

CHOICE BUS ROLLS INTO SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina Regional Education Centers and State Farm Insurance partnered to bring the Mattie C Stewart Choice Bus to South Carolina.

The Choice Bus was created by The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation as a way to extend the learning experience of the *InsideOut* documentary and to keep students on the road to a good education. The bus contains a full-scale replica of a prison cell, initially hidden from view behind a curtain and flat screen television.

Upon entering the bus, a four-minute movie quizzes the audience on the earning potential of dropouts versus high school and college graduates. Students also hear testimonials from several high school dropouts who are now prison inmates. At the conclusion of the video students are invited to enter the “prison cell”, four to six students at a time, to briefly experience the uncomfortable living conditions.



Students from the Catawba Region line up to tour the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation Choice Bus.



Students sit aboard the Choice Bus to listen to a presentation about the importance of staying in school.

After touring the bus students are given a “Stay in School” pledge card to sign. Schools are encouraged to find creative ways to display the cards within the school, reminding students of the Choice Bus and the importance of staying in school.

During the past year, the Choice Bus made stops in the Catawba, Greenville, Midlands, Lowcountry, Lower Savannah, Pee Dee, Santee Lynches, Trident and Upstate regions, providing more than 3,000 middle school through grade 10 students the opportunity to participate in an experience-based learning tool designed to show young people the power of education, as well as the likely consequences of choosing to drop out of school.

For more about the Choice Bus, please visit
<http://www.mattiecstewart.org/thechoicebus.html>
