

South Carolina Parent Teacher Association
Official Bulletin of the South Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers
A Branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

SOUTH CAROLINA CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
SCPTA
1826 Henderson Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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Important Dates

October 2007
October 1
First Membership Report and Dues Payment
(If you haven't turned yours in, then please do so immediately)

November 1
National PTA Reflections Theme Search for 2009-2010 Deadline
November 3
SCPTA 2007 Leadership Conference, C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy

November 2007
PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month
American Indian Heritage Month
National Adoption Month

November 11-17
National Education Week
November 18-24
National Family Week

December 2007
December 1
2nd Membership Report and Dues Payment
Copy of Current Year's Adopted Budget
Deadline to turn into SCPTA Office

February 2007
February 9
Founders' Day Celebration and Reflections Turn-in Date

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Mail to: SCPTA OFFICE, 1826 Henderson St., Columbia, SC 29201

Name _____
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South Carolina PTA
Official Bulletin of the South Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers

Volume 73, Issue 2 www.SCPTA.org October—November 2007

Your Vote Counts! SCPTA hosts the Legislative Conference Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007, prior to the 2008 Legislative Session



**C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy
2219 Barhamville Road, Columbia**

"...To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in schools, in the community and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children..."

—PTA Mission

"...To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth..."

—PTA Purpose

Why you should attend:

- Informative workshops concerning issues affecting education.
- An opportunity to discuss, amend and vote on the proposed 2008 Legislative Platform.
- Participation in the consideration of new bylaws to govern the SCPTA.

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*Preview the 2007 Legislative Conference Agenda on page 8
Register for the 2007 Legislative Conference on page 9
Get Directions for 2007 Legislative Conference on page 10
View the Layout of the Legislative Conference on page 11*



A Season of Giving, A New Year of Opportunity

By Jan Harp Domene, National PTA President

We give to our friends and family during the holidays. We give thanks and, of course, we give presents. We also give donations to our favorite charities. But how much are we giving of ourselves the rest of the year to those we hold dearest – our children? The gift of parent involvement is one of the greatest things we could ever give a child because it will reward them for a lifetime.

During this season of giving, let's encourage *all* parents to give a little bit more where it matters most! With the school year nearly half over, how many parents are making good on their promise from the Three for Me program? Use this halfway marker to remind them of their commitment to give time to their children's education. Are you planning a second half membership drive? Take advantage of the generous spirit and general good will that comes with this time of year to speak to non-members about "giving" to the school community in the new year.

As first semesters and 2007 calendars come to close, let's also review the results of our first half. Are we welcoming new families into the school community? How did the fall programs fare? Is your PTA connecting with parents, the school, and the community? Our children deserve the best possible chance to succeed – let's make sure we give it to them.

In 2008, PTA will offer plenty of opportunities for everyone to support student success and well-being. In February, Take Your Family to School Week will literally bring moms, dads, siblings, caretakers, and others into the classroom for a learning experience like no other. Community members will also have a chance to support children this February during Advocacy Week, when we *all* speak up and demand more for *all* children. There are so many ways to give – we only need to establish the connections that will make them fruitful.

So let the giving begin with the holidays – and carry through all year!



News & Notes:

- **Hilton Head School for the Creative Arts**, which is located in SCPTA District 10, received an award for 100% Faculty and was omitted from the August-September 2007 *Bulletin*.
- **Jennie Moore Elementary PTA**, which is located in SCPTA District 9, East Cooper Council, is a recipient of the Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant for the 2007-2008 year. This grant is awarded to local PTAs for student-centered programs focused on arts education. Jennie Moore was awarded \$1,000 for implementing the Mosaic Project, which provides students with respect for cultures and differences, while offering students pride in their own backgrounds and history.
- **Hillcrest Middle School PTA**, which is located in SCPTA District 1, Southeast Council, earned the *Recognition of Commitment* distinction on September 25, 2007, as part of the National PTA's Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification.
- **Blythe Academy of Language PTA**, which is located in SCPTA District 1, Southwest Council, qualified for the *Schools of Excellence Certificate* on October 8, 2007, and will be recognized at National's Convention. The Certificate does not expire until December 31, 2010.
- South Carolina has two PTAs who won the National PTA Healthy Lifestyles Award. The two winners are **Ellen Woodside Elementary PTA**, which is located in SCPTA District 1, Southeast Council, and **Sara Collins Elementary PTA**, which is located in SCPTA District 1, Southwest Council.

