

WHEREAS, excellence in education is dependent on schools that are safe and free of violence, weapons, and drugs; and

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of many students, teachers, and school staff are unnecessarily jeopardized by crime and violence, such as substance abuse, gangs, bullying, poor discipline, vandalism, and absenteeism; and

WHEREAS, America's Safe Schools Week calls attention to the importance of working together to ensure that our schools are safe, secure, peaceful places for learning, teaching, and working - free of drugs, alcohol, weapons, and fear.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 18 - 24, 2009, as

SOUTH CAROLINA'S SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join together to keep our schools free of crime and violence, to improve discipline, and to increase student attendance.