

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders

FROM: Kristi D. Austin, PhD
Director, Office of Assessment and Standards

DATE: May 20, 2026

RE: Summer SC 250 Activities and the Palmetto Civics Project – Encouraging District Participation

As South Carolina and the nation prepare to commemorate **America's 250th anniversary**, we are pleased to highlight the [Summer SC 250 activities](#) available through the [Palmetto Civics Project](#) and to encourage district participation in this meaningful statewide effort.

The Palmetto Civics Project supports high-quality civic learning experiences that strengthen students' understanding of history, government, and their role as engaged citizens. The Summer SC 250 activities extend this mission beyond the school year, offering **fun, accessible, and impactful learning opportunities** for students and families during the summer months.

Why Summer SC 250 Matters

This upcoming **July 4** holds special historical significance as we reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and ideals that gave rise to our nation. South Carolina played an **integral role in the American Revolution**, hosting pivotal battles, enduring prolonged conflict, and producing leaders whose actions directly influenced the fight for independence. From Fort Moultrie to the backcountry campaigns, South Carolina's story is central to understanding how American freedom was secured.

It is essential that students recognize:

- The **importance of South Carolina's contributions** to the Revolutionary War

- The **enduring principles of liberty, self-governance, and civic responsibility** born out of the Revolution
- Their own role in preserving and strengthening the freedoms secured more than two centuries ago

The Summer SC 250 activities help connect historical learning to students' lived experiences and local communities, making civic education relevant, engaging, and memorable.

Summer SC 250 Activities and Engagement

Through the Palmetto Civics Project, Summer SC 250 activities may include:

- Place-based learning opportunities tied to local and state history
- Student-friendly civic challenges and family-engagement activities
- Exploration of primary sources and historical narratives
- Opportunities to celebrate civic pride and South Carolina's unique role in America's founding

Communication Toolkit and Call to Action

We encourage districts to actively promote Summer SC 250 participation using the items linked at [SC 250 Summer Communication Toolkit](#), which includes sample messaging and resources to support outreach. Sharing these activities through district websites, newsletters, and social media will help amplify awareness and invite families and communities to participate together.

We ask districts to:

- Share Summer SC 250 resources widely with educators, students, and families
- Encourage participation as a way to celebrate this historically significant July 4
- Highlight the fun, meaningful, and educational nature of these summer civic experiences

By participating in Summer SC 250 through the Palmetto Civics Project, districts help ensure that South Carolina students understand not only **what happened during the American Revolution**, but **why it still matters today**. Thank you for your continued commitment to civic education and to honoring South Carolina's rich historical legacy. If you have questions or would like additional support, please contact Kristi McKenzie-Amundson at kmckenzieamundson@ed.sc.gov or Reece Spradley at rcspradley@ed.sc.gov.