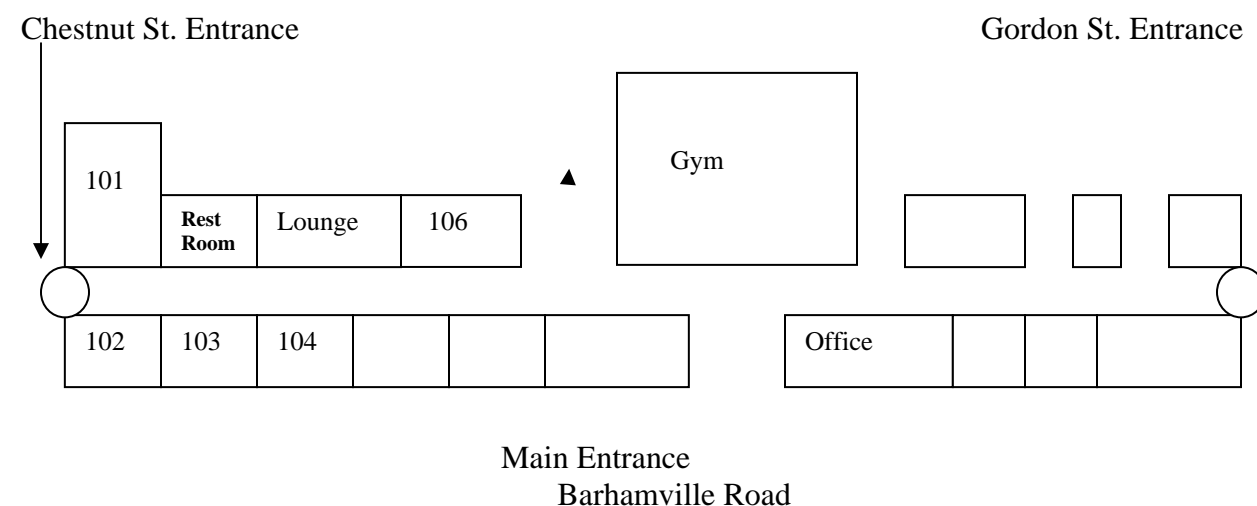
2007 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE DIAGRAM FOR LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Registration will be in front of the Main Office near the Barhamville Road entrance. The Continental Breakfast will be held in the Teachers Lounge. The General Sessions will be held in the Gymnasium. Lunch will be held in the Cafeteria which is on the basement level.

Parking is available on the north side of the school in the Gordon Street lot, and on the south side of the school in the Chestnut Street lot. Handicapped parking is available in front of the school on Barhamville Rd. Handicapped access is available through the Main Entrance.

Workshop Room Assignments

Session I Workshops 9:30 AM – 10:40 AM	Session II Workshops 10:50 AM – 12:00 Noon	Session III Workshops 1:20 PM – 2:20 PM
Legislative Advocacy Room A 104	Health and Wellness Room A 104	SC Legislature on the web Room A 104
No Child Left Behind Room A 101	Title I Room A 101	SC Legislative Preview Room A 101
Local Unit Bylaws Room A 102	Local Unit Standing Rules Room A 102	
	PTA Diversity Room A 106	



2007 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE DIRECTIONS TO C.A. JOHNSON PREPARATORY ACADEMY

From Greenville

Take I-385 to I-26 E.
Take the I-126 exit – EXIT 108B- on the left toward Downtown Columbia.
Merge onto US-76 E.
Turn Left onto Bull St / SC-277 N.
Turn Right onto Colonial Dr.
Turn Right onto Harden St / SC-555.
Turn Left onto Slighs Ave.
Slighs Ave. becomes Chestnut St.
Turn Left onto Barhamville Rd.

