Census 2020

Everybody Counts

Once every decade, the United States conducts a census to count the country’s population.

Each year, the Federal Government distributes approximately $675 billion (yes, billion) to the states.

South Carolina averages $7.1 billion in direct Federal aid to the State budget. That’s approximately $1,468 per person.

The census directly impacts federal funding for schools and communities in South Carolina, including funding for special education, teacher training, school meals assistance, technology and after-school programs.

Our population is estimated to have grown by 12% from the last Census in 2010. If we don’t get everyone counted, precious resources will be stretched thin! If 100 people in your community aren’t counted, that represents more than $2.6M in federal resources that will be sent to other states instead of South Carolina over the course of the decade.

We want everyone to count!

Children are among the most undercounted on the census, specifically if they:

- live in large and complex households
- live with single parents or young parents between the ages of 18-29
- are not the biological or adopted child of the household
- live with their grandparents, aunts and uncles, or other family members
- live in families that do not speak English or their family includes immigrants
- live below the poverty level
- live in rented rather than owned homes

According to the Count All Kids Campaign, more than two million young children nationally were missed in the 2010 Census. If we undercount children in the 2020 Census, South Carolina could miss out on funding for the programs our students depend on.

The information and resources on the next page can help ensure that your community’s residents are counted accurately.
What school boards can do

• Add the census as an agenda item at your next meeting to track progress on promoting awareness and assistance to families.
• Adopt a board resolution in support of a complete census count. ([Download a sample resolution here](#)).
• Support the district in providing resources at the school for families in need of internet access or language assistance.
• Share the census information at community groups like the Chamber, Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.

What districts and schools can do

• Teach about the importance of the census. (Find resources here: [Census: Statistics in Schools](#)).
• Send a parent/guardian letter about the importance of the census.
• Provide an op-ed or news release to local media outlets about the importance of the census.
• Make computers and internet access available to families to complete the first-ever census that can be completed online March–June 2020.
• Partner with local parent-teacher associations to stress the importance of the census. Information can be distributed at meetings and other events.
• Provide interpreters for families in need of language assistance when completing the form. Share information that the online form and telephone line will be available in 13 languages, and language guides will be available in 59 languages other than English ([2020census.gov/en/languages](#)).

Key census dates

**March 2020:** Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail and can begin responding to the 2020 census online at [2020census.gov](#). Replying by mail or phone is also an option.

**April 1, 2020:** National Official Census Day. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the Census. Respondents will tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

**May–July 2020:** Census takers go door-to-door to count people who have not responded to the 2020 Census. Census takers are Census Bureau employees and will provide proof that they are official government personnel.

**Dec. 31, 2020:** The U.S. Census Bureau delivers the population count and the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives by state to the president.

**2021:** Initial 2020 Census data made available to the public on [census.gov](#).

Resources

- Sample board resolution
- SC Census bookmark
- SC Census poster
- SC Census poster (Spanish)
- SC United Way Association census page
- [Census: Statistics in Schools](#)
- U.S. Census website
- [What is a census? video](#)
- [NSBA’s “Advocating for an accurate count” video](#)
- [Count All Kids website](#)

#SCCounts
#Census2020
#MoreThanACount
#CountMeIn