



you've got questions... we've got answers

Interested in enrolling your scholar? Here are some answers to popular questions!

1. Charter schools operating in SC need to be officially sponsored. Who is LSC's sponsor?

LSC is sponsored through the SC Public Charter School District. The South Carolina Public Charter School District oversees more than 30 schools around South Carolina. Its schools are achieving off-the-chart record levels of achievement and their philosophy most aligns with LSC's mission. LSC is excited to join the district as its newest school. Presently, no other charter schools exist in Sumter.

2. What are the attendance boundaries for Sumter STEAM Charter?

Unlike a traditional school district, the attendance boundaries for charter schools sponsored by the SC Public Charter School District are state-wide. As long as the scholar lives in South Carolina and has a way to get to the school, he or she is eligible to apply and attend.

3. What makes LSC different than my zoned elementary school?

Super great question! At LSC, we believe a "one-sized fits all approach" isn't working for all kids. We offer a high quality standards-based curriculum, more time on task through a longer school day & year,, significant exposure to enrichment activities, data-driven decisions, 2 teachers in each Primary Academy classroom with smaller classroom sizes, a comprehensive MTSS model to ensure the needs of all scholars are being met, extended day activities, and an innovative high school model with a set of learning PATHWAYS designed to link PBL and student connections to STEAM career pathways. We're on a clear cut mission to make a huge difference in the lives of children - one scholar at a time!

4. If my student attends LSC, does he/she have to take the state standardized tests?

Yes—the federal government does not exempt charter school students from taking standardized tests. In fact, all public schools (charter, magnet, and traditional) can face severe financial penalties if at least 95% of the student population is not tested. SC scholars will take the SC READY and SCPASS tests.

5. My child has special needs. Can he/she apply for enrollment and attend LSC?

Without a doubt! All disability categories are welcomed at LSC. In addition, we serve English Language Learners and students meeting the poverty criteria. All means ALL at LSC!

6. Do students at LSC learn the same state standards that students in traditional schools are taught?

Absolutely—while LSC has the freedom to choose its own curriculum, it must align with the SC College and Career Ready standards established by the South Carolina State Board of Education.

7. Will LSC be accredited like other traditional public schools?

Totally. The SC Public Charter School District has a rigorous accreditation process for its sponsored schools as a means to ensure its charter schools are recognized by all stakeholders as meeting operational expectations. Accreditation is extended through our sponsor and must be renewed on a regular basis, just like other traditional schools are required to do.

8. What's the first step if I want my child to attend LSC?

We're glad you asked! The first step is to submit an application via the online *Lotterease* platform that can be accessed on our website. If, for whatever reason you cannot access the online portal, a paper copy can be downloaded via the website or simply call 803-569-1217 and a school leader can help you!

9. Are any students given preference during enrollment?

Yes! In compliance with the *SC Charter Schools Act*, preference is given to three groups: children of board members, children of employees, and siblings of currently enrolled students.

10. What is a lottery, why is it needed, and who does it?

In its official charter, LSC has been approved to serve 72 scholars in kindergarten and 72 in first grade. What does this mean? If more than 72 enrollment applications are submitted, then a public lottery must be held to determine who is admitted. *Lotterease*, our online application portal, will electronically conduct a fair and transparent lottery to determine – at random – who is admitted. Any students who are not admitted during the lottery will be waitlisted for future seats (in the order of random selection).

11. If my child receives admission, what's the next step?

Once admission is confirmed via *Lotterease*, a parent has 5 days to accept followed by 10 days to submit a complete enrollment application. We can't wait to start onboarding our new families once the initial lottery has been held. If these deadlines are not met, the seat is forfeited to a scholar on the waitlist.

12. What does the teaching & learning look like at LSC?

A bit different, for sure! At LSC, we pride ourselves on the quality teaching & learning that will take place. Climbing the mountain to college & career is not easy and takes hard work. Across all LSC classrooms – you can expect to see five commonalities: hands-on learning, inquiry-based lessons, project/problem-based learning, teacher serving as the facilitator, and STEAM discipline integration.

13. Why is there a longer school day at LSC?

We believe it is important to teach the “whole child” and also that scholars need more time on task to achieve off-the-chart results. We will focus on meeting mastery! In addition to 30 additional minutes daily in reading and math than locally available options, all scholars receive an hour for lunch/recess daily, two hours each daily for enrichment classes, and 35 minutes for social-emotional learning (SEL).

14. Do you offer an after-school program?

LSC intends to offer an extended day enrichment program called ASPIRE – Advancing Scholar Progress in Reaching for Progress – each day after school from 4-6 pm. Scholars will have the opportunity to receive a snack, assistance in completing their homework, and additional exposure to STEAM activities.

15. What is social-emotional learning and why is this a part of the daily curriculum?

At LSC, we are creating a school where scholars show up eager to learn and are taught how to effectively deal with conflict. Social-emotional learning (SEL) teaches important skills such as self-regulation and self-awareness. Scholars will receive SEL instruction on a daily basis as a routine way of starting & ending their day through CHAMPS where scholars are “Challenging Hearts and Minds to Promote Success.”

16. Will my child have to wear a uniform at LSC?

Yes, uniforms are expected for all scholars attending LSC. At LSC, we believe in teaching our scholars to dress smartly and take pride in their appearance. Uniforms will help scholars to prepare for life after leaving school, where they may have to dress smartly or wear a uniform.

17. Will I have to pay tuition?

LSC is a tuition-free, open-enrollment public school. There is no application fee to apply and no tuition is required to attend. The only cost families will incur is uniforms. The first uniform will be provided free.

18. Will you provide transportation?

Families are responsible for getting their scholars to and from school each day. We will, however, work very closely with families in need to help arrange for transportation so that this is not a barrier for any admitted scholar to attend LSC. LSC does anticipate offering bus service in its fourth year of operation.

19. What about lunch?

We are really excited about this one! LSC intends to participate in the USDA free/reduced breakfast and lunch program. Parents will be required to annually complete the necessary paperwork for their child to participate in the program. We have a unique chance to teach children the importance of healthy and nutritious eating, and we intend to make this a fun part of each scholar’s day at LSC.

20. I’ve heard about my child receiving lots of exposure to enrichment classes. What types of enrichment classes will you offer?

Scholars will participate in two separate enrichment classes daily for a total of eight separate enrichment classes on a weekly basis. The goal is to provide significant exposure to scholars outside of the core content areas in which 50% are connected to STEAM career pathways (health sciences, engineering technology, & computer technology) while the others could include foreign language, Taekwondo, visual arts, and drama. As scholars progress throughout the various academies, they will have greater choice.

21. Will you offer sports?

At LSC, we believe in developing a well-rounded scholar. While there is no plan to offer sports in the lower grades, scholars in the junior academy will have the opportunity to provide input on what, if any, sports should be offered at that time. We believe that healthy competition is good!

Ready to climb the mountain to college & career with us? Complete a lottery application today for your scholar and attend a Family Preview Session! If you have any other questions, email enrollment@libertysteamcharter.org or call us (803-569-1217).