upon request. You may request a hard copy or download one from our website.

\*\*Many families see no need for our official transcript for a 9<sup>th</sup> grader and end up scrambling for one when least expected. A child may decide to attend college after all. One may enter a Dual Enrollment program. Another may decide to participate in interscholastic activities as a homeschooler and be asked to provide one by his or her coach. Providing up-to-date grades each year takes a lot of the headache out of situations that arise unexpectedly.

We use your information and create the official report cards and transcripts on our letterhead. (See page 25 of this handbook for the sample report form). You may download the grade reporting forms from our website.)

**Parents who fail to submit final grades, for students in grades 9-11, by June 15 forfeit class ranking for that student. Transcript preparation will be delayed when documents are not submitted by the cut off date. Transcript information submitted within 30 days of a school or scholarship submission deadline will incur a \$15.00 document preparation fee.**

**Complete package** - is for parents whose graduating seniors will participate in our ceremony *or* who desire standardized testing through our office. **The Complete Package costs \$75.00 per family from May through August.** Families registering from September 1<sup>st</sup> through April pay \$100.00.

The application form requires parent provide Academic Advantage Association with contact information. The application also asks for a list of the curriculum parents plan to use for each academic subject with each homeschooled student.

**Members receive a membership letter and card.** Present the card to organizations offering educators' discounts. Be watchful for teacher appreciation sale days! A handbook is also available for members. You may request a hard copy or download one from our website.

We administer the **Stanford Achievement test** each spring (usually in late April after tax season). Parents must pay for the cost of the test packet itself when registering a child for testing. We administer the test at our Life Long Learning Resources facility.

Parents choosing the **Complete package** for a graduating senior will receive:

- one free curriculum consultation,
- a cap-and-gown graduation ceremony (order a cap and gown in the color of your choice),
- a diploma and transcript(s) for the graduate,
- report cards for the family's other students,
- Stanford testing for any other children if desired.

**At the end of each school year, parents receive a Statement of Completion form to sign and return to our office.** This form asks parents to confirm they have followed the four guidelines required by South Carolina homeschooling law (see page 6). Completion of this form insures AAA members are complying with the law.

Parents provide AAA with the grades and attendance records for each child registered in a **complete membership package**. High school parents **with students in grades 9-11 must submit final yearly grades** on or before **June 15** of the academic year.

**GRADES FOR GRADUATING SENIORS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Senior Class ranking will not be provided when grades are received after the deadline. Transcript preparation will be delayed when documents are not submitted by the cut off date.**

**'Rush' transcripts submitted within 30 days of a school or scholarship deadline will incur an additional document preparation fee of \$15.00.**

We use your information and create the official report cards and transcripts on our letterhead. Copies of the forms are in the Documents section of this handbook and on our website.

**Academic Advantage Association provides the following individual services as indicated below:**

Duplicate copy of membership letter or card	\$5.00
Duplicate hard copy of the membership handbook	\$10.00
DMV letter	\$10.00
Transcript Rush Fee (request within 30 days of submission deadline)	\$15.00
Transcript for one student for one year	\$15.00
Transcript and diploma for one student	\$35.00

# Frequently Asked Questions

## General Homeschooling:

### *How do I know what curriculum to use?*

The SC legislation dictates only the broad subject areas parents must teach.

Grades 1-6: reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

Grades 7-12: literature, composition/grammar, math, science, and social studies.

The law allows parents to choose curriculum. Parents who want to use curriculum with a religious basis, may do so. Those who prefer a less traditional approach like *unschooling* or a Charlotte Mason style may use them. Of course, parents who want to mirror the public school system may choose that approach.

Parents unsure of what curriculum to use can seek advice and direction from homeschooling family and friends, refer to online sources and books that review curriculum, or talk to retailers who sell homeschool curriculum. The final choice of what to use lies with the parent.

### *Am I allowed to change curriculum during the school year if I dislike what I chose, or I find something that fits my students better?*

As long as you teach all of the required academic areas, you may use the curriculum of your choice. If you do change curriculum, please contact the office and let us know the changes. We will update your file to reflect the change(s).

### *Am I required to have my children tested with a standardized test like Stanford, Iowa or BSAP?*

Not if you are registered to homeschool in South Carolina. Parents **may opt** to have their children tested, but **South Carolina does not require** standardized testing. Some accountability associations require yearly testing. *Since the homeschool legislation does not require testing, Academic Advantage Association does not require it.*

Parents who do not register for the Complete Package, but want their children tested, may seek testing through other avenues. Bob Jones University offers academic testing at their facility.

Parents who meet certain requirements may administer both the Iowa Skills, Stanford, and California Achievement tests in the privacy of their own homes.

[https://www.hslda.org/highschool/docs/Choosing\\_Ordering\\_Standardized\\_Tests.pdf](https://www.hslda.org/highschool/docs/Choosing_Ordering_Standardized_Tests.pdf)

### *Must my homeschool calendar follow the public school calendar?*

As long as you include 180 instructional days, you may schedule them in any fashion that suits your family. Some families teach all year and schedule breaks every 4-6 weeks. Some families take a long



winter break and teach part of the summer. Some families teach four days a week, with short breaks occasionally. Others include Saturday as a school day and have longer vacation times. As long as you include 180 instructional days and *document them in your planner*, you may arrange your calendar in any way you choose. High school students need to be mindful of grade reporting deadlines for class ranking purposes. (See High School and Complete package information.)

***May I include field trip days as instructional days?***

Certainly! Be sure to note the trips in your planner.

***What must I include in my child's portfolio?***

South Carolina homeschool law does not list what needs to be included. However, writing projects, tests, quizzes, worksheets, lab notebooks, and samples of artwork are all good options. We recommend that you keep a reading list of the books your child reads each year and all field trips you take. A carefully-kept portfolio will fulfill the legal requirements and become a wonderful keepsake for your family.

***What format must I use for my student's semi-annual progress report?***

The homeschool law leaves this decision to the discretion of the parent. If you do not prepare quarterly or semi-annual report cards, you should prepare one progress report for the first half of the year and a second report for the second half of the year. If you give letter grades only, you should include a grading scale. (For example A = 92-100%.) If you do not wish to assign grades, you can simply use terms like Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, or Needs Improvement.

Once a student begins high school, it is needful to begin assigning numerical scores to academic work. As students mature, their ideas of life after homeschool often mature. If you have generated numerical grades, you will be much better prepared when a student suddenly needs them formatted numerically for transcript preparation.

***My child wants to participate in an interscholastic activity for the school district in which we live. Is he or she allowed to do so?***

Yes, homeschooled students are now able to participate in interscholastic activities in the school district in which they live. Parents must contact the school and meet its requirements for the child to participate. You must also fill out an 'intent to participate form' which may be downloaded at:  
<http://www.schsl.org/2012Forms/homeschoolform.pdf>

***My school district contacted me about scheduling a home visit so the district can verify the quality of my homeschool. Must I schedule one?***

No. On February 27, 1989, the Attorney General of South Carolina issued an opinion declaring that school districts have no authority to require home visits. Should you receive a contact, call us immediately.

## Questions about homeschooling through high school:

### *May students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade earn high-school credit?*

Yes, they may earn high-school credit for core courses or foreign languages, as long as they use a high-school curriculum. For instance, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader taking a year of Algebra I using a standard 9<sup>th</sup> grade text would earn 1 math credit for his high-school transcript. In this example, the course is a year ahead of the student's academic grade and would also qualify as an 'Honors' course earning a higher grade point average for the course.

### *What credits does the state of South Carolina require before a student graduates?*

Below are the graduation requirements for students receiving a diploma from the SC Department of Education. Home educators are not required to meet these exact requirements. However, we recommend that parents who want their children to attend college follow these guidelines fairly closely. Parents do not need to teach the courses in the same order as the state schools teach them, nor must they limit their elective credits to courses available to students in public school.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Units Required</u>
English/Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science (2 must have labs)	3.0
U.S. History and Constitution	1.0
Economics	.5
U.S. Government	.5
Other Social Studies	1.0
Physical Education or Junior ROTC	1.0
Computer Science (including keyboarding)	1.0
Foreign Language or Career and Technology Education	1.0
Electives	6.5
Health	.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.0</b>

***What are some possible elective courses?***

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but it gives an idea of how broad the elective category is.

*Taken with permission from the 2014-2015 South Carolina Homeschool Resources Directory*

**Bible:**

Bible Doctrines  
Church History  
Individual Book/Topical Studies  
New Testament Survey  
Old Testament Survey

**Business and Finance:**

Accounting  
Advertising  
Business Law  
Business Math  
Entrepreneurship  
Financial Management  
Intro to Business Management  
Intro to Marketing  
Office Applications  
Personal Finance

**Fine Arts (Art, Music, Speech):**

Architecture  
Art Appreciation  
Art History  
Band  
Ceramics  
Debate  
Drama/Theatre  
Drawing  
Film Making  
Instrumental Music  
Jewelry Making  
Music Appreciation  
Music History  
Oratory  
Orchestra  
Painting  
Photography  
Public Speaking

**Health/PE:**

Archery  
Aerobics  
CPR Course  
Cycling  
Golfing  
Gymnastics  
High-School Health  
Jogging/Running  
Nutrition  
Swimming  
Table Tennis  
Team Sports  
Weight Training

**Fine Arts (continued)**

Speech  
Storytelling  
Voice

**Computer:**

Computer Systems  
Desktop Publishing  
Digital Media  
Graphic Design  
Information Technology  
Networking  
Programming Languages  
Software Development  
Web Design

**Writing:**

Business Writing  
Creative Writing  
Journalism  
Editing/Proofreading  
Writing from Research

**General Skills:**

Auto Maintenance/Repair  
Basic Home Repair  
Budgeting  
Cake Decorating  
Cooking  
Driver's Ed  
Gardening  
Home Economics  
Interior Design  
Sewing  
Sign Language  
Study Skills

**Social Sciences:**

Anthropology  
Archeology  
Psychology  
Sociology

***Is there more than one way to earn a high-school credit?***

Yes. High school credits – called Carnegie credits – may be earned by completing a recognized high-school text or by completing a specified number of hours of study for a course. Students who complete 80% of a high-school text and receive a passing grade earn one credit for the course.

Generally, 135-150 hours of study constitute 1 credit for a course not centered around a textbook. To document this type of credit, parents record hours completed in their logbook or planner. Earning credits by logging hours is particularly attractive for credits in PE, home economics, fine arts, vocational courses, internships, and when using unit studies.

***What is the Uniform Grading Policy and how does it affect my student's GPA?***

The **Uniform Grading Policy** (UGP) is South Carolina's three-layered approach to allowing more rigorous course work to generate additional quality points (and usually a higher GPA.) The UGP includes three types of courses and permits students to earn dual credit (high school and college) in certain situations.

**College Prep Courses** – These courses use a standard high-school text and meet the typical requirements for that course. This is the standard category – courses that do not meet Honors or AP requirements are College Prep courses.

**Honors Courses** – These courses are more challenging and must include a specific, written course syllabus confirming more advanced content or additional course work. Honors classes earn an extra ½ quality point compared to college prep courses.

**AP (Advanced Placement) Courses**—These courses are college-level courses taught from a college-level text. AP courses typically have at least one prerequisite course that must be completed before the AP can be attempted. The College Board website contains a page detailing AP requirements (<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/index.html>). Parents need to receive approval from the College Board to classify a course as AP. Approved AP classes earn 1 extra quality point compared to college prep courses. Students who sit for the end-of-course exam may exempt the college course if their score merits it.

**Dual Credit Courses** – Beginning in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, students may take college courses at a local community or technical college. Students who complete the courses successfully receive both college credit and one full high-school credit simultaneously. So, for 1 semester of work, a student typically earns 3 hours college credit and a 1.0 high school credit both. Students who register for Dual Credit courses will need a transcript from AAA verifying the high school courses and grades earned prior to the dual enrollment application.

**Calculating a GPA**—A student's GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the total number of credits earned. Thus, a student who earned 108 quality points for 27 credits would have a 4.0 GPA. A student scoring well in several AP and Honors classes often finishes with a GPA of 4.50 or more.

