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AY 2024-2025 REACH ACT COMPLIANCE REPORT

Background

Act 26 of 2021, known as the Reinforcing College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage Act (REACH Act), codified at S.C. Code Ann. § 59-29-130, requires undergraduate students of South Carolina public institutions of higher learning, before receiving a baccalaureate degree, to complete a three-credit course in which students read in their entirety the following Founding Documents:

- The United States Constitution
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Emancipation Proclamation
- Five (5) Federalist Papers
- One document foundational to the African American Experience.

The South Carolina General Assembly directed the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to ensure that all public institutions comply with the REACH Act provisions, including collecting information from public institutions to determine compliance and providing an annual report to the chairs of the Finance and Education Committees in both the House and Senate.

REACH Act Compliance Procedures:

The Commission adopted the compliance procedures of the REACH Act at its August 2021 board meeting. Public institution leadership was notified that CHE would require the following from each institution to ensure compliance with the REACH Act:

- A letter, signed by either the president, chancellor, or provost, certifying that:
 - Undergraduate degree requirements, beginning with the entering freshman class of academic year AY 2021-22, include completion of a three-credit-hour course that requires, at a minimum, reading the entirety of:



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- The United States Constitution
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Emancipation Proclamation
- At least five (5) Federalist Papers
- At least one document foundational to the African American Experience.
- The institution has put in place procedures to ensure that, beginning with the incoming freshman class of AY 2021-22, no student will be granted a bachelor's degree without having completed a course that meets the requirements mentioned, unless the student is exempt due to receiving a passing grade in an AP, IB, or dual-credit course while in high school.
- A letter, signed by the chair of the institution's board of trustees, affirming that the board of trustees has ensured, or is in the process of assuring, provisions of the REACH Act have been incorporated into all current undergraduate degree requirements in a manner that does not add to the total number of credit hours for any degree and does not conflict with any school accreditation process.

In addition, the CHE requested copies of every syllabus of the courses that institutions certified as REACH Act compliant.

Findings

For AY 2024-2025, the CHE staff received 820 syllabi and other requested documents. CHE staff randomly selected and audited 10 percent of the submitted syllabi, or a minimum of 10 syllabi per institution, to ensure that students were required to read the Founding Documents in their entirety. CHE staff reviewed over 2,241 pages of supporting documents to affirm REACH Act Compliance.

In the Fall of 2025, CHE staff reviewed 258 syllabi and found that in the Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and Summer 2025 semesters, four institutions did not include one or more REACH Act documents (e.g., The Federalist Papers, The Emancipation Proclamation, or African American Experience documents) as required reading in the course syllabi or include a statement that all documents must be read in their entirety.

As a result, each of the four noncompliant institutions was directed to correct and resubmit any deficiencies on or before September 4, 2025, as follows:

- Submit a letter from the Chief Academic Officer on college letterhead explaining what was done to rectify each area of non-compliance.
- Provide any necessary evidence to demonstrate full compliance.

CHE staff reviewed updated letters and supporting evidence submitted by institutions to verify compliance with the REACH Act. Results indicated that all four institutions were found to be 100% compliant.

Based on the review, CHE staff made the following suggestions for improving compliance:

- Inclusion of the statement: *"All documents must be read in their entirety"* in all syllabi.
- The required document from the African American Experience must be identified clearly and included as required reading.

Institutional Compliance Comparison

For the 2024–2025 review year, CHE staff reported an increase in institutional submissions, receiving 135 additional syllabi compared to the previous year (See table 1). This growth in submissions led to an expanded review process with staff assessing 460 additional pages of documentation and evaluating 30 additional syllabi. The compliance findings show a 43% reduction in institutions requiring edits during the initial compliance review, demonstrating stronger alignment with REACH Act requirements. Institutional compliance remained strong across both academic years. The collective compliance rate was 100% for AY 2023–2024 and remains at 100% for AY 2024–2025.

Table 1. Institutional Compliance Comparison

Comparative Final Compliance Institution %	AY 2023-2024	AY 2024-2025
Clemson University	100%	↔100%
Coastal Carolina University	100%	↔100%
College of Charleston	100%	↔100%
Francis Marion University	100%	↔100%
Lander University	100%	↔100%
South Carolina State University	100%	↔100%
South Carolina Technical College System	100%	↔100%
The Citadel	100%	↔100%
University of South Carolina, Aiken	100%	↔100%
University of South Carolina, Beaufort	100%	↔100%

University of South Carolina, Columbia	100%	↔100%
University of South Carolina, Lancaster	100%	↔100%
University of South Carolina, Salkehatchie	100%	↔100%
University of South Carolina, Sumter	100%	↔100%
University of South Carolina, Union	100%	↔100%
University of South Carolina, Upstate	100%	↔100%
Winthrop University	100%	↔100%

Compliance Review Activity Summary	AY 2023-2024	AY 2024-2025	% Change
Syllabi Received by CHE Staff	685	820	+19.7% ↑
Pages Reviewed by CHE Staff	1,781	2,241	+29.7% ↑
Syllabi Reviewed by CHE Staff	228	258	+13.2% ↑
Institutions Requiring Edits	7	4	- 42.9% ↓

Attached to this report as [Appendix 1](#) is an institution-by-institution summary of REACH Act compliance. This review includes the initial compliance status and the final compliance status after staff review.

Appendix 2 includes response letters submitted by the institutions identified as noncompliant during the initial review of the submitted documentation.

[Appendix I: Compliance Summary by Institution](#)

Clemson University (CU)

Clemson University submitted a total of 54 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 26 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HIST 1010: History of the United States to 1877
- POSC 1010: American National Government
- POSC 1030: Introduction to Political Theory

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	12	12	100%	100%
Spring 2025	12	12	100%	100%
Summer 2025	2	2	100%	100%
TOTAL	26	26	100%	100%

** 16 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from Clemson, covering 26 out of 26 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

Coastal Carolina University (CCU)

Coastal Carolina University submitted a total of 110 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 23 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT–approved courses:

- HIST 201: History of the United States from Discovery to the Present: Discovery through Reconstruction
- POLI 201: Introduction to American Government
- REACH Act Module

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage %	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	12	12	100%	100%
Spring 2025	8	7	88%	100%
Summer/Maymester 2025	3	3	100%	100%
TOTAL	23	22	96%	100%

**12 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through a review of the requested syllabi, as well as corrected syllabi, which included a letter of compliance from the chief academic officer, covering 23 out of 23 courses, and confirming 100% compliance for CCU.

College of Charleston (CofC)

College of Charleston submitted a total of 63 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 21 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT–approved courses:

- CLAS 133: Democracy from Athens to America
- EDFS 202: Founding Documents, Education, and Social Studies
- ENGL 185: Reading American Rights: Literature, Culture, and Justice
- HIST 201: United States to 1865
- HIST 202: United States since 1865
- HIST 213: American Jewish History: Colonial Times to the Present
- HIST 216: African American History to 1865
- HIST 223: Civil War & Reconstruction in the Atlantic World
- HIST 304: History of the United States: Civil War and Reconstruction, 1845-1877
- HONS 165: Honors American Government
- JWST 260: American Jewish History: Colonial Times to the Present
- PHIL 209: Political Philosophy
- PHIL 220: American Political Thought
- PHIL 270: Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 310: American Philosophy
- POLI 101: American Government
- POLI 280: American Political Thought
- THTR 212: History of American Theatre
- REACH Act Module

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage %	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	14	14	100%	100%
Spring 2025	4	4	100%	100%
Summer 2025	3	3	100%	100%
TOTAL	21	21	100%	100%

**11 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from the CofC, covering 21 out of 21 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

Francis Marion University (FMU)

Francis Marion University submitted a total of 34 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 10 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- POLI 101: United States Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	5	5	100%	100%
Spring 2025	4	4	100%	100%
Summer 2025	1	1	100%	100%
TOTAL	10	10	100%	100%

** 0 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from FMU, covering 10 out of 10 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

Lander University (Lander)

Lander University submitted a total of 44 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 11 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HIST 111: United States History to 1877
- HIST 112: United States History since 1877
- POLS 101: American National Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	3	3	100%	100%
Spring 2025	7	7	100%	100%
Summer 2025	1	1	100%	100%
TOTAL	11	11	100%	100%

** 0 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from Lander, covering 11 out of 11 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

South Carolina State University (SCSU)

South Carolina State University submitted a total of 41 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 10 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HHU 250: The African American Experience
- PS 252: American Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	2	2	100%	100%
Spring 2025	5	5	100%	100%
Summer 2025	3	2	67%	100%
TOTAL	10	9	90%	100%

** 0 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through a review of the requested syllabi, as well as corrected syllabi, which included a letter of compliance from the chief academic officer, covering 10 out of 10 courses, and confirming 100% compliance for SCSU.

South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS)

South Carolina Technical College System submitted a total of 4 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 4 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HIST 201: American History: Discovery to 1877
- PSC 201: American Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	2	2	100%	100%
Spring 2025	2	2	100%	100%
TOTAL	4	4	100%	100%

** 2 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from SCTCS, covering 4 out of 4 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

The Citadel (Citadel)

The Citadel submitted a total of 30 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 16 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- LDRS 202: Principled Leadership in American Government & Society

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	9	9	100%	100%
Spring 2025	4	4	100%	100%
Summer 2025	3	3	100%	100%
TOTAL	16	16	100%	100%

** 8 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from Citadel, covering 16 out of 16 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

University of South Carolina Aiken (USC Aiken)

University of South Carolina Aiken submitted a total of 33 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 18 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HIST A201: History of the United States to 1865
- HIST A202: History of the United States from 1865 to Present
- POLI 201: American National Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	9	9	100%	100%
Spring 2025	9	9	100%	100%
TOTAL	18	18	100%	100%

** 9 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from USC Aiken, covering 18 out of 18 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort)

University of South Carolina Beaufort submitted a total of 15 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 13 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- AFAM B201: Introduction to African American Studies
- HIST B111: History of the United States from Discovery to 1865
- HIST B430: U.S. Constitutional History
- HIST B442: The Old South
- HIST B469: American Legal History
- POLI B201: American National Government
- REACH Act Module

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	8	8	100%	100%
Spring 2025	4	4	100%	100%
Summer 2025	1	1	100%	100%
TOTAL	13	13	100%	100%

** 3 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from USC Beaufort, covering 13 out of 13 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

University of South Carolina-Columbia (USC Columbia)

University of South Carolina-Columbia submitted a total of 159 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 35 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HIST 111: United States History to 1865
- HIST 201: American Founding Documents
- POLI 201: American National Government
- AFAM 200: Freedom Papers: Narratives of Race and Historical Nation
- POLI 452: The Judicial Process

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	25	25	100%	100%
Spring 2025	7	7	100%	100%
Summer 2025	3	3	100%	100%
TOTAL	35	35	100%	100%

** 19 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from USC Columbia, covering 35 out of 35 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

University of South Carolina-Lancaster (USC Lancaster)

University of South Carolina-Lancaster submitted a total of 13 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 13 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HIST 111: United States History Since 1865
- POLI 201: American National Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	7	7	100%	100%
Spring 2025	5	5	100%	100%
Summer 2025	1	1	100%	100%
TOTAL	13	13	100%	100%

** 0 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from USC Lancaster, covering 13 out of 13 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie (USC Salkehatchie)

University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie submitted a total of 10 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 10 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HIST 111: United States History to 1865
- POLI 201: American National Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	5	5	100%	100%
Spring 2025	4	4	100%	100%
Summer 2025	1	1	100%	100%
TOTAL	10	10	100%	100%

