



# **PRESS NOTICE**

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **OVER 67,600 STUDENTS TO PLEDGE AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE**

COLUMBIA, SC — United States Attorney Bill Nettles announced that on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, members of the U. S. Attorney's Office and their law enforcement partners will meet with students across South Carolina as part of as part of South Carolina's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Student Pledge Against Gun Violence. Middle and high school students will sign a voluntary pledge promising that they will never take a gun to school, will never resolve a dispute with a gun, and will use their influence to prevent friends from using guns to resolve disputes. Elementary school children will make a simpler commitment, pledging that if they see a gun they will not touch it, they will assume that any gun they see might be loaded, and they will tell a teacher or a trusted adult.

The effort is part of South Carolina's Project CeaseFire, which is South Carolina's implementation of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods program, which is aimed at reducing gun violence. The Student Pledge Against Gun Violence is a national program that recognizes the role that young people, through their own decisions, can play in reducing gun violence.

This campaign against youth gun violence culminates each October in a “Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence.” The program provides a means for beginning the conversation with young people about gun violence. Students from around the country will join together in pledging to do their part to end gun violence. Over the years, millions of students nationwide have signed the pledge.

Mr. Nettles said that the response to the pledge campaign has been outstanding, with approximately 67,672 students from 138 schools across the state agreeing to take part. "Once again our office is pleased to take this opportunity to reach out to South Carolina students and engage in a dialogue with students about gun violence and the importance of making right choices," stated Mr. Nettles.

The U.S. Attorney's Office worked with schools and law enforcement agencies throughout the state to make the pledges available. In addition to providing the pledges, the U.S. Attorney's Office coordinated with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, the Edgefield County Sheriff's Office, the Marlboro County Sheriff's Office, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, and the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office, to provide speakers to go out to schools across South Carolina and talk to students about what they can do to reduce gun violence.

The following South Carolina schools are participating in this year's pledge on October 17<sup>th</sup>. For information on any events scheduled for a particular school, please contact the school. For additional information concerning the pledge, visit the national Student Pledge website at [www.pledge.org](http://www.pledge.org)

## **Participating Schools**

A.C. Corcoran Elementary School, North Charleston  
A.J. Whittenberg - School of Engineering, Greenville  
Aiken Middle School, Aiken  
Allendale-Fairfax Middle School, Fairfax  
Angel Oak Elementary School, John's Island  
Arden Elementary School, Columbia  
Aynor High School, Aynor  
Beaufort Middle School, Beaufort  
Ben Hazel Primary, Hampton  
Black Water Middle School, Conway  
Blacksburg High School, Blacksburg  
Blackville-Hilda Junior High School,  
Blaney Elementary School, Elgin  
Bleinheim Elementary School, Blenheim  
Blue Ridge Elementary School, Seneca  
Boundary Street Elementary School, Newberry  
Britton's Neck Elementary School, Gresham  
Brockington Elementary Magnet School, Darlington  
Brookland-Cayce High School, Cayce  
Brunson Elementary School, Brunson  
Burton-Pack Elementary School, Columbia  
C.A. Johnson High School, Columbia  
Carolina School of Inquiry, Columbia  
Carver-Lyon Elementary School, Columbia  
Castle Heights Middle School, Rock Hill  
Cherokee Trail Elementary School, Donalds  
Chester Park Elementary School, Chester  
Chukker Creek Elementary School, Aiken  
Clover High School, Clover  
Clover Middle School, Clover  
College Park Middle School, Ladson  
Cooley Springs-Fingerville Elementary School, Chesnee  
Cottageville Elementary School, Walterboro  
Crosswell Drive Elementary School, Sumter  
Darlington High School, Darlington  
Doby's Mill Elementary School, Lugoff  
Douglas Elementary School, Trenton  
Dover Elementary School, North  
East Elementary School, Dillon  
Edisto Elementary School, Cordova

