



# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais  
Superintendent

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents  
**FROM:** Mick Zais, State Superintendent of Education *MZ 26 Aug 11*  
**DATE:** August 26, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Observances and Activities of the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks

Sunday, September 11, 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil. This event forever changed not only the course of American history, but that of the world. As school leaders, we have an obligation to educate students about this terrible event, the recovery and response by our nation to it, and the lessons learned from it.

When planning your observances and activities of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, please be mindful of the wide range of emotions students, parents, and employees will express.

The State Board of Education recently approved new Social Studies Standards. Learning indicators in grades 5 and 7 specifically address the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, as well as one indicator in World Geography, and students in United States History and the Constitution are expected to understand the rise of global terrorism. The implementation of these new standards begins this school year with full implementation and assessment in school year 2012-2013. These indicators provide a framework to use with students in these grades 5-12.

There are many online resources available to supplement your activities. One I would draw your attention to is the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. This organization has online content available at no charge, including teaching guides and webcasts. You can learn more about this content by visiting this link: <http://www.911memorial.org/teach-learn>.

Since schools will not be open on the actual anniversary day, you may consider moments of silence, reflection, and prayer on Friday, September 9 or Monday, September 12. If you choose to do so, below are some times to consider.

8:46a.m. American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into the World Trade Center's North Tower.  
9:03a.m. United Airlines Flight 175 crashes into the World Trade Center's South Tower.  
9:37a.m. American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon.  
9:59a.m. The World Trade Center's South Tower collapses.  
10:03a.m. United Airlines Flight 93 crashes into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.  
10:29a.m. The World Trade Center's North Tower collapses.

Finally, local communities may have planned community service and volunteer opportunities. Please consider notifying your students, their parents, and your employees about these opportunities.

Most importantly, let us remember the spirit of patriotism we felt the day after September 11, 2001; a sense of community, of resolve, and of pride of the country we call our homeland. President Ronald Reagan said it best in his farewell address to the nation on January 11, 1989 regarding John Winthrop's description of America as a "shining city upon a hill":

**"After 200 years, two centuries, she still stands strong and true on the granite ridge, and her glow has held steady no matter what storm. And she's still a beacon, still a magnet for all who must have freedom, for all the pilgrims from all the lost places who are hurtling through the darkness, toward home."**