** 0 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from USC Salkehatchie, covering 10 out of 10 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

University of South Carolina-Sumter (USC Sumter)

University of South Carolina-Sumter submitted a total of 13 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 13 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HIST 111: United States History to 1865
- POLI 201: American National Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	8	8	100%	100%
Spring 2025	4	4	100%	100%
Summer 2025	1	1	100%	100%
TOTAL	13	13	100%	100%

** 0 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from USC Sumter, covering 13 out of 13 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

University of South Carolina-Union (USC Union)

University of South Carolina-Union submitted a total of 32 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 12 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- HIST 111: United States History to 1865
- POLI 201: American National Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	5	5	100%	100%
Spring 2025	5	5	100%	100%
Summer 2025	2	2	100%	100%
TOTAL	12	12	100%	100%

** 0 syllabi were reviewed from new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from USC Union, covering 12 out of 12 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

University of South Carolina Upstate (USC Upstate)

University of South Carolina Upstate submitted a total of 41 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 13 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- AFAM 201: African American Studies
- AMST 101: Introduction to American Studies
- HIST 105: History of the United States to 1877
- HIST 106: U.S. History from 1865
- POLI 101: American National Government

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	7	3	43%	100%
Spring 2025	2	1	50%	100%
Summer 2025	4	3	75%	100%
TOTAL	13	7	54%	100%

** 3 syllabi were reviewed for new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through review of the requested syllabi from Upstate, covering 13 out of 13 courses, confirming 100% compliance.

Winthrop University (WU)

Winthrop University submitted a total of 35 syllabi. CHE staff reviewed 10 randomly selected syllabi from the following REACH ACT-approved courses:

- ECON 103: Intro to Political Economy
- HIST 211: United States History to 1877
- HIST 212: United States History since 1877
- PLSC 201: American Government
- PLSC 309: Controversies of the American Founding
- PLSC 356: American Political Thought
- REACH Act Module

Oversight & Compliance Tracker

Semester	Number of Syllabi Reviewed	Number of Syllabi Compliant	Initial Compliance Percentage%	Final Compliance Percentage %
Fall 2024	3	2	67%	100%
Spring 2025	6	4	67%	100%
Summer 2025	1	1	100%	100%
TOTAL	10	7	70%	100%

** 0 syllabi were reviewed for new instructors.

Commission staff verified compliance through a review of the requested syllabi, as well as corrected syllabi, which included a letter of compliance from the chief academic officer, covering 10 out of 10 courses, and confirming 100% compliance for Winthrop.

Appendix II: Compliance Summary by Institution

COMPLIANCE LOG:

Institution	Received by OAAL	Request for Edits sent to IHE	Institutional Response	Date of Compliance
Clemson University	May 28, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 01, 2025
Coastal Carolina	April 28, 2025	July 17, 2025	August 12, 2025	August 12, 2025
College of Charleston	May 20, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	August 05, 2025
Francis Marion University	June 26, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 30, 2025
Lander University	June 04, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 28, 2025
South Carolina State University	June 30, 2025	July 29, 2025	August 04, 2025	August 05, 2024
South Carolina Tech College System	June 30, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 30, 2025
The Citadel	June 30, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	August 20, 2025
U of SC Aiken	June 06, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 29, 2025
U of SC Beaufort	June 12, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	August 05, 2025
U of SC Columbia	June 23, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 31, 2025
U of SC Lancaster	June 23, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 29, 2025
U of SC Salkehatchie	June 23, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 29, 2025
U of SC Sumter	June 23, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 29, 2025
U of SC Union	June 23, 2025	No Edits Requested	No Response Required	July 29, 2025
U of SC Upstate	July 07, 2025	August 06, 2025	August 11, 2025	August 19, 2025
Winthrop University	June 19, 2025	August 06, 2025	August 22, 2025	August 22, 2025

Appendix III: Institution Letters and Evidence