

**From:** Cheryl L Coker <clcoker1993@yahoo.com>

**To:** adavenport@greenville.k12.sc.us  
adavenport@greenville.k12.sc.us  
aleblanc@greenville.k12.sc.us  
aleblanc@greenville.k12.sc.us  
wroyster@greenville.k12.sc.us  
wroyster@greenville.k12.sc.us  
mgary@greenville.k12.sc.us  
mgary@greenville.k12.sc.us  
pdavie@greenville.k12.sc.us  
pdavie@greenville.k12.sc.us  
dmcdonald@greenville.k12.sc.us  
dmcdonald@greenville.k12.sc.us  
kowens@greenville.k12.sc.us  
kowens@greenville.k12.sc.us  
crystalball.oconnor@gmail.com  
crystalball.oconnor@gmail.com  
SCSuptED@ed.sc.us  
SCSuptED@ed.sc.us  
gov@sc.gov  
gov@sc.gov  
Lt. Governor's Office  
LtGov@scstatehouse.gov

**Date:** 3/14/2018 12:13:05 AM

**Subject:** Greenville County Schools March 14th Student Protest/Victims Remembrance Event

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My name is Cheryl Coker and I live in Simpsonville, SC. My daughter, Lindsay Coker, is in the sixth grade at Bryson Middle School, and will not be attending school tomorrow due to the events that Bryson Middle School has planned for students concerning the protests for gun control legislation and possible unrest that might lead to putting students in harm's way. My daughter's safety and well being comes before any intentional or unintentional outcome that the school district has chosen to allow involving a protest and at best, making an issue about citizen's gun rights, which is a part of our country's Constitutional rights of any individual that is a citizen of the United States of America.

My main question about the Greenville County Schools decision to even allow protests or demonstrations is why even address this issue during school hours when we have our students there for educational instruction time for their various courses of study? In my opinion, this is only inviting the unrest and disruption the school district describes on their website, by giving recognition and a platform to cause exactly what officials are saying they want to avoid. I will not put my daughter into a position of possibly being pressured by other students to be involved in a protest or activities that she may not understand, and the full implications regarding a person's individual liberties, as stated in the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. If this were truly a teachable moment for Greenville County students, the time would be better spent to conduct a reading of the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights, all the while explaining to students in more detail about the documents meaning, and encouraging discussions about how to address problems with gun violence, mental health issues, etc., without infringing on citizens' lawful rights that we have had since our country was founded.

The shooting at the school in Parkland, FL was a tragedy without a doubt; but since many details about this particular school shooting have been reported in media outlets and have shown that existing gun laws that were in place would have worked, had many officials from the high school, law enforcement, social services, even the FBI done their part and used their authority in the right and proper ways. If students, parents, and others want to protest, I believe the protest should be about the failures of those in authority, such as the school administrators, law enforcement, as well as government agencies that ignored the law, and in some cases, willfully did not enforce it.

Students that want to protest about anything, are free to do so, as long as they aren't infringing on the

rights of other students, whose sole purpose for being in a public school is to get educated and create a better future for themselves. Greenville County Schools decision to allow this disruption under the guise of school safety and remembrance of school shooting victims during my child's educational instruction time is unfair to her and disturbing to me as a parent. If some students want to protest individual gun rights, then Greenville County Schools could have allowed this on the grounds outside of the middle and high schools on a designated Saturday, without becoming involved in the planning. Unfortunately, Greenville County Schools have gotten involved in a divisive issue that involves a Constitutional right to bear arms. Protesting is also a Constitutional right, but to allow students to use this right during my child's instruction time at school in order to protest another Constitutional right to bear arms, is to me, sending a confusing message that I don't believe is necessary or needed in public schools.

I have always believed public school was created by Government to provide a student the opportunity to receive an education, so as to benefit society with citizens that could solve our country's problems or enhance our country in positive ways. In my opinion, the Greenville County School District is not providing my child the educational opportunity that parents or SC taxpayers deserve on March 14, 2018.

Respectfully,

Cheryl L. Coker