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Date: 10/11/2016 4:58:04 PM
Subject: October Public Education Update

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

South Carolina's public education system continues to grow both through student achievement and transformational reforms.

This year, we are in the process of writing our state plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act(ESSA). The passage of ESSA not only returns great control to states and local districts but also allows us to develop an accountability system that is tied our vision that every high school student will graduate prepared for college, careers, and citizenship. No longer will we grade schools and districts on their performance on one high stakes test but we will use multiple college and career readiness measures to give an accurate portrayal of student achievement.

This school year, the South Carolina Department of Education is implementing a tiered system of technical support that will provide schools and districts in need the expertise and resources they require to ensure students are meeting high levels of expectation.

I firmly believe that through hard work, high student expectations, and quality leadership, we can meet our goal that every student graduates prepared for success.

Molly M. Spearman, State Superintendent of Education

Better Schools - Brighter Future

SC Outpaces Nation on AP Exams

For the second year in a row, South Carolina students outpaced the national average on nine out of the top ten subjects of Advance Placement exams. Additionally, SC students showed growth on all three areas of the SAT as

well as the overall composite score.

[Check out the full results here!](#)

SCDE Funds Interpreting Center

The South Carolina Department of Education granted over \$1 million in funding to Clemson University American Sign Language professor, Stephen Fitzmaurice, to establish the first South Carolina Educational Interpreting Center at the University Center in Greenville. Clemson will partner with the SC Department of Education and the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind to open the new center. - [Find out more here!](#)

Four SC Schools Named Nation's Finest

The United States Department of Education recognized 329 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Four South Carolina schools received the award based on their academic excellence.

[See the schools here!](#)

Student Bus Shop Apprenticeship Program

The South Carolina Department of Education's bus shop apprenticeship program was recently nationally certified by the US Department of Labor. Students learn through paid on the job training and earn credits towards graduation.- [Watch WSPA's Video Coverage!](#)

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