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Family Friendly Standards Web Site Announced

Columbia, S.C. – An exceptional education system provides many tools that help children learn. Academic content standards are an integral part of the system, as they set clear, high expectations for student achievement at each grade level. These standards are useful for making sure teachers know what is to be taught; children know what is to be learned; and families and the public can determine how well the concepts are being learned.

Each year, the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) publish a series of guides to help families understand the South Carolina content standards. The guides, known as the *Family-Friendly Standards*, provide families with easy-to-understand information directly tied to the content standards. Produced in English and Spanish, the guides include sample activities, books, and websites for each subject area.

"Families are the first and most important teachers in children's lives," stated Jo Anne Anderson, EOC Executive Director. "When parents and guardians understand what children are learning in school, they can reinforce and extend that learning at home. These standards are an essential tool for families and schools to use in building each student's success."

In late 2008, the SC State Library partnered with the EOC and the SCDE to produce an interactive version of the Family-Friendly Standards. The new website, www.scffs.org, provides families with interactive activities to support the teaching and learning that occurs in the state's public schools. This easy-to-use tool enables families to participate actively in their child's education. The web site currently provides the English Language Arts sections for Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades. Additional grade levels and subjects will be available in 2010.

According to David Goble, Director of the State Library, the new web site "makes more widely available the information that parents need to help their children succeed in school." Goble continued to say that "this unique partnership helps everyone in the state, from students and parents, to educators and libraries."

For more information about this unique partnership and the new web site, contact Dana Yow, Director of Communications and Community Involvement, South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, 803-734-6164, danay@eoc.sc.gov.

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About the S.C. State Library

The South Carolina State Library is the primary administrator of federal and state support for the state's libraries. The Library is a national model for innovation, collaboration, leadership and effectiveness. The Library's mission is to optimize South Carolina's investment in library and information services. In 1969, as the result of action by the General Assembly, the State Library Board was redesignated as the South Carolina State Library and assumed

responsibility for public library development, library service for state institutions, service for the blind and physically handicapped, and library service to state government agencies. Headquartered in Columbia, S.C., the Library is funded by the state of South Carolina, by the federal government through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and other sources. For more information, visit www.statelibrary.sc.gov or call 803-734-8666.

About the S.C. Education Oversight Committee

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. For more information, visit www.eoc.sc.gov or call 803-734-6148.

About the S.C. Department of Education

The mission of the South Carolina Department of Education is to provide leadership and services to ensure a system of public education through which all students will become educated, responsible, and contributing citizens. For more information, visit www.ed.sc.gov or call 803-734-8500.