From Charleston

Take I-26 W towards Columbia.
Take the I-126 exit toward Downtown.
Merge onto US 76 E.
Turn Left onto Bull St / SC-277 N.
Turn Right onto Colonial Dr.
Turn Right onto Harden St / SC-555.
Turn Left onto Slighs Ave.
Slighs Ave. becomes Chestnut St.
Turn Left onto Barhamville Rd.

From Rock Hill

Take I-77 S toward Columbia.
Merge onto SC-277 S via exit 18 toward I-20 W.
Take the Farrow Rd / SC-555 exit.
Turn Left onto Farrow Rd /SC-555.
Continue to follow SC-555.
Turn Left onto Harden St. / SC-555
Turn Left onto Slighs Ave.
Slighs Ave. becomes Chestnut St.
Turn Left onto Barhamville Rd.

From Aiken

Take I-20 E toward Columbia.
Merge onto I-26 E via exit 64A
Take the I-126 exit – EXIT 108B- on the left toward Downtown.
Merge onto US-76 E.
Turn Left onto Bull St / SC-277 N.
Turn Right onto Colonial Dr.
Turn Right onto Harden St.
Turn Left onto Slighs Ave.
Slighs Ave. becomes Chestnut St
Turn Left onto Barhamville Rd.

From Sumter

Take US 76/378 W to Columbia.
Turn Right onto Millwood Ave.
Millwood Ave becomes Two Notch Rd.
Turn Left onto Chestnut St.
Turn Right onto Barhamville.

From Florence

Take I-20 W toward Columbia.
Merge onto SC-277 S via exit 73 A toward Columbia.
Take the Farrow Rd/SC-555 exit.
Turn Left onto Farrow Rd/SC-555.
Continue to follow SC-555.
Turn Left onto Harden St./ SC-555.
Turn Left onto Slighs Ave.
Slighs Ave. becomes Chestnut St.
Turn Left onto Barhamville Rd.

Thinking About the Future? Try Something New.

By Phil Clark, South Carolina PTA President

The **first** National PTA Convention produced three fundamental initiatives still relevant today:

1. The establishment of parent education study groups;
2. Home and school cooperation as represented by the partnership of parents and teachers; and
3. Full utilization of the services of all agencies concerned with child welfare.

Today, the Mission of PTA is three-fold:

1. To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in schools, the community and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
2. To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
3. To encourage parental and public involvement in the public schools.

When thinking of PTA, do you think of **fundraising**? Fundraising is a means to carry out the goals and programs of your local PTA. SCPTA programming is in a framework to increase parental awareness and support about issues affecting your child: “Building Successful Partnerships Training,” “Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification,” “Reflections Art Program,” “Phoebe Apperson Hearst National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership

Award,” “Back-To-School Resource Materials” and “Three-For-Me.” In addition, relevant workshops include: student achievement; child nutrition and obesity; prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; diversity and inclusion, as well as, violence and bullying prevention.

Parental involvement, means *what* to you? SCPTA hopes it means your child gets eight hours of sleep, a nutritious breakfast, you review his/her homework, your attendance at PTA and teacher meetings, making sure your child is enrolled in a quality after-school program or activity, and that you are talking to your child about bullying, gangs, internet-safety, and dangers of tobacco, alcohol or other drug use...Parental Involvement is all of these things and more.

SCPTA wants to work with and support all parents in becoming an advocate for the best education for their child! If not you, then **WHO**? The State Superintendent is charged with educating all students in SC. Local school boards are responsible for educating all students in your district. Principals are obligated to educate all students in his/her school. Teachers are striving to educate all students in his/her classroom. Parents know what is best and are responsible for their child’s education. If you do not advocate for a quality education, who will? Does your child’s school have the best test scores in your district, county,

region? Does your child’s school have the best test scores in South Carolina or even in the Southeast? Again, if you do not advocate for the best possible education, who will?

Ninety percent of the fastest growing jobs require some post-secondary education. Employment growth is driven by the increasing reliance of businesses on information technology and the continuing importance of maintaining system security. Employment in professional, scientific, and technical services will grow 28.4% and will add 1.9 million new jobs by 2014.

Mom and Dad, do you know about the Education & Economic Development Act (EEDA) created to help you and your child explore/prepare for career opportunities through a more relevant curriculum and firsthand experience? Do you realize when your child enters the work force in years to come, he/she will be competing for jobs with peers from Japan, China, India and other countries? Are you helping to shape your child’s future? SCPTA provides trainings in which “experts” provide you, the parent, with the latest information to help steer your child down the path to a successful career by reaching their full potential. Whether your child is going into construction or engineering, employment growth will be driven by the increasing reliance of businesses on new technology and the growing complexity of business in the 21st century. Are you and your child prepared?



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As a parent, if you do not advocate for your child’s education as well as keep them safe, healthy and drug free, who will?

All of the above is a tough job—a meaningful job—and the job of a parent. I encourage you to join SCPTA and its 108,000 members working together to offer support during your child’s journey to reach his/her full potential. Remember, if not you, then who?

SCPTA is here to answer any questions, discuss any opportunities and provide resources for parents to make smart decisions about the future of their child! Remember, EVERY CHILD. ONE VOICE! Join SCPTA and become a part of the largest voice that advocates for a quality public education for all children in SC!

For more information about SCPTA, please visit www.scpta.org.

OMDR

Notification of PTA Membership Benefits

By *Darcia Beckman, SCPTA President-Elect*

National PTA is sending "welcome" emails to members who provide email addresses as the PTA Local Units input their membership into OMDR. This is a real-time notification that is done within minutes of the data entry and alerts members on how to access their PTA benefits. Members who do not receive the email should check their junk mail. Due to individual spam blockers, the mail may not have been received.

Members who do not provide an email address to their PTA Local Unit should go to the fol-

lowing sites where they can access their PTA benefits and enjoy some of the benefits of their dues. These sites include: http://www.pta.org/jp_membership_benefits.html or www.scpta.org.

Each PTA Local Unit and District is responsible for making sure that members know what their dues support at the Local and District PTA levels. If you aren't sure what your dues support at those levels, exercise your membership right and ask.

SCPTA House—A Valuable Resource

By *Martha Knight and Gail Phillips*
Historic Preservation Committee Co-Chairs

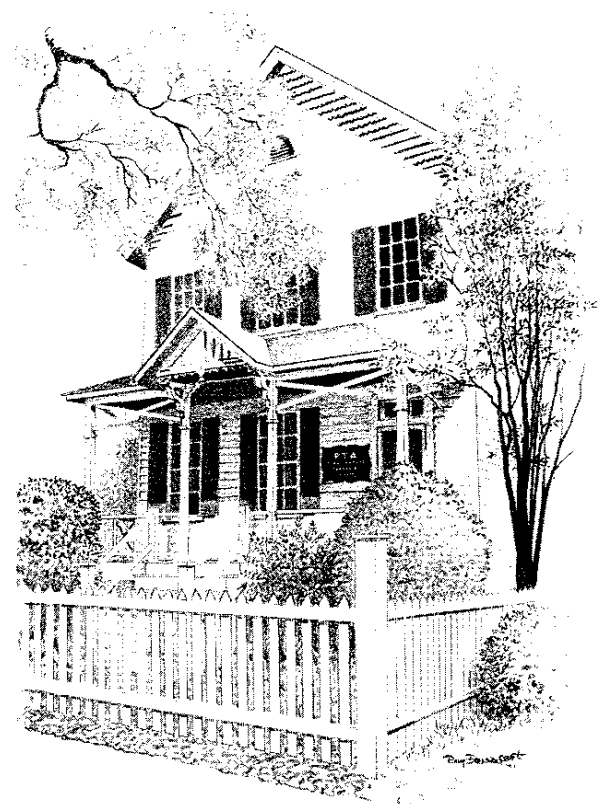
SCPTA is fortunate to have a permanent location for its state office. On December 28, 2007, SCPTA will have been "owners" for 40 years.

