

In their first year, the ACT/SAT Performance Improvement Awards (ASPI) were created to showcase schools that showed high performance on the ACT or SAT and those that have had rapid or continuous improvement in their scores. The recipients represent 42 of South Carolina's 85 school districts and will receive banners and certificates of achievement for their efforts. The ASPI program has three types of awards for high performance and three types of awards for high improvement.

The award banners for the schools indicate Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Cum Laude for the level of award given. Awards for high performance go to schools whose average composite score exceeds the national average, whose improvement in composite score exceeds the state average, or whose score is in the top tenth percentile in the state.

Improvement awards go to schools whose score exceeds the state average and level of significant improvement, and who show improvement over a three-year period.