

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Public Information Officers
Principals
School Counselors
Community Engagement Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Dwayne H. Gatson,
Director, Office of Student and Community Engagement

DATE: October 14, 2025

RE: Information Sessions for the Let Grow Experience

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has partnered with the Let Grow organization to be the nation's first Lighthouse State, championing the young people of our great Palmetto state with tools and resources to help grow them into capable, independent, and resilient adults. Let Grow is a non-profit organization, founded in part by Jonathan Haidt (The Anxious Generation), that offers two **free** school and community-based initiatives – The Let Grow Experience and Let Grow Play Clubs – to encourage age-appropriate independence, student confidence, and competence in everyday life. This [short video](#) with Jonathan Haidt is one example of his strong endorsement of these programs as the solution to his Fourth Norm: more independence, responsibility, and free play for kids.

Our partnership with the Let Grow organization:

- ***Serves students** with initiative and self-reliance through structured opportunities for independence, resilience, and problem-solving skills.
- ***Supports teachers** by providing free, accessible, teacher-friendly resources and training to effortlessly integrate Let Grow programs into classrooms, playgrounds, and school culture.
- ***Empowers parents** by connecting them with actionable plans and suggested activities to build independence and durable skills in their children.

***Engage communities** by connecting local community groups with children to offer opportunities to practice their emerging independence.

We invite you to visit the [Let Grow South Carolina Landing page](#) and request some of the resources available for all stakeholder groups.

Additionally, you are encouraged to join one of the upcoming webinars listed below so you can find out more about the benefits and how to bring the Let Grow experience to your school or community group:

SCDE Introduction to Let Grow for Districts

Nov 5, 2025, 10:00 AM Eastern Time

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/F-GgKgxHSCCDCEmmtCK9sQ>

SCDE Introduction to Let Grow for K-8 Schools

Nov 5, 2025, 03:00 PM Eastern Time

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/2oNXf8RbSVezIJkwmqomxw>

SCDE Introduction to Let Grow for Middle and High Schools

Nov 6, 2025, 03:00 PM Eastern Time

Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/eX4ES_cnR5miftRnkX1ZAQ

Together, we can **serve students, support teachers, empower parents, and engage communities** so that every South Carolina student can embrace a hope-filled future and graduate college, career, and military ready.

For questions or more information, contact Mandy Roberts at mroberts@ed.sc.gov.