STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Special Education Directors

FROM: Peter Keup, J.D.
Director, Office of Special Education Services

DATE: June 9, 2023

RE: Essentials of Sciences Coursework for SC High School Employability Credential

The South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards (SCCCR Standards) are the basis for alignment across the state for district and school curricula, classroom instruction, units of study, and learning experiences. The SCCCR Standards describe the state's academic standards for instruction in the general curriculum in subject areas that include, but are not limited to, mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies. The South Carolina academic standards address important college and career ready skills and are organized to include both essential skills or practices and content knowledge.

For the 2023-24 school year, there will be implementation of the 2021 SCCCR Science Standards. As a result, the SC High School Employability Credential Essentials of Sciences were revised to align with the new SCCCR Science Standards for Essentials of Science I: Biology and Essentials of Science II: Physical Science. In addition, there will be a second course option to meet the second science course requirement. Students may choose between Essentials of Science II: Physical Science or Essentials of Science III: Earth & Space Science. The course code for the new course Essentials of Science III: Earth & Space Science is 3922__ 0W.

Essentials of Science course performance expectations will be included in the Coursework Section on the SC High School Employability Credential Website and will be forthcoming.

For questions related to the realignment of the SC High School Employability Credential Essentials of Science courses, please contact Kim Watkins kawatkins@ed.sc.gov.

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