



*from* the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee  
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## **Winners of statewide reading contest announced**

### ***Students read nearly 400,000 books in second year of contest***

**Columbia** – Today, the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) announced the winners of the “Read Your Way to the Big Game” Contest, a statewide reading contest held this Fall for students in SC public primary, elementary, and middle schools. Student winners of the contest have won tickets to the Palmetto Bowl, to be played by the University of South Carolina Gamecock and Clemson Tiger football teams on November 26.

Melanie Barton, EOC’s Executive Director, said the committee was extremely pleased with the results of the contest, especially the number of schools that had over 70 percent of their students participate in the contest, which required students to read at least six books. This year, 31 schools earned the honor of having 70 percent of their student population participating. Over 64,000 entries were received this year.

“The students and staff of the participating schools once again outdid themselves,” Barton said. “The EOC is so pleased to be able to help USC and Clemson with this program that encourages students to read, read, read!”

The winners of the 2016 contest include:

#### **School Winners (had at least 70% student participation, won \$2,000 for their libraries)**

- Baron DeKalb Elementary (Kershaw County School District)
- Hendersonville Elementary (Colleton County School District)

#### **Teacher Winners of \$500**

- Amber Miller, Oakridge Middle School (York 2)
- Laura Taylor, AR. Rucker Middle (Lancaster County School District)
- Angela Coker, McDonald Elementary (Georgetown County School District)
- Jill Knight, Ellen Woodside Elementary (Greenville County School District)
- Lauriell Royster, Hemingway Elementary (Williamsburg County School District)

#### **Winners of Video/Bulletin Board Contest (\$500 winners)**

- Lorena Newton, Belton Elementary (Anderson 2)
- Tiffany Burton, Merriwether Elementary (Edgefield County School District)

Barton noted that the two student winners have been chosen but surprise announcements are planned at the students’ schools before students leave for the Thanksgiving holidays. The two winning students

(one for USC and one for Clemson) each will receive four free tickets to the Palmetto Bowl. Each prize includes sideline passes and pre-game activities.

Schools meeting the goal of having 70 percent of their students participate include:

*Arcadia Elementary (Spartanburg County School District Six)*  
*Baron Dekalb Elementary (Kershaw County School District)*  
*Berkeley Intermediate (Berkeley County School District)*  
*Carolina Springs Elementary (Lexington County School District One)*  
*Charleston Development Academy (Charleston County School District)*  
*Chester Park Elementary School of Literacy through Technology (Chester County School District)*  
*Chesterfield-Ruby Middle (Chesterfield County School District)*  
*Clearwater Elementary (Aiken County School District)*  
*Fennell Elementary (Hampton County School District One)*  
*Flat Rock Elementary (Anderson County School District Three)*  
*Ford Elementary (Laurens County School District 55)*  
*Forest Lake Elementary (Richland County School District Two)*  
*Gilbert Primary (Lexington County School District One)*  
*Goucher Elementary (Cherokee County School District)*  
*Hendersonville Elementary (Colleton County School District)*  
*J. K. Gourdin Elementary (Berkeley County School District)*  
*Jesse Boyd Elementary (Spartanburg County School District Seven)*  
*McBee Elementary (Chesterfield County School District)*  
*Midway Elementary School of Science and Engineering Anderson County School District Five)*  
*New Heights Middle (Chesterfield County School District)*  
*Newington Elementary (Dorchester County School District Two)*  
*North Pointe Elementary School of Choice (Anderson County School District Five)*  
*Oakdale Elementary (York County School District 3)*  
*Pageland Elementary (Chesterfield County School District)*  
*Palmetto Elementary (Anderson County School District One)*  
*Pine Street Elementary (Spartanburg County School District Seven)*  
*Rivelon Elementary (Orangeburg County School District Five)*  
*Round Top Elementary (Richland County School District Two)*  
*Ruby Elementary (Chesterfield County School District)*  
*SC School for Blind Elementary Middle (SC School for the Deaf and the Blind)*  
*Seven Oaks Elementary (Lexington/Richland Counties School District Five)*

*The SC Education Oversight Committee is an independent, non-partisan group made up of 18 educators, business persons, and elected leaders. Created in 1998, the committee is dedicated to reporting facts, measuring change, and promoting progress within South Carolina's education system.*

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