Edward E. Taylor Elementary School, Columbia  
Ewing Middle School, Gaffney  
F.J. DeLaine Elementary School, Wedgefield  
Fairfax Elementary School, Fairfax  
Fairfield Elementary School, Winnsboro  
Fairfield Middle School, Winnsboro  
Fair-Oak Elementary School, Westminster  
Ford Elementary School, Laurens  
Forest Heights Elementary School, Columbia  
Forestbrook Middle School, Myrtle Beach  
Foster Park Elementary School, Union  
Gaffney High School, Gaffney  
Gilbert High School, Gilbert  
Gray Court-Owings Middle School,  
Great Falls Middle School, Great Falls  
Greer High School, Greer  
Greer Middle School, Greer  
Guinyard-Butler Middle School, Barnwell  
H.B. Rhame, Jr. Elementary School, Columbia  
Hand Middle School, Columbia  
Hannah-Pamplico High School, Pamplico  
Harleyville-Ridgeville Middle School, Dorchester  
High Hills Elementary School, Shaw Air Force Base  
Hillcrest Middle School, Sumter  
Hopkins Elementary School, Hopkins  
Indian Land Middle School, Indian Land  
J.C. Lynch Elementary School, Coward  
J. Paul Truluck Middle School, Lake City  
James H. Hendrix - International Baccalaureate World School, Boiling Springs  
Jane Edwards Elementary School, Edisto Island  
Johnakin Middle School, Marion  
Johnsonville Elementary School, Johnsonville  
Kingstree Middle School, Kingstree  
Ladson Elementary School, Ladson  
Lady's Island Elementary School, Beaufort  
Lady's Island Middle School, Beaufort  
Lake City Elementary School, Lake City  
Leavelle McCampbell Middle School, Graniteville  
Lewisville Elementary School, Richburg  
Liberty Elementary School, Liberty  
Liberty High School, Liberty  
Lincoln Middle-High School, McClellanville  
Logan Elementary School, Columbia

Luther L. Vaughn Elementary School, Gaffney  
Macedonia Middle School, Moncks Corner  
Main Street Elementary School, Lake City  
Malcolm C. Hursey Elementary School, North Charleston  
Marion Intermediate School, Marion  
Marlboro County High School, Bennettsville  
Mary Bramlett Elementary School, Gaffney  
Mary Ford Elementary School, North Charleston  
Mary H. Wright Elementary School, Spartanburg  
McBee High School, McBee  
McCormick Elementary School, McCormick  
McCormick High School, McCormick  
McCormick Middle School, McCormick  
Mellichamp Elementary School, Orangeburg  
Mitchell Math and Science Elementary School, Charleston  
Moore Intermediate School, Florence  
Myrtle Beach High School, Myrtle Beach  
Myrtle Beach Middle School, Myrtle Beach  
New Heights Middle School, Jefferson  
North Aiken Elementary School, Aiken  
North Central Middle School, Kershaw  
North Charleston Elementary School, North Charleston  
North Hartsville Elementary School, Hartsville  
North Myrtle Beach Primary School, North Myrtle Beach  
Northside Elementary School, Walterboro  
Northside Middle School, West Columbia  
Northwest Elementary School, Gaffney  
Pate Elementary School, Darlington  
Pepperhill Elementary School, Charleston Heights  
Petersburg Primary School, Pageland  
Pine Tree Hill Elementary School, Camden  
Pocalla Springs Elementary School, Sumter  
R.E. Davis Elementary School, Sumter  
R.H. Fulmer Middle School, West Columbia  
Rivelon Elementary School, Orangeburg  
Robert Smalls Middle School, Burton  
Ronald E. McNair Middle School, Lake City  
Rosenwald Elementary/Middle School, Society Hill  
Saluda Trail Middle School, Rock Hill  
Sanders Middle School, Laurens  
Scranton Elementary School, Scranton  
South Elementary School, Dillon  
South Middle School, Lancaster

Stewart Heights Elementary School, Dillon  
Tamassee-Salem Elementary School, Tamassee  
Union County High School, Union  
W. B. Goodwin Elementary School, Charleston Heights  
W.A. Perry Middle School, Columbia  
W.J. Keenan High School, Columbia  
Ware Shoals Elementary School, Ware Shoals  
Wateree Elementary School, Lugoff  
West Ashley Middle School, Charleston  
Whale Branch Middle, Seabrook  
Williams Middle School, Florence

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