

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Instructional Leaders
School Board Members

FROM: Matthew Ferguson, Ed.D., Esq.
Deputy Superintendent

DATE: January 14, 2025

RE: New Free Civics Curriculum Offering

Tomorrow, January 15th is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, and as we approach Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20th, the South Carolina Department of Education is proud to unveil the details of our inspiring new initiative in civics education. In partnership with McGraw Hill and the Good of All Foundation, lessons from the Civil Rights: A Global Perspective curriculum, grounded in the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. are now available to South Carolina High School Educators teaching U.S. History. This K-12 program, offered at no cost to South Carolina schools, aims to inspire students through Dr. King's enduring message of hope, non-violence, and unity.

Drawn from Dr. King's own words, the curriculum is authored by Dr. Matt Daniels, who serves as the Distinguished Professor of Law, Human Rights, and International Affairs at South Carolina's own Anderson University.

The state's purchase of this curriculum is the latest initiative of the Department of Education's Palmetto Civics Project, which is a content-rich initiative designed to cultivate students' respect for the enduring institutions that help build civic cohesion. The goal of the Project is to ensure that every South Carolina student graduates prepared to assume the privileges and responsibilities that are our shared American birthright.

To ensure that your teachers may access the curriculum, we ask that your district reviews the data shared with McGraw Hill and adjusts its data-sharing settings to send McGraw-Hill the relevant U.S. History course.

For more information on accessing the Civil Rights: A Global Perspective curriculum and potential future training opportunities, please contact the Department's Education Associate for Social Studies, John Katorkas at jckatorkas@ed.sc.gov.