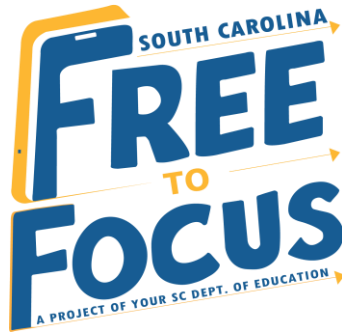




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DR. KANDACE BETHEA
Superintendent



The South Carolina Department of Education launched the 'Free to Focus SC' initiative on September 3, 2024, which will take effect on January 1, 2025. This new statewide policy will ban personal electronic devices during the school day.

The goal of 'Free to Focus SC' is to create a phone-free environment in schools, helping students stay focused on learning without electronic distractions. By keeping devices out of sight, students can better engage in their education and develop essential skills for college, careers, and life, as outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

The policy states: "Personal electronic devices are not permitted to be on or visible during the school day and must be stored in lockers or backpacks from arrival until the dismissal bell."

More detailed information will be shared with parents as we prepare for this transition in January 2025. In the meantime, join Dr. Bethea on October 2 at Amazing Grace Park in Marion from 5:00 to 6:00 PM to learn more about the 'Free to Focus SC' policy and kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month. You'll also get further insights into the 'Free to Focus SC' campaign!