



# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Special Education Directors and Coordinators

**FROM:** John R. Payne, Director  
Office of Special Education Services

**DATE:** June 1, 2016

**RE:** 2016–17 Special Education Leadership Learning Opportunities

The Office of Special Education Services (OSES) at the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is pleased to announce the New Directors' Leadership Academy (NDLA) for new directors and coordinators of programs for students with disabilities in school districts and state-operated programs and the Special Education Leader Cohort (SELC) for second-year directors and coordinators.

### **New Directors' Leadership Academy (NDLA)—Designed for first-year special education leaders:**

If your school district or agency has appointed a new director for the 2016–17 school year, we would like him/her to participate unless s/he has previously participated in the NDLA. If you have a new staff member who is responsible for the oversight of special education and related services in your district, but is not the director, that individual may also attend.

The NDLA is a statewide effort to provide support to education leaders responsible for administering programs and services for students with disabilities. Special education administrators need to be knowledgeable about effective programming for students with disabilities as well as special education law. The Academy offers a variety of sessions for leaders of special education. The sessions offer content in both compliance and leadership. The Academy will provide administrators with timely topics to help support their efforts in providing effective programs and series for students with disabilities.

The Academy consists of six (6) face-to-face meetings, the first of which will be held on July 15, 2016, during the 2016 Research to Practice Institute. Opportunities for contact may include webinars, email, and direct contact with the OSES staff. One person will be accepted per school district or agency. All participants will receive hour-for-hour recertification credits. The sessions will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude by 4:00 p.m. Below are the dates and registration information for the trainings:

- **Friday, July 15, 2016**  
River Bluff High School, 320 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC 29072  
[Register](#)
- **Thursday, September 15, 2016**  
Olympia Learning Center, 621 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201  
[Register](#)

- **Thursday, October 13, 2016**  
Olympia Learning Center, 621 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201  
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, December 7, 2016**  
Olympia Learning Center, 621 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201  
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, January 25, 2017**  
Olympia Learning Center, 621 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201  
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, February 8, 2017**  
Olympia Learning Center, 621 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201  
[Register](#)

**Special Education Leader Cohort (SELC)—Designed for second-year special education leaders:**

SELC is a professional learning opportunity that was developed as a result of feedback from members of the New Directors' Leadership Academy. The members expressed a desire to continue as a group to obtain a deeper understanding of issues facing special education directors. As a result, we designed three (3) meetings to address topics such as finance, special education law, Enrich training, and compliance. The sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude no later than 4:00 p.m. Below are the dates and registration information for the trainings:

- **Thursday, October 13, 2016**  
Olympia Learning Center, 621 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201  
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, January 25, 2017**  
Olympia Learning Center, 621 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201  
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, February 8, 2017**  
Olympia Learning Center, 621 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201  
[Register](#)

All training materials and lunch will be provided on-site. Please forward this information to the appropriate special education leader. Online registration for the July 15, 2016, New Directors' Academy must be completed by June 17, 2016. Registration for the remaining sessions must be completed by September 8, 2016.

For additional information, contact Tresa Diggs, Team Lead, Programs and Initiatives, at (803) 734-5454, [tdiggs@ed.sc.gov](mailto:tdiggs@ed.sc.gov).