



STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

ON THIS 11TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, IN THE YEAR 2024

Proclamation

SOUTH CAROLINA PURPLE HEART SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

- WHEREAS,** the State of South Carolina, through its Department of Education, honors and supports our nation's principles of freedom, justice, and democracy, defended and protected throughout history by the courageous men and women of our armed forces; and
- WHEREAS,** the Purple Heart Medal, originally established as the Badge of Military Merit by President George Washington in 1782, serves as a symbol of sacrifice and bravery, recognizing military personnel who have been wounded or killed in combat while defending the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of South Carolina recognizes the importance of educating future generations about the significance of the Purple Heart, ensuring that the sacrifices of our veterans, especially those wounded in battle, are not forgotten; and
- WHEREAS,** the education of our youth about the values of patriotism, courage, and service is essential to cultivating a society that understands the costs of freedom and democracy, and acknowledges the vital role our service members have played; and
- WHEREAS,** South Carolina is proud to be home to many brave men and women who have earned the Purple Heart, and it is, therefore, fitting that our schools honor these veterans by fostering an environment of respect, understanding, and gratitude for those who have sacrificed in defense of our country;
- THEREFORE,** I, Ellen E. Weaver, Superintendent of Education for the State of South Carolina, hereby designate the South Carolina Department of Education a **Purple Heart Agency**, in recognition of our state's Purple Heart recipients and their sacrifices. I encourage all students, teachers, and staff to engage in educational activities that honor the legacy of our nation's heroes and foster a greater understanding of the importance of service and sacrifice for our country's freedoms.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen E. Weaver".

Ellen E. Weaver
State Superintendent
SC Department of Education