

SIC REPORT PURPOSE

"This report is issued by the Aiken Scholars Academy School Improvement Council in accordance with the South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC and other accomplishments during the school year"



2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP

Elected Members

Tom Colleran, Parent – Chair
Ashley Charles, Parent – Vice-Chair
Olivia Ascherman, Student – Secretary
Suzanne Muller, Parent
Mumtahina Masud, Student
Benjamin Livingston, Student
Sakura Suri, Student Body President

Dr. Anne Poplin, Teacher
Cristina Ungureanu, Teacher

Appointed Members

Csaba Suri, Allnex
Hetel Acharekar, Performance Above
Mary Ruth Singer, Novartis Executive Sales Associate

Dr. Tim Lintner, USCA

Ex-Officio Members

Martha Messick, Principal

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THANK YOU to our partner USCA for their continued support!



SIC ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2026



AIKEN SCHOLARS ACADEMY

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VISION

Our vision is to create a nurturing, supportive, and collaborative learning environment that focuses on growing each student as an individual through a unique, high-quality, and rigorous educational experience immersed in the college atmosphere, preparing Scholars for entrance into an ever-changing and advanced society.

ASA BELIEFS & VALUES

- * Provide a safe, secure, and student-centered learning environment.
- * Build and lift students through the development of a growth mindset, valuing struggle as a natural part of the learning process and essential to their individual growth.
- * Develop a thriving culture by cultivating positive and long-lasting relationships, embracing diversity, communicating effectively, and providing support for the developmental and academic needs of Scholars.
- * Core dispositions necessary for success in college and beyond need to be developed through instruction and reflection throughout the Scholar experience. These core dispositions include beliefs about ability, work habits, motivation, and a "future self."
- * Provide access to meaningful and engaging learning experiences.
- * Promote effective and consistent communication with all Stakeholders.
- * Work cohesively with our school family and local community through meaningful relationships.

SCHOLAR ATTRIBUTES

**SERVICE – CURIOSITY & LIFE-LONG LEARNING – HONOR
OWNERSHIP – LEADERSHIP – ADVOCACY – RESILIENCE**

SIC GOALS

We continue to strengthen the foundation of the school through refinement of the academic program and day-to-day school processes, while maintaining focus on the school's vision. The SIC plays a significant role in examining ways to promote school improvement. ASA's SIC focuses on improvements aligned directly with the School Renewal Plan, focusing primarily on components of School Climate.

SCHOLAR RECRUITMENT & RETENTION



Goal: Establish a welcoming and supportive environment where we consistently question effectiveness, respond to need, and promote improvement.

Areas of Focus:

1. Improving the ASA experience for current students and emphasizing the value of that experience towards their future.
2. Showing potential students that while the process is difficult, it is worth it in the end.

PROMOTING INTERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Goal: Expand community partnerships with external business and entities to increase the ASA support base.

Areas of Focus:

1. Providing opportunities for parents to be more involved in the school, along with the school improvement process.
2. Developing opportunities to increase the school's presence in the community and developing lasting relationships with community partners.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As a school, we also value the experiences and expertise of the community and enjoy having them playing a part of our events.

"Building relationships with and learning how to give back to the community is something that ASA values immensely."

APRIL 2025-2026 OUTREACH EXPERIENCES

- * Service Hours- At the end of the 24-25 school year, **3812** hours of community service were documented by students!
- * Spooky To Be Hungry – The Beta Club joined delivered collection bags and advertising Harvest Hope's annual campaign. Scholars also collected nearly **1000** non-perishable food items for the campaign.
- * One Table – Scholars joined USCA in an event to collect children's clothing, diapers, wipes, and toys for Wellroot Family Services
- * Most Wonderful Drive of the Year –Student Council sponsored a drive to support ASA families in need
- * Book Club hosted a fundraiser and collected over 200 children's books for Ms. Unicorn, a local reading advocate
- * Beta Club volunteered at the Night of 1000 Lights in Downtown Aiken and raised items for United Way's "Be A Bunny" program
- * CyberPatriots volunteered at Aiken Elementary STEM night
- * NHS sponsored American Heart Association week, with support from CyberPatriots, and raised over \$650.00 to be donated
- * ASA hosted its two blood drives with Sheppard Community
- * Gardening Club hosted a table at USCA's annual SEED event and completed the following community projects: Aiken Elementary STEM night, Valentines for Shadow Oaks, and outreach at Shadow Oaks
- * NHS hosted a Bingo Night at local nursing home
- * Student Council sponsors two Bake Sale at USCA
- * Earth Month conducted a clothing swap, remaining clothing donated to local shelter

SCHOLAR LIFE

Scholars engaged in many fun activities outside the classroom!

- * Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month with fun activities, programs, and food!
- * Dances- Winter Semi-Formal Dance, Homecoming, Prom
- * Earth Month
- * International Week
- * Job Shadowing
- * Mental Health Awareness Month
- * Veterans Day Program
- * Women's History Month
- * Year-long school wide spirit competition, with a kick-off event
- * Senior Sunrise & Sunset
- * Spirit Weeks, Game Nights, Movie Nights
- * Pi Day
- * De-Stress Events before AP testing & USCA Exams
- * School-wide Volleyball, Flag Football, and Kick Ball Games
- * Clubs & Organizations include Academic Team, Beta Club, Book Club, Crochet Club, Cyber Patriots, Dungeons and Dragons, Fashion Committee, Fine Arts Club, Gardening Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Science Team, Student Council, Yearbook



SCHOLAR ACHIEVEMENTS



Class of 2025 Data:

- * Graduation Rate- 100%
- * College & Career Readiness- 100%
- * Scholarship Total- \$4,628,125
- * Highest GPA- 5.513; Average GPA- 4.876
- * Valedictorian- Sarah Porcha-Konjikusic, Salutatorian- McKenna Davis, Sr. Class Speaker- Rena Humes
- * SC Honors Diplomas- 22
- * AP Capstone Diplomas- 29
- * AP Seminar & Research Certificates- 13
- * AP Scholars- 12, AP Scholars with Distinction- 27, AP Scholars with Honors- 4
- * National Merit Scholarship Recipients- Joab Brown, Nicholas Harris, Joseph Nwachukwu
- * National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students- Sarah Porcha-Konjikusic and Cynthia Vangeles
- * Service Hours reported- 2609
- * ACPSD Senior Scholars- Joab Brown, McKenna Davis, Cody Goldschmidt, Joseph Nwachukwu, Sarah Porcha-Konjikusic
- * Seal of Biliteracy Awards- Emily Nightingale and Viridiana Silva-Cabrera

2025 End of Year Academic Data:

- * 99% of total students earned a Qualifying score on AP exams
- * Overall the school had 96% Qualifying scores on ALL AP exams
- * 2025 ACT School Day- Mean 28.4
- * 2025 SAT School Day- Mean 1299
- * EOC Data 2025- 100% Pass Rate Biology, English 2; 97% Pass Rate US History

2025-2026 School Year Accomplishments:

ASA Ranked #10 Nationally U.S. News & World Report

ASA Named South Carolina Blue Ribbon School

ASA Earned AP Honors- Platinum

- * Academic Team
 - Undefeated 25-26 & Ranked 1st in Aiken County
 - ACPSD Tournament Champions
 - Qualified for National competition
- * BETA Club inducted 38 new members
- * Cyber Patriots- Earned SRS Catalyst Grant, hosted two career events for students, and competed in the CyberPatriot competition
- * Mu Alpha Theta Chapter inducted 10 new members
 - Hosted 2 competitions: AMC and Spring Fling
 - Spring Fling- Freshmen team- 2nd, Sophomore team- 1st place, Senior team- 4th place
- * NHS inducted 27 new members
- * Science Team earned CNTA Grant to purchase lab equipment
- * Student Council
 - Sakura Suri SCASC Terry McCoy Hall of Fame Recipient
 - SCASC Gold Council of Honor
- * Mr. Phoenix Contest
 - Mr. Phoenix- Colton Payne
 - Mr. Underclassmen- Sean Goldshmidt
- * Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Black History Bowl
 - 1st Place Aiken County
 - 2nd Place State Championship
- * Success Team students- Semaya Bush, Londyn Stroman, Tavion Williams
- * Junior Leadership Aiken County Participants- Payton Brown, Madysson Gordon, Eloise Hewitt, Lesley Keck, Marilynn Washington, Joshua Woods
- * 2026 WJBF Scholar Athlete- J.J. Brittain
- * Caleb Rojas-Bohn – 2026 Celebration of Character
- * Michelle Hughes – 2026 ASA Teacher of the Year
- * Cheryl Love- 2026 GEM of the Year

