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BANNER OF EXCELLENCE



Tigerville Elementary School Principal Amy Kern holds the trophy on Nov. 12, during an event honoring the school's receiving of the Blue Ribbon. PHOTOS BY ALEX MARTIN/GREENVILLE NEWS

Two Greenville schools win their second SC Blue Ribbon School award

Terry Benjamin II
 Greenville News
 USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Students, teachers and staff at Tigerville Elementary School had reason to celebrate on Nov. 12.

For a second time, the school has received South Carolina Blue Ribbon award for academic excellence. Tigerville was recognized in the exemplary high performing schools category. The school first earned the status in 2018.

During the celebration that included Greenville County Schools Superintendent W. Burke Royster and the district’s board of trustees chair Carolyn Styles, principal Amy Kern said the award reaffirms the work teachers, staff and community partners are doing.

“This is such an honor for us,” Kern said. “It truly is a village in Tigerville that helps us to achieve such a high recognition.”

The South Carolina Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes public schools for outstanding academic performance and significant progress in closing achievement gaps.

“Most schools don’t get this honor in their whole time of being a school. It takes all of you working together to do such great work that results in this kind of an award,” Royster told students assembled for the celebration. “You are in one of the very best schools, not just in



The Blue Ribbon logo is visible from the podium during the event.

South Carolina, but in the whole country. (It’s) because of your hard work, the fact that you are committed, that every day you do your best and you work well with your classmates to help make the school the best it can be.

Two other Upstate schools — Prince of Peace Catholic School in Taylors and West Pelzer Elementary School in Anderson County — also were named Blue Ribbon schools.

“Prince of Peace Catholic School is deeply honored to receive the South Carolina Blue Ribbon Award,” Principal Nathaniel Baronti-

ni said. “This recognition reflects the outstanding work of our school leaders, teachers, and staff, the dedication of our students, and the partnership of our families...We are grateful to the South Carolina Department of Education for recognizing both public and private schools that pursue excellence in learning for the students of our state and nation.”

Prince of Peace also received Blue Ribbon recognition in 2014.

The Blue Ribbon School designations have been awarded nationally since 1982.

What hemp products are banned after the federal shutdown?

Iris Seaton
 Greenville News
 USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

One component of the bill signed Nov. 12 by President Donald Trump to end the government shutdown will ban many THC-infused products.

The government shutdown, which was the longest in U.S. history, ended after 43 days when the bill was signed by the president on Wednesday, Nov. 12. The end of the shutdown also brought an end to threats to food aid programs and paychecks missed by thousands of federal workers.

However, some items included on the bill left many dissatisfied, including the closing of a loophole that has allowed the sale of certain hemp products nationwide for years.

Here’s what we know about the changes coming to the U.S. hemp industry following the end of the government shutdown.

Is the government shutdown over?

Yes, the government shutdown is officially over after 43 days. Trump signed a bill late on Wednesday night, Nov. 12, to fund the government through Jan. 30, 2026.

Is hemp being banned in the U.S.?

Hemp and marijuana are both derived from the cannabis plant. However, hemp contains lower amounts of THC, the compound that makes people high. The 2018 farm bill allowed THC products derived from hemp to be sold across the country, a loophole that led to years of booming sales.

Beginning Nov. 13, 2026, hemp-derived cannabinoid products will be federally illegal. USA TODAY reported that Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, argued on the Senate floor Monday that the new regulations included in the shutdown-ending funding package would be akin to “prohibition.”

Senators split unevenly across party lines for and against the measure. Ultimately, the new rule was kept in the bill. The regulations will take effect

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Mobile clinic activates after new measles case found in Spartanburg

Baker Maultsby
 Spartanburg Herald-Journal
 USA TODAY NETWORK

The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) has identified one new case of measles in Spartanburg. and like two other cases reported earlier this week, the source of the new infection is unknown.

When health officials are unsure

about where and how a person became infected, it’s “worrisome,” state epidemiologist Linda Bell said in a question-and-answer session with media on Nov. 12.

If the source of an infection is known, health officials can move quickly to quarantine anyone who has been infected or likely exposed to the virus.

But, as a Nov. 14 DPH explained, “Other cases have no identified source,

suggesting that measles is circulating in the community and could spread further.”

The majority of the 44 cases identified in the ongoing outbreak, which has persisted for close to six weeks and is centered in Spartanburg County, were traced to exposures at two schools — Fairforest Elementary, in

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The South Carolina Department of Health has recently identified new cases of measles in Spartanburg County. KEN RUINARD/USA TODAY NETWORK SOUTH CAROLINA