To help parents determine a student's GPA, the Uniform Grading Policy provides a conversion scale for each numerical score from 61-100 for each of the three types of courses. See chart on page 13. *When submitting scores for Academic Advantage Association transcripts, parents need only submit the final numerical grade earned (left-most column).*

## South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions

Numerical	Grade	College Prep	Honors	AP/IB/Dual Credit
100	A	4.875	5.375	5.875
99	A	4.750	5.250	5.750
98	A	4.625	5.125	5.625
97	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
96	A	4.375	4.875	5.375
95	A	4.250	4.750	5.250
94	A	4.125	4.625	5.125
93	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
92	B	3.875	4.375	4.875
91	B	3.750	4.250	4.750
90	B	3.625	4.125	4.625
89	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
88	B	3.375	3.875	4.375
87	B	3.250	3.750	4.250
86	B	3.125	3.625	4.125
85	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
84	C	2.875	3.375	3.875
83	C	2.750	3.250	3.750
82	C	2.625	3.125	3.625
81	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
80	C	2.375	2.875	3.375
79	C	2.250	2.750	3.250
78	C	2.125	2.625	3.125
77	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
76	D	1.875	2.375	2.875
75	D	1.750	2.250	2.750
74	D	1.625	2.125	2.625
73	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
72	D	1.375	1.875	2.375
71	D	1.250	1.750	2.250
70	D	1.125	1.625	2.125
69	F	1.000	1.500	2.000
68	F	0.875	1.375	1.875
67	F	0.750	1.250	1.750
66	F	0.625	1.125	1.625
65	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
64	F	0.375	0.875	1.375
63	F	0.250	0.750	1.250
62	F	0.125	0.625	1.125
61-0	F	0.000	0.000	0.000

### ***What are the details of the graduation ceremony?***

Our graduation ceremony is usually held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in May. We usually have the ceremony at His Vineyard (Church), 656 Arlington Road, Greer, SC. Seniors may wear a cap and gown if desired but are not required to do so. We leave the color choice up to you. Parents are responsible for the rental or purchase cost of the cap and gown.

Ours is a family-centered graduation. Each graduate submits a few pictures showing life from childhood to graduation day. Graduates participate in presentations of their choice including but not limited to:

slides of hobbies like photography, short video clips of them participating in hobbies like karate, musical performances, reading original poetry or favorite scriptures, etc. Parents present the graduate with a diploma and tell the audience a little about the family's homeschooling journey. We celebrate after the ceremony with a pot-luck reception for all who attend.

***Are graduating seniors required to attend the graduation ceremony?***

No. Attendance is encouraged, but not required. We realize that some families are involved in co-ops, churches or other groups that also host ceremonies for their groups.

## **Questions about preparing a student to enter college:**

***How early should my student contact the college he wants to attend?***

Students do not actually need to contact a college until they take the SAT or ACT, since those scores will affect the amount of interest a college has in recruiting that student. However, if students are interested in a particularly selective major or school, contact the college as early as the freshman or sophomore year.

Begin developing a relationship with the admissions office and ask what courses the college expects incoming freshman to have on transcripts. Some colleges expect students to submit transcripts documenting extracurricular activities and community service as well as excellent academic preparation. Contacting the college early allows students to make sure their transcripts contain what their chosen university wants to see.

***Should my student take the SAT, the ACT, or both?***

That decision depends upon the preferences of the college(s) your student is interested in attending. Some universities accept either the SAT or the ACT. Others require one or the other. Some students score significantly better on one test than the other. Students who need a particular percentile score for admission or scholarships may benefit from taking both tests once. Compare the results and determine which test to take again, if necessary.

***When should my student take the PSAT, SAT, or ACT?***

Students may wish to take the PSAT in their sophomore year and again in their junior year. It is most often considered a 'practice test' for the SAT. However, students who rank among the top PSAT test takers in the state's *junior class* win substantial scholarship money.

It is wise to have your students take the SAT or ACT in their junior year. This gives students who scored lower than anticipated time to bolster a weak area or polish their overall test-taking skills. Students who scored well may want to take the test again in order to move from a *good* score to an *excellent* score. Improved scores often open doors for additional scholarships. There is no limit to the number of times

students may sit for these exams. Students can register online at [sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org) for the SAT, or at [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org) for the ACT.

***Does AAA do class ranking for scholarship purposes?***

Yes, we do. Sophomores, juniors and seniors are ranked for scholarship and transcript purposes *if parents submit grades by the stated deadlines.*

***What ranking information will I need to provide?***

AAA ranks according to the Uniform Grading Policy. Parents must submit percentage grades for each of the classes their child took; *letter grades will not suffice.* Parents will also need to indicate whether the courses were for 1 credit or ½ credit. Each course must be designated College Prep, Honors, AP, or Dual Credit. For Honors courses, parents need to provide an explanation of the course's extra requirements. If students took any Dual Credit courses, a copy of the college should be included in the documents you submit.

***When does AAA need the grade information?***

Parents must submit grades for students in grades 9-11 on or before June 15<sup>th</sup> of the academic year. ***Parents who fail to submit final grades by June 15 forfeit class ranking for their child. Transcript preparation will be delayed when documents are not submitted by the cut off date.***

***'Rush' transcripts submitted within 30 day of a school or scholarship the deadline will incur an additional document preparation fee of \$15.00.***

Parents must submit final grades for graduating seniors no later than May 30<sup>th</sup>.

***Parents who fail to submit final senior grades by May 30<sup>th</sup> forfeit class ranking for their child.***

***Final transcript preparation will be delayed when documents are not submitted by the cut off date. 'Rush' transcripts submitted within 30 days of a school or scholarship deadline will incur an additional document preparation fee of \$15.00.***

***What requirements must a student meet in order to receive the Life Scholarship or the Palmetto Scholarship?***

To earn a Life Scholarship for 4-year institutions, students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 according to the SC Uniform Grading Policy Scale and score at least 1100 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT. Students who do not have a 3.0 GPA can still qualify if they are in the top 30% of their graduating class.

To earn a Life Scholarship for 2-year community colleges, students must earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on SC UGP at end of senior year. SAT/ACT test scores as well as class rank requirements are waived.

Students earning the Life Scholarship will file paperwork through the college or university at which they

enroll. This scholarship is available only to students who attend college in the state of South Carolina.

To earn a *Palmetto Scholarship*, students must have a GPA of at least 3.5 according to the SC Uniform Grading Policy Scale. They must take the SAT or ACT by the end of their junior year, and score at least 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT. They must also rank in the top 6% of their graduating class in either the sophomore, junior or senior year. The class rank requirement is waived for any student who has a GPA of at least 4.0 and a score of either 1400 on the SAT or 32 on the ACT. Application for the Palmetto Scholarship is made through the homeschool association. This scholarship is available only to students who attend college in the state of South Carolina.



# Academic Advantage Association

864-968-1118  
aaa-sc.com

P.O. Box 806  
Lyman, S.C. 29365

[aaasc@earthlink.net](mailto:aaasc@earthlink.net)

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## Membership Application 2016-2017

Name of Parent-Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please be advised that according to S.C. law, the teacher must be a parent or legal guardian and have at least a high school diploma or GED.**

Complete **physical** address: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete **mailing address** if different from above:  
\_\_\_\_\_

School District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Teacher Information (check all that apply):

I have one of the following: GED \_\_\_\_\_ high school diploma \_\_\_\_\_ college diploma \_\_\_\_\_

I am a renewing member of Academic Advantage Association: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

I homeschooled last year but not as a member of Academic Advantage: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

I am a new homeschooler. Please provide a withdrawal letter for our public school: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

**Academic Advantage Association reserves the right to deny any application.**

### Membership fees per family:

**A) Basic Package - \$50.00**

**B) High School Package - \$75 – New**

*[This package is for any family with a high school student. Grades must be sent in by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Seniors must have grades in by May 30<sup>th</sup>. A transcript is provided after the grades are turned in.]*

**C) Plus Package includes yearly report card for each child - \$65.00`**

*[This package is for families who do not have high school students. Parents will be responsible for sending in grades at the end of the year.]*

**D) Complete Package - \$100.00**

*[Includes one session of curriculum counseling, testing (does not include price of the test), graduation ceremony, diploma, transcript, and report cards for other children.]*