A special committee has been appointed by SCPTA President Phil Clark to learn more about the history of the SCPTA house and the historic Landmark District in which it is located. The committee will also coordinate any projects to refurbish the building using the guidelines for the historic Landmark District.

At a recent meeting of the SCPTA's Historic and Preservation Committee, representatives of the Preservation Department of the City of Columbia and the Historic Columbia Foundation shared information about the Landmark District and the expectations that guide the SCPTA in refurbishing the house and suggestions for period landscaping. The SCPTA committee also received information about hiring contractors and funding resources.

The committee will schedule an inspection of the house, then plan restoration projects after the inspection. The committee has already identified the need to repair some boards on the outside of the house, then complete exterior painting.

On the SCPTA Goals Sheet, item No. 9 gives encouragement to local PTA units to make contributions to the State House Fund, for the SCPTA house/office upkeep and preservation. Some of the funding resources that have been brought to the committee's attention require matching funds.



Each local PTA unit can help with the restoration of the SCPTA house/office by sending an "anniversary" donation and receiving recognition on the Goals Sheet. Doing so adds to the pride that all members can have in the ownership of such a valuable resource for SCPTA.

The SCPTA office is open to all PTA members who visit Columbia.

2007 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 26, 2007

Online Registration is available Oct. 8-31 at www.scpta.org

Advance Registration includes continental breakfast and lunch.

PTA Unit/ School Name _____

Contact Person _____

Contact's Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Member Registration \$20.00

Name of Registrant (*Please Print*)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |

Non Member Registration \$30.00

Name of Registrant (*Please Print*) _____

Organization/School _____

Members Registered _____ X \$20 \$ _____

Non Members Registered _____ X \$30 \$ _____

TOTAL REMITTANCE ENCLOSED \$ _____

Questions? Call the SCPTA Office at 800-743-3782 or e-mail: office@scpta.org. Registrations received after the published registration deadline will be returned and on-site registration will be required. Mail registration form with remittance to: SCPTA, 1826 Henderson St., Columbia, SC 29201.

**2007 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, NOV. 3, 2007,
C.A. JOHNSON PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

AGENDA

Registration & Continental Breakfast..... 8:00 – 9:00 A.M.

General Session I..... 9:00 – 9:20 A.M.

Workshops.....9:30 – 10:40 A.M.

Legislative Advocacy — Renee Martin, SC Tobacco Collaborative

No Child Left Behind — Lydia Freeman, SC Parent Information Resource Center

Local Unit Bylaws — Susan Strohm, SCPTA Bylaws Chair

Workshops.....10:50 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

PTA Diversity – Not for Women Only – Courtney Simmons, SCPTA VP for Membership

Title I – Dr. Nancy Busbee, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability,
SC Dept. Of Education

Local Unit Standing Rules – Doug Griffin, SCPTA VP for Legislation

Health and Wellness

Lunch and Learn.....12:00 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.

Workshops.....1:20 P.M. – 2:20 P.M.

2008 SC Legislative Preview – Sandy Smith, Deputy Superintendent for Policy and
Legislation, SC Dept. of Education

SC Legislature on the Web – Doug Griffin, SCPTA VP for Legislation

General Session II.....2:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

2008 Legislative Platform

Proposed SCPTA Bylaws

Adjournment



PTA Reflections Program

Theme Search for 2009–2010

The National PTA organization is looking for a theme for its Reflections Program for 2009–2010. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100, and his or her theme will be presented at the 2008 PTA National Convention (June 21–23, in San Diego, California). Use this form to submit theme ideas. Only signed original forms will be considered. **Please submit entries to your state PTA office.**

State deadline for theme submissions: **NOVEMBER 1, 2007**

Local PTA/PTSA _____

PTA/PTSA President _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Daytime phone () _____

