



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Instructional Leaders
Principals
Social Studies Coordinators

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

DATE: May 21, 2024

RE: Effective Research-based Program to Build Students' Social Studies Knowledge and Text Comprehension in Grade 8 and U.S. History

We are pleased to introduce a unique opportunity for the 2024–2025 school year, in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research and partners including the University of Florida, WestEd, and the University of Texas. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, this opportunity centers around the Promoting Adolescents' Comprehension of Text (PACT) study. PACT presents evidence-based social studies and literacy teaching strategies that have proven highly effective over a decade of research, significantly boosting students' social studies content knowledge, literacy skills, and academic language proficiency.

PACT integrates evidence-based practices into three established American history units taught in Grade 8 South Carolina and U.S. history courses, specifically Colonial America, Road to Revolution, and Revolutionary War. These activities are designed to foster student motivation and engagement, promoting collaborative learning experiences.

Participating schools and districts will receive comprehensive PACT materials including teachers' guides, team-based learning activities, student books, activity pages, and professional development resources, all provided at no cost. Furthermore, educators will benefit from workshops aimed at enhancing their capacity in implementing PACT strategies, along with job-embedded coaching support. Educators will also receive compensation for assisting with data collection efforts.

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and Text Comprehension in Grade 8 and U.S. History

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We invite administrators and educators to explore this opportunity further and consider participation in this study. To register your interest **promptly**, kindly complete the linked [interest form](#), and a member of the study team will reach out to you.

For further details, please refer to the [study brochure](#) or visit the [study team's website](#).

For inquiries, you may also reach out to pactrecruitment@air.org with any questions.