SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Volunteer Coordinators
School Volunteer Coordinators

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

DATE: September 29, 2025

RE: District and School Volunteer Coordinator Virtual Training

The South Carolina Department of Education is excited to launch Project Raise Your Hand in Fall 2025 to build a statewide network of volunteers and organizations supporting students, teachers, and families. We invite you to join us in this effort and are offering a virtual one-hour session to introduce the program and outline specific ways you, your district, and your schools can get involved. While participation is optional, we strongly encourage it, as the benefits for students, teachers, schools, and communities are far-reaching. We have scheduled four training sessions for District and School Volunteer Coordinators. The sessions are virtual and easy to attend.

Wednesday	October 8, 2025	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	**DISTRICT** volunteer coordinators
Thursday	October 9, 2025	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	**DISTRICT** volunteer coordinators
Tuesday	October 14, 2025	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	**SCHOOL** Volunteer coordinators
Wednesday	October 15, 2025	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	**SCHOOL** Volunteer coordinators

Once you've decided which date to attend, please **sign up here**. We will send you a Microsoft Teams invitation a few days before the training, so you'll be able to join virtually.

We recently asked districts and schools for four items:

1. Name and contact information for each **district's** volunteer coordinator;
2. Names and contact information for each **school's** volunteer coordinator;
3. Completion of a School Needs Survey (completed by every school coordinator); and
4. Links to or outlines of the volunteer onboarding process for each district, including information on submitting to a background approval process before being allowed to volunteer.

If your district or school did not respond, please do so; the more information we have, the better able we are to serve you! (**District Support Survey** and **School Needs Survey**)

We hope you'll choose to collaborate with us through *Project Raise Your Hand* – the only program of its kind nationally of which we're aware. Engaging volunteers and organizations with schools is a win-win for us all and breathes hope and life into communities. Thank you in advance for your support and participation.

Should you have any questions, please contact Carla Renfrow at **ccrenfrow@ed.sc.gov**.