

**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	2018-2019			2019-2020			2020-2021			2021-2022			2022-2023		
	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%	Enrolled	#	%
Abbeville	3,266	71	2.17%	3,213	67	2.09%	3,179	87	2.74%	3,209	124	3.86%	3,218	143	4.44%
Aiken	25,624	170	0.66%	25,622	192	0.75%	25,177	188	0.75%	25,966	224	0.86%	25,825	281	1.09%
Allendale	1,125	2	0.18%	1,036	5	0.48%	913	1	0.11%	993	3	0.30%	889	2	0.22%
Anderson	32,386	431	1.33%	32,428	491	1.51%	31,854	518	1.63%	32,393	700	2.16%	33,366	876	2.63%
Bamberg	2,100	9	0.43%	2,074	4	0.19%	2,024	7	0.35%	1,988	5	0.25%	1,987	6	0.30%
Barnwell	3,773	15	0.40%	3,743	17	0.45%	3,605	22	0.61%	4,044	35	0.87%	3,415	45	1.32%
Beaufort	24,744	335	1.35%	24,828	386	1.55%	24,327	384	1.58%	25,010	534	2.14%	25,728	621	2.41%
Berkeley	37,236	419	1.13%	38,391	500	1.30%	38,333	555	1.45%	37,072	648	1.75%	40,563	847	2.09%
Calhoun	1,951	23	1.18%	1,972	24	1.22%	1,913	12	0.63%	1,899	18	0.95%	1,524	16	1.05%
Charleston	54,645	912	1.67%	55,881	1,053	1.88%	54,945	1,013	1.84%	55,112	1,109	2.01%	57,800	1,400	2.42%
Cherokee	8,497	76	0.89%	8,612	94	1.09%	7,775	68	0.87%	7,526	115	1.53%	8,202	181	2.21%
Chester	5,118	25	0.49%	5,061	32	0.63%	4,859	36	0.74%	4,816	51	1.06%	4,770	64	1.34%
Chesterfield	7,018	22	0.31%	7,105	29	0.41%	6,948	30	0.43%	7,002	35	0.50%	7,119	53	0.74%
Clarendon	6,017	8	0.13%	5,876	12	0.20%	5,540	12	0.22%	5,453	27	0.50%	5,526	29	0.52%
Colleton	5,789	30	0.52%	5,697	39	0.68%	5,182	47	0.91%	5,268	45	0.85%	5,335	43	0.81%
Darlington	10,815	51	0.47%	10,669	65	0.61%	10,438	62	0.59%	10,429	64	0.61%	10,203	80	0.78%
Dillon	5,997	28	0.47%	5,798	29	0.50%	5,612	26	0.46%	5,587	30	0.54%	5,522	36	0.65%
Dorchester	29,216	430	1.47%	29,220	499	1.71%	27,773	433	1.56%	28,189	540	1.92%	30,146	768	2.55%
Edgefield	3,506	13	0.37%	3,486	18	0.52%	3,414	21	0.62%	3,347	22	0.66%	4,012	32	0.80%
Fairfield	2,954	14	0.47%	2,682	17	0.63%	2,629	16	0.61%	2,660	14	0.53%	2,469	25	1.01%
Florence	23,856	136	0.57%	23,835	148	0.62%	22,719	150	0.66%	23,201	161	0.69%	22,763	188	0.83%
Georgetown	9,420	92	0.98%	9,305	103	1.11%	8,569	83	0.97%	8,609	104	1.21%	8,790	109	1.24%
Greenville	87,923	2,178	2.48%	90,491	2,571	2.84%	90,686	2,485	2.74%	92,351	3,292	3.56%	94,542	4,091	4.33%
Greenwood	11,737	113	0.96%	11,772	123	1.04%	11,590	99	0.85%	11,536	140	1.21%	11,504	158	1.37%
Hampton	2,775	1	0.04%	2,910	9	0.31%	2,613	4	0.15%	2,469	6	0.24%	2,583	10	0.39%
Horry	45,948	536	1.17%	46,048	733	1.59%	46,002	776	1.69%	47,744	922	1.93%	46,745	1,046	2.24%
Jasper	4,030	22	0.55%	4,209	18	0.43%	3,919	18	0.46%	4,348	31	0.71%	3,720	23	0.62%
Kershaw	11,005	85	0.77%	11,272	91	0.81%	10,903	95	0.87%	11,059	115	1.04%	11,298	152	1.35%
Lancaster	13,463	149	1.11%	14,220	179	1.26%	14,093	178	1.26%	15,019	210	1.40%	15,130	284	1.88%
Laurens	8,739	93	1.06%	8,544	86	1.01%	8,298	77	0.93%	8,290	106	1.28%	8,518	152	1.78%
Lee	2,238	4	0.18%	2,121	6	0.28%	1,974	4	0.20%	1,833	6	0.33%	1,904	7	0.37%
Lexington	58,482	762	1.30%	59,423	810	1.36%	57,818	803	1.39%	61,318	1,097	1.79%	65,550	1,431	2.18%
Marion	4,668	10	0.21%	4,626	11	0.24%	4,493	9	0.20%	4,328	20	0.46%	4,284	15	0.35%
Marlboro	4,098	9	0.22%	3,999	7	0.18%	3,895	8	0.21%	3,832	12	0.31%	3,750	14	0.37%
McCormick	698	0	0.00%	635	1	0.16%	690	1	0.14%	658	1	0.15%	581	0	0.00%
Newberry	6,017	42	0.70%	5,949	43	0.72%	5,801	40	0.69%	5,678	46	0.81%	5,766	39	0.68%
Oconee	10,536	179	1.70%	10,467	184	1.76%	10,118	182	1.80%	10,269	233	2.27%	10,337	326	3.15%
Orangeburg	13,583	29	0.21%	13,301	31	0.23%	12,728	35	0.27%	12,422	64	0.52%	12,827	78	0.61%
Pickens	16,129	250	1.55%	15,768	279	1.77%	15,687	291	1.86%	16,263	355	2.18%	16,756	521	3.11%
Richland	60,851	781	1.28%	61,306	857	1.40%	60,930	857	1.41%	60,877	939	1.54%	60,846	1,103	1.81%
Saluda	2,489	19	0.76%	2,434	17	0.70%	2,475	25	1.01%	2,516	31	1.23%	2,386	30	1.26%
Spartanburg	50,683	1,608	3.17%	51,922	1,782	3.43%	51,182	1,735	3.39%	52,343	2,372	4.53%	54,705	3,253	5.95%
Sumter	17,532	63	0.36%	17,422	70	0.40%	16,747	64	0.38%	16,550	104	0.63%	16,403	117	0.71%
Union	4,060	14	0.34%	4,686	22	0.47%	3,807	15	0.39%	3,930	28	0.71%	3,774	39	1.03%
Williamsburg	3,912	8	0.20%	3,743	7	0.19%	3,540	7	0.20%	3,356	12	0.36%	3,367	19	0.56%
York	49,735	887	1.78%	50,631	1,014	2.00%	49,763	966	1.94%	49,781	1,135	2.28%	52,616	1,510	2.87%
Statewide	796,384	11,154	1.40%	804,433	12,775	1.59%	787,480	12,545	1.59%	798,543	15,885	1.99%	819,064	20,263	2.47%

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

DHEC Immunization Division, 03/14/2022