SPARTANBURG ACADEMIC MOVEMENT

Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for children, families, and educators.

Movement 2030

A county-wide initiative in Spartanburg driven by one guiding belief: everyone can thrive here. Created by and for the Spartanburg community, Movement 2030 works to accelerate early care and education, increase postsecondary attainment, and support focus neighborhoods throughout Spartanburg County.

SAM SERVES:

Children
Families
Teachers
Spartanburg Communities

Vision

Support academic achievement county-wide from cradle through career.

Mission

SAM brings together partners, resources, and community support to help every child in Spartanburg County reach academic and life success.

Values

B.E.A.C.O. - Boots, Empowerment, Advocacy, Collaboration, and humanity.

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, website) (Movement 2030, website)

SAM AT A GLANCE

Founded in 2013

7,000 Students Impacted By 2030

63,000 Residents Reached By 2030

$118M Community & Federal Investment

Nearly 100 Community Partners supporting Movement 2030.

One of 69 StriveTogether Partnerships

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, SAM Chapter 1)

Educational Challenges Facing Spartanburg

Many students in Spartanburg County face barriers such as poverty, low school readiness, and unequal access to educational resources.



Movement 2030 focuses on addressing educational opportunity gaps by accelerating early care and education, increasing postsecondary attainment, and supporting focus neighborhoods.

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, SAM Chapter 1)

HISTORY

Why was SAM created?

Educational challenges, including low school readiness, achievement gaps, and unequal opportunities showed that no single organization could solve these issues alone. SAM was created to coordinate community resources and create lasting, county-wide change.

2013

SAM is created and established as a county-wide partnership dedicated to improving educational outcomes.

2013-2023

Community partnerships expand across schools, nonprofits, businesses, healthcare organizations, and government agencies.

2023

Movement 2030 launches, with SAM serving as the community quarterback to accelerate early care and education, increase postsecondary attainment, and support focus neighborhoods.

2026

Today, SAM continues bringing partners together to expand opportunities and improve educational outcomes from cradle to career.

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, website) (Spartanburg Academic Movement, SAM Chapter 1)

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

SAM collaborates with organizations like these across education, healthcare, business, and the nonprofit sector to strengthen educational outcomes and create opportunities for children and families throughout Spartanburg County.

ONE SPARTANBURG INC
Connecting education, workforce development, and economic opportunity.

United Way of the Piedmont
Strengthening families through community support and partnerships.

FIRST STEPS
Promoting early childhood education and school readiness.

Roper St. Francis Healthcare
Expanding access to healthcare and student support services.

Spartanburg County School Districts

Providing quality education and supporting student achievement.

Higher Education Partners

These institutions expand educational opportunities and strengthen pathways to postsecondary success.

UPSTATE
SCC
Converse University
SPARTANBURG Methodist College
WOFFORD COLLEGE
Spartanburg Community College
USC Upstate
Wofford College
Converse University
Spartanburg Methodist College

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, website) (Spartanburg Academic Movement, SAM Chapter 7)

SUCCESS FROM CRADLE TO CAREER

SAM supports students at every stage of their educational journey because success at each milestone helps build the foundation for the next, which leads to lifelong success for students, families, and the Spartanburg Community.

1. Prenatal Support
2. School Readiness
3. Early Grade Reading
4. Middle Grade Math
5. High School Graduation
6. Postsecondary Enrollment
7. Postsecondary Attainment

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, SAM Chapter 7)

HOW SAM WORKS

HOW SAM CREATES CHANGE

SAM serves as a 'community quarterback,' bringing together community partners, coordinating resources, and using data to improve educational outcomes across Spartanburg County.

SAM:

Brings Partners Together
↓
Coordinates Resources
↓
Measures & Improve Results

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, website) (Spartanburg Academic Movement, SAM Chapter 7)

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH



SAM organizes its work through five specialized centers, each addressing a different area of need while contributing to one shared goal: educational success for every child.

PROGRAMS IN ACTION

SAM brings its mission to life through programs that support children and families from cradle to career.

hello family
Supporting expectant families and preparing children for school.

BIG MO
Helping students prepare for college, careers, and future success.

SPARTANBURG ACADEMIC MOVEMENT
Full-Service Community Schools: Connecting students and families with academic, health, and community support.

PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS
Strengthening education and economic mobility in Spartanburg's focus neighborhoods.

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, website)

SAM's IMPACT

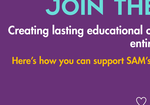
Using collaboration, innovation, and data-driven strategies, SAM has helped improve educational outcomes for students and families across Spartanburg County.

Early Reading Success



From 2021 to 2024, reading proficiency among students living in poverty increased from 33.8% to 46%.

Rising Graduation Rates



As graduation rates continue to rise, SAM's collaborative efforts are helping more students reach this critical milestone and prepare for future success.

Supporting Students & Families



SAM's Full Service Community School initiative connects students and families with educational, health, and community resources through support such as:

- Support in 6 partner schools, helping integrate academic, social, and family resources.
- $3.8 million in federal grants expands access to mental health services, early childhood education, and high-quality after-school programs.

Supporting Educators

SAM delivers professional development and trauma-informed, evidence-based training that helps create supportive, resilient learning environments for students. In 2025, SAM held:

16	9	17	985
LEVEL I TRAININGS	LEVEL II TRAININGS	CUSTOMIZED GROUP TRAININGS	EDUCATORS TRAINED

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, SAM Chapter 7)

MOVING FORWARD

Movement 2030 Goals

Accelerating Early Care & Education	Increasing Postsecondary Attainment	Supporting Focus Neighborhoods
64% (Current) → 69% (Goal)	59% (Current) → 70% (Goal)	Current → 15-20% (Goal)
Expanding access to early care and education.	Increasing degrees, certifications, and post-secondary re-engagement.	Improving outcomes in Spartanburg's focus neighborhoods.

Community Investment

These investments are helping create lasting opportunities for students, families, and communities across Spartanburg County.

7,000
Students Impacted by 2030

63,000
Residents Reached by 2030

$18M
U.S. Department of Education Grant

$7.5M
Blue Meridian & Duke Endowment Investments

$25M+
Local Dollars Raised

(Movement 2030, Impact Report 2) (Movement 2030, website)

ONE COMMUNITY ONE VISION

Building a stronger Spartanburg together.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Creating lasting educational opportunities requires support from the entire community.

Here's how you can support SAM's mission & help build a stronger Spartanburg.

Donate

Support SAM and Movement 2030 through a financial contribution that helps expand educational opportunities for children and families.

https://learnwithsam.org/formovingtwo

Attend Events & Trainings

Participate in community events and professional learning opportunities that strengthen schools, educators, and neighborhoods.

https://learnwithsam.org/fetve-2026 https://learnwithsam.org/trainings

Stay Connected

Subscribe to SAM's newsletter and follow along to stay informed about programs, events, and community impact.

https://bit.ly/4i2QnzW

(Spartanburg Academic Movement, website)

Works Cited

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