

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, during the 2020-21 academic year, 5,754 high school students in South Carolina dropped out of school, a rate of 2.4 percent; and
- WHEREAS, adult education programs contribute to solving these challenges by helping Americans move along the continuum in their educational journey to achieve basic skills and get prepared for career and college; and
- WHEREAS, adult education programs offered in high schools, adult learning centers, technical colleges, literacy organizations, and government agencies offer low cost, high value programs that help upgrade the skill set of our citizens; and
- WHEREAS, adult education and family literacy programs assist adults who are parents or family members in obtaining the education and skills that are necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children and that lead to sustainable improvements in economic opportunities for their family; and
- WHEREAS, the 52 local adult education providers in South Carolina provide instruction and testing services for residents seeking to attain a high school equivalency credential and support adults in strengthening core literacy, numeracy, and digital skills, learning English as a second language and civics, and preparing for college or to immediately enter a career pathway; and
- WHEREAS, South Carolina celebrates Adult Education and Family Literacy Week as a proud participant in the Educate and Elevate Campaign which helps our citizens learn about all of their adult education options to attain their personal and professional goals; and
- WHEREAS, in the Palmetto State an estimated 796,387 citizens ages 16-74 are below the literacy level, and an estimated 450,966 South Carolinians over the age of 18 do not have a high school diploma or equivalent; and
- WHEREAS, in 2022-2023, South Carolina adult education programs served 21,009 adult learners; with 2,157 earning a high school equivalency diploma (GED) and 831 earning a high school diploma.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 18-22, 2023, as

SOUTH CAROLINA ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to increase literacy among the residents of the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA