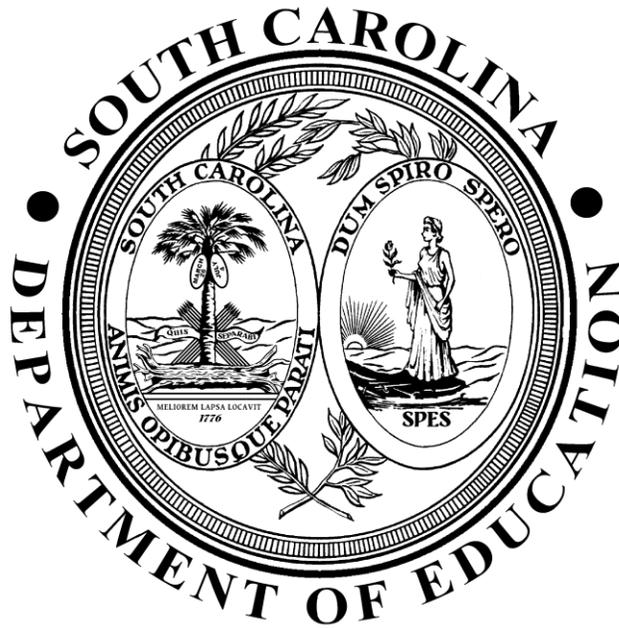


**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



2015-16 School Crime Report

To the South Carolina General Assembly

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-330

January 31, 2017

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The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) submits the following 2015-16 school-related crime information for each school in each district, as required under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-330, which states:

On forms prepared and supplied by the State Department of Education, each school district in the State shall report school-related crime quarterly to the State Department of Education. The department shall compile the information received from the districts and annually, not later than January thirty-first of the year following the districts' final quarterly reports of the school year, make a report to the General Assembly on the findings. In addition, the State Department of Education shall, upon receipt, forward all information concerning school-related crime to the Attorney General's Office. This information shall be used by the Attorney General in the supervision of the prosecution of school crime.

Based upon the *Guidelines for the Unsafe School Choice Option* developed under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title IX, Part E, Subpart 2, Section 9532, SCDE analyzes these reports to determine whether any school is “persistently dangerous” or at risk of being persistently dangerous. The following categories of crimes are reported for this purpose:

- homicide;
- forcible sex offenses;
- kidnapping/abduction;
- aggravated assault;
- drug distribution;
- robbery; and
- weapons offenses.

Schools are considered “persistently dangerous” when they expose students to injury from any of these offenses for three consecutive years. A school is designated “at risk” whenever any of those crimes occurs in any two categories in a single school year.

Based on the 2015–16 school-related crime information received from each district via the Incident Management fields in PowerSchool, the state’s student information system, no school in the state is considered persistently dangerous or at-risk of being persistently dangerous. However, based on the data submitted via PowerSchool, several schools in Lexington School District Two appear to have had one or more “Forcible Sex” offenses during the past two to three years. Although none of the schools meet the definition of persistently dangerous, SCDE staff members contacted the district superintendent to get additional information about the nature of the offenses at each school. According to the superintendent, no such offenses have occurred in the district. Rather, district staff coded incidents incorrectly. As a result, the SCDE will provide targeted assistance related to incident coding to the Lexington School District Two staff.

The *Guidelines* are accessible at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-safety/discipline-related-reports/persistently-dangerous-schools/unsafe-school-choice/>

The *2014-16 Persistently Dangerous Schools Report* is accessible at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-safety/discipline-related-reports/persistently-dangerous-schools/2014-2016-persistently-dangerous-schools/>

The *2015-16 Suspension and Expulsion Report* is accessible at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-safety/discipline-related-reports/truancy-suspension-and-expulsion-data/2015-16-suspension-or-expulsion-report/>

Should you have any questions in this regard, please contact Emily Heatwole, Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, at 803-734-4066 or via e-mail at eeheatwole@ed.sc.gov.