Email address _____ Eight-digit PTA ID 00 _ _ _ _ _

Student's name _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Daytime phone () _____

Email address _____ School name _____

Theme Idea _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Participate in PTA's Healthy Lifestyles Month During November

Improving Opportunities for Physical Activity at School: 10 Things PTAs Can Do

1. Provide pedometers for a "steps" contest—give an award to the parent, teacher, student and staff member who takes the most steps in a given month.
2. Bring teachers, parents and students together in an after-school walking, biking, running or skating club.
3. Encourage parents to volunteer to walk groups of students to school on a rotating basis.
4. Give parents information about community physical activity resources (such as programs at the local YMCA).
5. Raise funds for school athletic equipment (see the ideas for healthy fundraisers in this notebook).
6. Plan group activities for your PTA that involve fitness (e.g., a walking meeting with the principal).
7. Find creative ways to make PTA fundraising activities active: sell services like raking leaves and shoveling snow.
8. Take a look at your school's playgrounds and athletic facilities. Test the equipment. Does your school do a good job of providing students with an environment that promotes physical activity?
9. Partner with local organizations to provide after-school activities in your school's athletic facilities.
10. Be advocates for recess and physical education. Parents' concerns and ideas are valuable—talk to your principal and other school leaders about the importance of incorporating at least 30 minutes of physical education run by accredited professional instructors, into every school day.

Email National PTA's Health & Wellness staff to receive an electronic copy of the *Healthy Lifestyles at Home and School* notebook at HealthyLifestyles@pta.org.

Improving Student Nutrition: 10 Things PTAs Can Do

1. Make copies of the handouts provided in this notebook and distribute them to parents in your school.
2. Make Healthy Lifestyles at Home and School a focus of your PTA meetings.
3. Help make school dining facilities appealing to students. Take a look at your cafeteria. Is it a nice place to eat? Ask your kids what they think of the room. Is it dark or sunny? Are the seats comfortable? If the walls are drab, ask your school's art teachers to have students create artwork (featuring healthy foods) for the walls. Or ask your principal for permission to have a PTA painting party, and paint murals on the walls.
4. Suggest selling bottled water at the school store, front desk and all school events.
5. Eat with the kids: Go in one day and join kids at lunch. (Ask your school for permission first). Pack a healthy lunch or eat what the kids eat. Find out what choices are available at your school, and what they taste like. What do kids pick from the menus, how long do they have to wait in line, and how much time do they have to eat?
6. Make sure your school participates in the School Breakfast, National School Lunch and After-school Snack programs. If your school does not participate in these programs, encourage school leaders to do so.
7. Meet with the food service staff at your school and learn about their daily challenges in preparing meals and their suggestions for healthy improvements. Write their ideas down.
8. Use the PTA Fact-Finding Project (included in this notebook) to assess your school's health. For example, take inventory of the number of vending machines on campus and the kinds of foods they contain. Also take notes on what is for sale in your school store or in other places on or near campus. Are there fast-food restaurants nearby?
9. Talk to students about the food at school. They will definitely have opinions about the time they eat lunch, whether they are rushed, what the food is like, and what they would like to see changed. It's important to get students' support for healthy changes in the school environment.
10. Armed with all the information you have gathered, speak up about what changes are needed. Enlist the help and support of your principal, the school food service staff, and teachers for making improvements in your school's "nutrition environment." With the strength of the PTA behind you, you can make a big difference and change your school for the better!

This information is brought to you from the *Healthy Lifestyles at Home and School* notebook, created in partnership with Parents' Action for Children, <http://www.parentsaction.org>.

Are You a "Model" for Tobacco-Free School District?

