

**Number of South Carolina Certificates of Religious Exemption
Presented to Public and Private School for Students Enrolled for Last Five School Years**

South Carolina Code Section 44-29-180 (A) requires schools to maintain records of vaccinations or immunizations. Annually, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) requires public and private schools to complete the School Summary of Student Immunization Status to obtain the number of students enrolled in South Carolina schools that are adequately protected against certain vaccine-preventable diseases (DHEC Regulation 61-8). Principals/school administrators submit this report, which includes the number of students admitted to school with exemptions, within forty-five (45) calendar days after the beginning of each school year. This process also ensures that schools identify students who are not adequately protected, and can either refer them to a health care provider for vaccination or have an available list in the case of a disease outbreak. In the case of an outbreak, students who are not vaccinated against the disease will be recommended to be excluded from school until the outbreak has been declared over. The data below represents the number of students enrolled with South Carolina Certificates of Religious Exemption for the last five (5) school years.

County	2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020			2020-2021			2021-2022		
	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%
Abbeville	3,281	59	1.80%	3,266	71	2.17%	3,213	67	2.09%	3,179	87	2.74%	3,209	124	3.86%
Aiken	25,955	165	0.64%	25,624	170	0.66%	25,622	192	0.75%	25,177	188	0.75%	25,966	224	0.86%
Allendale	1,110	1	0.09%	1,125	2	0.18%	1,036	5	0.48%	913	1	0.11%	993	3	0.30%
Anderson	32,301	376	1.16%	32,386	431	1.33%	32,428	491	1.51%	31,854	518	1.63%	32,393	700	2.16%
Bamberg	2,180	7	0.32%	2,100	9	0.43%	2,074	4	0.19%	2,024	7	0.35%	1,988	5	0.25%
Barnwell	3,883	15	0.39%	3,773	15	0.40%	3,743	17	0.45%	3,605	22	0.61%	4,044	35	0.87%
Beaufort	24,482	278	1.14%	24,744	335	1.35%	24,828	386	1.55%	24,327	384	1.58%	25,010	534	2.14%
Berkeley	35,224	321	0.91%	37,236	419	1.13%	38,391	500	1.30%	38,333	555	1.45%	37,072	648	1.75%
Calhoun	1,984	19	0.96%	1,951	23	1.18%	1,972	24	1.22%	1,913	12	0.63%	1,899	18	0.95%
Charleston	55,511	722	1.30%	54,645	912	1.67%	55,881	1,053	1.88%	54,945	1,013	1.84%	55,112	1,109	2.01%
Cherokee	8,573	54	0.63%	8,497	76	0.89%	8,612	94	1.09%	7,775	68	0.87%	7,526	115	1.53%
Chester	5,252	16	0.30%	5,118	25	0.49%	5,061	32	0.63%	4,859	36	0.74%	4,816	51	1.06%
Chesterfield	7,391	22	0.30%	7,018	22	0.31%	7,105	29	0.41%	6,948	30	0.43%	7,002	35	0.50%
Clarendon	5,820	5	0.09%	6,017	8	0.13%	5,876	12	0.20%	5,540	12	0.22%	5,453	27	0.50%
Colleton	5,921	15	0.25%	5,789	30	0.52%	5,697	39	0.68%	5,182	47	0.91%	5,268	45	0.85%
Darlington	10,981	44	0.40%	10,815	51	0.47%	10,669	65	0.61%	10,438	62	0.59%	10,429	64	0.61%
Dillon	5,963	20	0.34%	5,997	28	0.47%	5,798	29	0.50%	5,612	26	0.46%	5,587	30	0.54%
Dorchester	29,138	293	1.01%	29,216	430	1.47%	29,220	499	1.71%	27,773	433	1.56%	28,189	540	1.92%
Edgefield	3,460	16	0.46%	3,506	13	0.37%	3,486	18	0.52%	3,414	21	0.62%	3,347	22	0.66%
Fairfield	2,970	6	0.20%	2,954	14	0.47%	2,682	17	0.63%	2,629	16	0.61%	2,660	14	0.53%
Florence	24,490	122	0.50%	23,856	136	0.57%	23,835	148	0.62%	22,719	150	0.66%	23,201	161	0.69%
Georgetown	9,484	71	0.75%	9,420	92	0.98%	9,305	103	1.11%	8,569	83	0.97%	8,609	104	1.21%
Greenville	87,200	1,946	2.23%	87,923	2,178	2.48%	90,491	2,571	2.84%	90,686	2,485	2.74%	92,351	3,292	3.56%
Greenwood	11,882	81	0.68%	11,737	113	0.96%	11,772	123	1.04%	11,590	99	0.85%	11,536	140	1.21%
Hampton	3,114	4	0.13%	2,775	1	0.04%	2,910	9	0.31%	2,613	4	0.15%	2,469	6	0.24%
Horry	45,318	387	0.85%	45,948	536	1.17%	46,048	733	1.59%	46,002	776	1.69%	47,744	922	1.93%
Jasper	4,081	5	0.12%	4,030	22	0.55%	4,209	18	0.43%	3,919	18	0.46%	4,348	31	0.71%
Kershaw	10,966	51	0.47%	11,005	85	0.77%	11,272	91	0.81%	10,903	95	0.87%	11,059	115	1.04%
Lancaster	12,892	113	0.88%	13,463	149	1.11%	14,220	179	1.26%	14,093	178	1.26%	15,019	210	1.40%
Laurens	8,753	82	0.94%	8,739	93	1.06%	8,544	86	1.01%	8,298	77	0.93%	8,290	106	1.28%
Lee	2,380	5	0.21%	2,238	4	0.18%	2,121	6	0.28%	1,974	4	0.20%	1,833	6	0.33%
Lexington	59,097	630	1.07%	58,482	762	1.30%	59,423	810	1.36%	57,818	803	1.39%	61,318	1,097	1.79%
Marion	4,859	9	0.19%	4,668	10	0.21%	4,626	11	0.24%	4,493	9	0.20%	4,328	20	0.46%
Marlboro	4,196	2	0.05%	4,098	9	0.22%	3,999	7	0.18%	3,895	8	0.21%	3,832	12	0.31%
McCormick	779	0	0.00%	698	0	0.00%	635	1	0.16%	690	1	0.14%	658	1	0.15%
Newberry	6,101	41	0.67%	6,017	42	0.70%	5,949	43	0.72%	5,801	40	0.69%	5,678	46	0.81%
Oconee	10,504	120	1.14%	10,536	179	1.70%	10,467	184	1.76%	10,118	182	1.80%	10,269	233	2.27%
Orangeburg	13,574	35	0.26%	13,583	29	0.21%	13,301	31	0.23%	12,728	35	0.27%	12,422	64	0.52%
Pickens	16,224	199	1.23%	16,129	250	1.55%	15,768	279	1.77%	15,687	291	1.86%	16,263	355	2.18%
Richland	63,700	764	1.20%	60,851	781	1.28%	61,306	857	1.40%	60,930	857	1.41%	60,877	939	1.54%
Saluda	2,434	14	0.58%	2,489	19	0.76%	2,434	17	0.70%	2,475	25	1.01%	2,516	31	1.23%
Spartanburg	50,630	1,389	2.74%	50,683	1,608	3.17%	51,922	1,782	3.43%	51,182	1,735	3.39%	52,343	2,372	4.53%
Sumter	17,745	50	0.28%	17,532	63	0.36%	17,422	70	0.40%	16,747	64	0.38%	16,550	104	0.63%
Union	4,073	10	0.25%	4,060	14	0.34%	4,686	22	0.47%	3,807	15	0.39%	3,930	28	0.71%
Williamsburg	4,313	6	0.14%	3,912	8	0.20%	3,743	7	0.19%	3,540	7	0.20%	3,356	12	0.36%
York	48,389	837	1.73%	49,735	887	1.78%	50,631	1,014	2.00%	49,763	966	1.94%	49,781	1,135	2.28%
Statewide	798,558	9,427	1.18%	796,384	11,154	1.40%	804,433	12,775	1.59%	787,480	12,545	1.59%	798,543	15,885	1.99%

References: School Summary of Student Immunization Status for the school years noted above.

DHEC Immunization Division, 03/14/2022