



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: South Carolina Education Deans and Directors of Teacher Education

FROM: Mary Hipp
Director, Office of Educator Services

DATE: August 2, 2021

RE: Read to Succeed Pre-service Requirements

This memorandum provides information regarding the pre-service requirements of the [South Carolina Read to Succeed \(R2S\) Act](#), which became effective June 11, 2014. Pursuant to Section 59-155-180 (B)(1) of the R2S Act and beginning with fall semester of the 2016-17 school year, pre-service teacher preparation programs at the undergraduate or graduate level must require

- all candidates seeking certification at the early childhood or elementary level to complete a twelve credit hour sequence in literacy that includes a school-based practicum, and
- all candidates seeking certification at the middle or secondary level to complete a six credit hour sequence in literacy that includes a course in the foundations of literacy and a course in content-area reading.

Prior to implementation of these pre-service requirements with the Fall 2016 academic semester, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) worked with educator preparation providers to approve course sequences aligned with the appropriate [South Carolina Literacy Competencies](#) for each initial preparation program offered. The SCDE continues to work with providers on the review of R2S courses in newly approved programs and on revisions to approved course sequences. As candidates complete preparation programs and apply for certification, the SCDE issues the appropriate R2S endorsement based on the program, the candidate's certification field, and the review of the recommendation and official transcript.

Because the pre-service requirements became effective with the 2016-17 academic year, all candidates now completing teacher preparation programs in South Carolina must have completed the approved R2S course sequence for their respective certification programs. To ensure that all candidates completing teacher preparation programs meet the R2S pre-service requirements

established in statute, the SCDE will implement the following updated policies beginning with the Fall 2021 academic semester.

- The R2S course sequence on file with the SCDE Office of Educator Services is considered part of an approved program. For certification eligibility, each candidate must have completed all requirements of the provider's approved program, including all courses and related field experiences in the approved R2S sequence.
- During advisement sessions and degree audits, providers must monitor each candidate's progress in fulfilling the R2S requirements of the approved program. The provider must maintain documentation that R2S monitoring is part of its standard advisement and degree auditing processes.
- In submitting the recommendation for certification, the educator preparation provider must verify each candidate's completion of all requirements of the approved program, including all R2S courses and field experiences in the approved program. Candidates must earn a grade of C or better in each course in the approved literacy sequence for issuance of the R2S endorsement.
- Providers may not allow a substitution for a course in an approved R2S sequence without approval from the SCDE prior to a candidate's enrollment in the course. The request must include a rationale for the substitution and documentation that the proposed course addresses the same South Carolina Literacy Competencies as the approved course.
- Providers may not allow a substitution of a transfer course from another institution for a course in an approved R2S sequence without approval from the SCDE. The request must include a rationale for the substitution and documentation that the proposed course addresses the same South Carolina Literacy Competencies as the approved course. The request must be submitted early enough in a candidate's program to allow for enrollment in the institution's approved course, if required.
- Using an electronic form to be communicated by the SCDE, each provider must submit annual assurances that approved R2S course sequences are being implemented with fidelity within each initial preparation program and that candidate progress is being monitored through advisement and degree auditing.
- Through the same electronic form, the provider must also submit notification of any changes to course numbers and/or titles in an approved R2S sequence.
- Providers must continue to submit changes, additions, or deletions of courses in an approved R2S pre-service sequence for SCDE approval prior to implementation.

These SCDE policies and procedures communicate expectations for providers, and the Office of Educator Services readily provides technical assistance to providers in implementing the requirements of the R2S Act. Ultimately, the goal of the legislation and its pre-service requirements is "to improve the academic success of all students in prekindergarten through grade twelve" (Section 59-155-180 (A)).

For additional information regarding R2S pre-service requirements or to request technical assistance, please contact Education Associate Clay Barton at jcbarton@ed.sc.gov or at 803-896-5255.