



Smart Scholars
Early College High School
1445 The Plaza
Schenectady, New York 12308
(518) 925-0282 phone
(518) 881-3923 fax



Joanne Wolcott, BIS House Principal
Gregory Rashford, BIS House Assistant Principal
Valerie Smith, Team Leader
Matthew Mortier, School Counselor
Colleen Pacella, School Counselor
Teri Thomas, School Counselor

Dr. Quintin Bullock, President
Penny A. Haynes, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Martha Asselin, Vice President of Student Affairs
Faith Critti, Program Director
Jay Quaintance, Department Chairperson

Application Criteria and Directions

Schenectady Smart Scholars Early College High School is a partnership between the State University of New York (SUNY), Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) and Schenectady High School (SHS) with the intent to establish a collaborative learning and teaching environment for incoming 9th graders. All partners are committed to facilitating positive, transformational changes which provide for a more successful and wide reaching program for a target student population which is traditionally underrepresented in college.

THE PURPOSE:

- To increase high school graduation rates;
- To increase the number of students who complete postsecondary credential/degree;
- To address needs of students from populations traditionally underrepresented in college;
- To help close our nation's student achievement gap; and
- To do all this at no additional cost to the student or their family.

THE GOAL:

Each student enrolled in Smart Scholars will graduate from high school with a Regents Diploma and will successfully transition into college with at least 20 credit hours earned and transferred.

THE PROGRAMS:

We offer two unique Smart Scholars Programs. Both programs offer the same number of college credits as well as components such as Service Learning, job shadowing and internships, and mentoring. The original Smart Scholars Program (Cohort 1) offers students a Liberal Arts focused education and accepts 100 students in its freshman class. The Smart Scholars STEM/CTE (Cohort 2) Program only accepts 50 students per year and focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) as well as Career and Technical Education (CTE.)

CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION:

- Student must be currently enrolled in the 8th grade in Schenectady City School District to be considered eligible for the Smart Scholars Program during their 2012-2013 9th grade academic year;
- Student must be identified as belonging to a population that has historically not had access to or success in higher education (i.e. - minority, potential first generation college student; from a single parent household or in foster care, etc...);
- Student must demonstrate academic performance in 7th and 8th grade that is higher than 65%;
- Student experiences financial constraints or burdens (i.e. - receives free and reduced lunches, low family income, recent family income changes, considered economically disadvantaged, etc...);
- Student must have successfully completed the application for admission; submitted two (2) letters of recommendation completed by employees of the Schenectady City School District, and participated in an intake interview.

Schenectady Smart Scholars Early College High School **Directions for Applying for Admission**

Students interested in applying for admission to the Schenectady Smart Scholars Early College High School must follow these steps in order to be considered.

- STEP 1.** Complete the Application for Admission in September 2012. Have your parent/guardian sign the application and the Consent for Release of Information to Third Parties form.
- STEP 2.** Provide the Student Recommendation Form to two (2) employees of the Schenectady City School District who know you well enough and could assess your potential to be successful in this program (teacher, guidance counselor, administrator, etc.). These individuals must send completed Recommendation Forms to Schenectady High School; c/o Valerie Smith at the address noted below.
- STEP 3.** **Before Friday, January 27, 2012** submit your completed application, consent form, and two letters of recommendation to *Valerie Smith, Team Leader* at this address:

Valerie Smith, Team Leader
Schenectady High School
1445 The Plaza
Schenectady, New York 12308

- STEP 4.** **Beginning in February 2012**, interviews will be held with all applicants who have completed the application process; thus making it best to submit your application earlier than the deadline date for an early admission.
- STEP 5.** Interviews will be scheduled after application is received. All questions or concerns can be referred to Valerie Smith, Team Leader at:

Phone number: (518) 925-0282
E-mail address: smithv@schenectady.k12.ny.us