By Dawn A. White, South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative

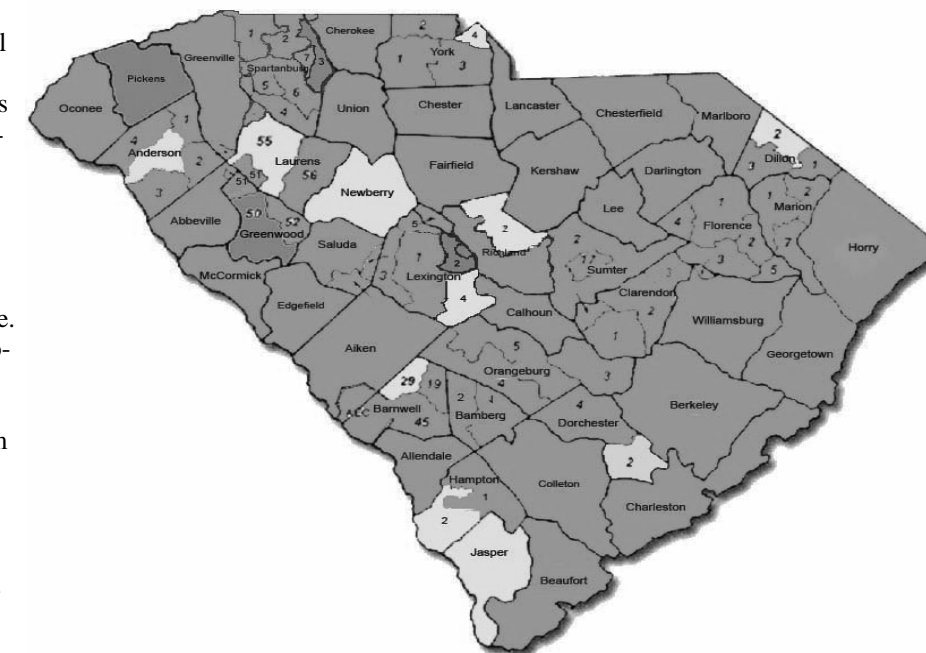
The smoking statistics for South Carolina youth tell a grim story. Of S.C. high school students, 19.1% smoke cigarettes, while nine percent of S.C. middle school students smoke. Sixty-three percent have tried cigarette smoking, and 7.4% of high school students and 3.1% of middle school students smoke on school grounds.

We know from experience, the more restrictions there are on smoking, the less use. There are two pieces of legislation that prohibit smoking in schools including the South Carolina Clean Indoor Air Act of 1990, which prohibits smoking in any form in all public elementary and secondary schools and the Pro-Children Act of 1994, which prohibits smoking in any indoor facility used for kindergarten, elementary, secondary education or library services for children.

In addition, the Youth Access to Tobacco Prevention Act of 2006 makes it unlawful for a minor under 18 to purchase, possess or attempt to possess any tobacco product.

But students are still exposed to tobacco products usage when schools and districts have not adopted a 100% Tobacco-Free School Policy. "*Blazin' the Way*," an initiative that began in 2006, is a campaign designed to showcase and encourage school districts to adopt the model tobacco free policy that has been endorsed by the S.C. School Boards Association. Since inception, eleven school districts have adopted the model policy, including Anderson School District Five, Dillon School District Two, Dorchester School District Two, Fort Mill School District Four, Jasper County School District, Hampton County School District Two, Laurens School District 55, Lexington School District Four, School District of Newberry County, Richland School District Two and Williston-Elko School District 29.

Four other districts are one step away from adopting the complete model policy. Our shared vision is to have all South Carolina school districts 100% tobacco free.



A 100% tobacco-free model school policy assures 1) that all schools, buildings, grounds, transportation and school-related events are tobacco free at all times for all students, staff and visitors; 2) includes evidence-based prevention curriculum; 3) provides cessation resources and referrals; and 4) refuses tobacco industry sponsorships.

Are you a "model" tobacco-free school district?

For more information about making your school district 100% Tobacco-Free, please contact the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative at 1-800-274-1893.

The South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative (www.smokefreesc.org) is a statewide assembly of the leading health organizations, community coalitions, and businesses committed to reducing the toll of tobacco use in South Carolina through prevention, policy and protection from secondhand smoke exposure.