## **SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP PRICES**

### **MAY 1 - AUGUST 31 ONLY**

**\*\*Basic Package - \$25.00**

**\*\* High School Package - \$50.00**

**\*\*Plus Package - \$40.00**

**\*\*Complete Package \$75.00**

**Student course of study**

**Tell us about your school plan. Compulsory grade level is the grade level your child would be in if attending traditional public school. Instructional level is the level at which your child is performing. For each subject given, list the curriculum you are using for each child. For example: Reading: American Language Series and Explode the Code, Math: Horizons, Science: Ambleside Online.**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Compulsory grade level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Instructional grade level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reading (**grades one through six**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Writing (**grades one through six**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Literature (**grades seven through twelve**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Composition (**grades seven through twelve**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mathematics (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_  
Science (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Studies (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Compulsory grade level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Instructional grade level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reading (**grades one through six**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Writing (**grades one through six**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Literature (**grades seven through twelve**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Composition (**grades seven through twelve**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mathematics (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_  
Science (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Studies (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Compulsory grade level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Instructional grade level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reading (**grades one through six**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Writing (**grades one through six**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Literature (**grades seven through twelve**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Composition (**grades seven through twelve**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mathematics (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_  
Science (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Studies (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Compulsory grade level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Instructional grade level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reading (**grades one through six**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Writing (**grades one through six**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Literature (**grades seven through twelve**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Composition (**grades seven through twelve**): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mathematics (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_  
Science (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Studies (grades 1-12): \_\_\_\_\_

**Advantage Association**

**“Section 59-65-47.** *In lieu of the requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45, parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of an association for homeschools, which has no fewer than fifty members and meets the requirements of this section. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of the associations exempts the homeschool from the further requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45.*

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

- *a parent must hold at least a high school diploma or a GED;*
- *the instructional year is at least 180 days;*
- *curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, math, science and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature;*
- *educational records **must be maintained by the parent***

**EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

- *a plan book, diary, or other record indicating subjects taught and activities in which the student and parent-teacher engage;*
- *a portfolio of samples of student’s work*
- *a semi-annual progress report including attendance records and individualized documentation of the student’s academic progress in each of the*

*basic instructional areas specified in item above.*

**\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\***

***If you are withdrawing your student from a public school, you will have to notify the school district office with a copy of your approval letter and card if they have any further questions have them contact us.***

**As members you are signing this application stating that the S.C. state requirements according to Section 59-65-47 are being followed for the instructional current instructional year in which you are applying for.**

*Parent-teacher signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_*

*Parent-teacher signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_*

***Please remit your application, completed and signed, with your membership fees.***

# Statement of Completion

## 2014-2015

**Please sign below stating that you did the following according to the SC law. In the event that you didn't do what is listed; please give a brief description of cause.**

**“Section 59-65-47**, In lieu of the requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45, parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of an association for home schools which has no fewer than fifty members and meets the requirements of this section. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of the associations exempts the home school from the further requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45.

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

- (a) a parent must hold at least a high school diploma or the equivalent general educational development (GED) certificate;
- (b) the instructional year is at least one hundred eighty days;
- (c) the curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature;
- (d) educational records **shall be maintained by the parent-teacher**

### **Educational Records**

- (1) a plan book, diary, or other record indicating subjects taught and activities in which the student and parent-teacher engage;
- (2) a portfolio of samples of the student's academic work; and
- (3) a semiannual progress report including attendance records and individualized documentation of the student's academic progress in each of the basic instructional areas specified in item (c) above.

Parent-teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## High School Transcript Information

Student Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Days Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

### *For High School Students Only (Grades 9 – 12)*

High School Entry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or fax a transcript to the following school(s). List any submission deadline(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Note – Families who have a basic only membership package will incur a 15.00 document preparation fee for transcript preparation.*

Please note the type course for each subject below such as World Literature, Algebra II, Biology, American History.	Final Grade (as a %)	Credit
<i>English (includes literature, composition, and grammar)</i>		
<i>Math</i>		
<i>Science</i>		
<i>History</i>		
<i>Elective</i>		
<i>Elective</i>		
<i>Elective</i>		

**Elementary and Junior High Grade Report Form**

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Days of School Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject	Grade