

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** with the responsibility for educating young adolescents who are experiencing rapid and dramatic changes in their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and moral development, schools that educate middle grades students play a critical role in our system of education; and
- WHEREAS,** according to research, young adolescents need challenging and engaging instruction, knowledgeable teachers and administrators, safe and supportive learning environments, and organizational structures that banish anonymity and promote personalization, collaboration, and social equity to help them achieve; and
- WHEREAS,** the habits and values established during early adolescence have a significant life-long influence that can impact the future health and welfare of our nation; and
- WHEREAS,** research indicates that the academic achievement of eighth grade students has a larger impact on their readiness for college than anything that happens academically during high school; and
- WHEREAS,** in order to improve graduation rates and prepare students to be life-long learners ready for college, careers, and citizenship, a deeper understanding of the distinctive mission of the middle level of education is necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as

MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the importance of middle level education and honor the contributions of those who educate this unique age group.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Nikki R. Haley', is positioned above the printed name.

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA