

2019–20 ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

NOTE: *For Accreditation purposes, schools and school districts are responsible for determining compliance with the following Accreditation Standards. Schools and school districts are also responsible for complying with all applicable State Board of Education Regulations, and relevant statutes as outlined in the South Carolina Code of Laws.*

I. PERSONNEL

A. PRINCIPAL(S)/DIRECTOR(S)

1. Each school must be staffed with a full-time properly certified principal/director. [R43-205]
2. The principal/director shall develop an on-going professional development plan with annual updates. [§59-24-30]

B. ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL(S)/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR(S) AND/OR CURRICULUM COORDINATOR(S)

1. Each school with an enrollment of four hundred to four hundred ninety-nine students must be staffed with at least one half-time properly certified assistant principal or the equivalent. [R43-205]
2. Each school with an enrollment of five hundred or more students must be staffed with at least one full-time properly certified assistant principal and a properly certified assistant principal for each additional five hundred students. [R43-205]
3. Assistant principals/assistant directors and/or curriculum coordinators shall develop an on-going professional development plan with annual updates. [§59-24-30]

C. TEACHERS

1. Each teacher must be properly certified by the State Board of Education. [R43-50, R43-205, §59-25-20]
2. Teachers must meet the applicable certification and licensure requirements, including any requirements for certification obtained through alternative routes to certification. [R43-50, R43-205, §59-25-20, Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, 129 STAT 1845]

D. SCHOOL COUNSELOR(S)

1. Each school counselor must be properly certified by the State Board of Education. [R43-205, §59-26-10]
2. Schools with fewer than six hundred students must provide the services of a school counselor in the ratios in accordance with regulatory requirements. [R43-205]

3. Schools with enrollments of five hundred-one or more must employ one full-time certified counselor. Schools with more than six hundred students must provide guidance services at the ratio of fifty minutes for each additional fifty-one to hundred students. [R43-205]
4. The student-to-guidance certified personnel ratio will be reduced to 300:1. [R43-205, §59-59-100]

E. SCHOOL TRANSITION COORDINATOR(S) AND CAREER SPECIALIST(S)

1. Each school-to-work transition coordinator must be certified or meet all other regulatory requirements. [R43-205]
2. Each career specialist must hold a bachelor's degree and must have earned either Global Career and Development Facilitator certification (GCDF) or Career Development Facilitator certification (CDF). [R43-205, §59-59-100]
3. Any career specialist providing classroom instruction must be a properly certified teacher. [R43-205]
4. Each career specialist must work under the supervision of a certified school counselor. [R43- 205, §59-59-100, §59-26-10]

F. LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST(S)

1. Each library media specialist must be properly certified by the State Board of Education. [R43-205, §59-26-10]
2. The number of library media specialists employed is in accordance with regulatory enrollment requirements. [R43-205]

G. SCHOOL NURSE(S)

Each school nurse must hold a current license issued by the State Board of Nursing as a professional registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse who is working under the supervision of a professional registered nurse. [R43-205, §59-10-210]

H. PARAPROFESSIONALS

1. Instructional paraprofessionals who work in Title I schools or Title I targeted assistance programs meet applicable certification and licensure requirements, including any requirements for certification obtained through alternative routes to certification. [R43-209, Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, 129 STAT 1856].
2. Each teacher of pupils with trainable, orthopedic, emotional, or visual disabilities in a self-contained classroom model shall have a paraprofessional full-time, if the class has a minimum membership of four pupils. [R43-209]
3. When four or more students identified as having an emotional disability or orthopedic impairment are enrolled in a cross-categorical class, a full-time teaching assistant must be employed. [R43-205]
4. All instructional paraprofessionals must work under the direct supervision of a certified teacher. [R43-209]
5. Teaching assistants shall have at least a high school diploma or the equivalent. [43-209]

II. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. GUIDANCE AND CAREER AWARENESS

All schools encompassing any combination of grades nine through twelve are required to provide a comprehensive school counseling program that is based on grade-specific standards. The standards must address the academic, personal and social, and the career domains. Specifically, students must be provided school counseling and career awareness programs and activities that assist them in developing and fulfilling their individual graduation plans and prepare them for a seamless transition to relevant employment, further training, or postsecondary study. [R43-234, §59-59-100, §59-59-140]

B. LIBRARY MEDIA

The library media program and technology resources must be available and accessible to all students and staff and must be appropriate for the accomplishment of the strategies and goals in each school renewal or district strategic plan. [R43-234]

C. CURRICULUM

1. Requirements for a South Carolina High School Diploma: [R43-234, §59-29-10, §59-29-80, §59-29-120, §59-29-160, §59-39-100]

a. The student must earn a total of 24 units of credit as follows:

English language arts:	4.0
mathematics:	4.0
science:	3.0
U.S. History and Constitution:	1.0
economics:	0.5
U.S. Government:	0.5
Other social studies:	1.0
physical education or Junior ROTC:	1.0
computer science (including keyboarding):	1.0
foreign language or career and technology education:	1.0
electives:	7.0

b. Each public school of the State must instruct students in the history of black people as a regular part of its history and social studies courses. [§59-29-55]

c. All students of public or charter schools in this state are required to take the civics test as defined as the one hundred questions that officers of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services use to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and the principles and form of the United States government as part of the U.S. Government requirement. [§59-29-240, R43-234]

d. The student must pass a classroom examination on the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist papers, and American institutions and ideals. This instruction must be given for a period of at least one year or its equivalent, either within the required course U.S. History and Constitution or within another course. [§59-29-155, 59-29-10, 59-29-120, 59-29-140, 59-29-150, R43-234]

- e. Physical Education: The required physical education course in secondary schools shall occur over two semesters yearlong schedules) or two nine weeks (semester block schedule) or the equivalent. For one semester, a personal fitness and wellness component must be taught, and for one semester a lifetime fitness component must be taught either over the semester or in two nine-week divisions or the equivalent. [§59-29-80, R43-234]
- f. Comprehensive Health Education: At least one time during the four years in grades nine through twelve, each student shall receive a program of instruction in comprehensive health education, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction, which must include, but not be limited to, hands-only CPR and must include awareness in the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) and at least seven hundred fifty minutes of reproductive health education and pregnancy prevention. [§59-32-30, R43-234, R43-238]
- g. A school program shall provide instruction in Comprehensive Health Education from one or more of the following:
 - (1) Each student shall receive instruction in a comprehensive health education course for thirty-six weeks or a semester from the list of approved high school health courses.
 - (2) Each student shall receive instruction in each of the comprehensive health subjects through a series of mini courses, e.g., three-week short courses selected or developed by the school or district.
 - (3) A school or district shall select or develop modular units of instruction for each of the comprehensive health education subjects and integrate them into existing required courses.
 - (4) If options one, two, or three are not selected, a school shall develop a written plan that demonstrates that all students shall receive instruction in the required comprehensive health subjects within existing courses before graduation. This plan must be submitted to the Office of Standards and Learning for written approval at least six weeks prior to implementation.[R43-238]
- h. Environmental Studies: Schools must include environmental studies as part of the instructional program. [R43-234, §59-32-30]
- i. Financial Literacy: Schools must include financial literacy as a part of the school instructional programs. [R43-234, §59-29-410]
- j. Foreign Language: Schools must offer levels one and two of at least one modern or classical language. [R43-234]
- k. Visual and Performing Arts: Schools must offer courses in the visual and performing arts. [R43-234, §59-29-220]
- l. Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs: Schools shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding the dangers in the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Instruction must emphasize the negative effects that the use of such substances can have on the total community. [R43-234, §59-29-20, §59-29-30, §59-29-40]
- m. Driver Education: Schools must provide a complete program of driver education, including classroom and behind-the-wheel phases, each semester

on an elective basis for eligible students. [R43-234, R43-242 (*Proviso 1.4 suspends this requirement*)]

- n. Career and Technology Education: Schools must offer CATE courses. Students who plan to complete a CATE program must earn at least three units in an approved sequence of CATE courses leading to a career goal. [R43-234, §59-5-61, §59-5-65]
2. Advanced Placement courses are offered in accordance with regulatory requirements. [R43-258.1, R43-234, §59-29-190]
3. Each high school shall provide an accelerated program of study whereby any student who demonstrates sufficient ability shall be allowed to undertake such courses of study as will enable the student to graduate at the end of eleven years of primary and secondary schooling. [§59-39-110]
4. All secondary schools must offer a clearly defined college preparatory program. [§59-5-65]
5. Each high school shall develop a pre-registration form outlining the courses in which a student may enroll for his/her entire high school career. [R43-272, §59-59-160]
6. Specialized programs of instruction are provided to students with disabilities. [R43-205, R43-243, R43-243.6, R43-243.1, 20 U.S.C. §33 et seq.]
7. Gifted and talented students are those who are identified in grades one through twelve as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas and therefore require educational programming beyond that normally provided by general school programming, in order to achieve their potential. [R43-220, §59-29-170]
8. Students who cannot attend public school because of illness, accident, or pregnancy, even with the aid of transportation, are eligible for medical homebound or hospitalized instruction. [R43-241, §59-21-540]
9. All tenth grade students are offered the PSAT or PLAN tests, and the results are used as a diagnostic tool. [§59-18-34] (*Proviso 1A.17 resumes reimbursements for the current school year, for PSAT, pre-ACT, or 10th grade Aspire.*)
10. Each school district shall see that in every school under their care there shall be taught, as far as practicable, orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar and instruction in phonics, the elements of agriculture, the history of the United States and of this State, the principles of the Constitutions of the United States and of this State, morals and good behavior, algebra, physiology and hygiene (especially as to the effects of alcoholic liquors and narcotics upon the human system), English literature, and such other branches as the state board may from time to time direct. [§59-29-10]
11. All students entering the eleventh grade must be administered a Ready to Work (R2W) assessment. [§59-18-325]

D. AWARDING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

1. A school may award one unit of credit for an academic standards-based course that requires a minimum of one hundred-twenty hours of instruction; one-half unit of credit for a standards-based course that requires a minimum of sixty hours of

- instruction; and one-fourth unit of credit for a standards-based course that requires a minimum of thirty hours of instruction. [R43-234]
2. Proficiency-Based System. A school may award credit for courses that have been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) in a proficiency-based system. A proficiency-based course may also be offered for one-fourth and one-half unit if the system specifies these units. The SCDE must approve the district-submitted plan prior to the district's use of the proficiency-based system. [R43-234]
 3. A school may award credit for a course that is approved by the district, whether that school offers the particular course or not, if the student receives prior approval. [R43-234]
 4. A school may award credit for locally designed courses under the following conditions:
 - a. Locally designed subject-area courses must be approved by the local board of trustees and the State Superintendent of Education and aligned with the state academic standards for the particular subject area. [R43-234]
 - b. Locally designed elective courses must be approved by the local board of trustees. No more than two units may be awarded to a student for released-time classes in religious instruction. [R43-234]
 - c. Locally designed Career and Technology Education (CATE) courses funded with state or federal CATE monies must be approved by the SCDE's Office of Career and Technology Education. [R43-234]
 5. Summer School Program: A school may award credit if a district-wide or school-site summer school program meets all of the regulatory requirements for the courses offered for students in grades nine through twelve. [R43-234, R43-240]
 6. Adult Education: A school may award credit toward the high school diploma for a course that the student takes in an approved adult education program if the course is granted approval by the superintendent or his/her designee. [R43-234, R43-259]
 7. Dual Credit Arrangement: A school may award credit for a college course that students take under the district's dual credit arrangement. A three-semester-hour college course transfers as one unit of credit. [R43-234]
 8. Transfer Students Credits. Units earned by a student in an accredited high school of this state or in a school of another state which is accredited under the regulations of the board of education of that state, or the appropriate regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education will be accepted under the same value which would apply to students in the school to which they transferred. Accurate accounting records should be developed and maintained for student transfers and withdrawals. [R43-273]

Home school, private school, or out-of-state non-public school students shall have the opportunity to provide evidence of work to be considered for honors weighting when transferring to a public school. The district shall have the right to evaluate evidence provided by the parent or student before transcribing the course(s) at honors weight. The receiving school may use the South Carolina Honors Framework criteria to evaluate such evidence and shall make the final decision on whether to award the honors weighting. The South Carolina Department of Education advises districts to adopt a policy for accepting units of credit from

home school, private school, or out-of-state nonpublic school for consistency. [R43-273, R43-234]

9. Transfer Students of Military Families. Children are entitled to attend public schools of a school district if a parent's or legal guardian's military deployment or call to active duty is more than seventy miles from his residence for a period greater than sixty days. [§59-63-31]

It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- a. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school districts or variations in entrance/age requirements. [§59-46-50]
- b. Facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment. [§59-46-50]

E. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. To earn a South Carolina High School Diploma, a public school student must earn twenty-four units of credit. [R43-234, §59-39-100]
2. The student must be enrolled for a minimum of one semester immediately preceding his or her graduation except in cases of bona-fide change of residence. Units earned in a summer school program do not satisfy this requirement. [R43-234]
3. The Uniform Grading Policy is used in all public schools in the State. [§59-5-68]

III. OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

A. SCHOOL YEAR

1. The statutory school term is one hundred ninety days annually and shall consist of a minimum of one hundred eighty days of instruction. [§59-1-425]
2. Of the ten days above, three days must be used for collegial professional development based upon the educational standards as required by Section 59-18-300. No more than two days may be used for preparation of opening of schools and the remaining five days may be used for teacher planning, academic plans, and parent conferences. [§59-1-425,
3. High school graduation can only be held on or after the one hundred-eightieth day of school. [§59-1-425]
4. a. All school days missed because of snow, extreme weather conditions, or other disruptions requiring schools to close must be made up. All school districts shall designate annually at least three days within their school calendars to be used as make-up days in the event of these occurrences. If those designated days have been used or are no longer available, the local school board of trustees may lengthen the

hours of school operation by no less than one hour per day for the total number of hours missed, operate schools on Saturday, or may waive up to three days. A waiver granted by the local board of trustees may only be authorized by a majority vote of the local school board, and may not be granted until the school has made up three full days, or the equivalent number of hours. [§59-1-425, R43-234]

b. The State Board of Education may waive the requirements of making up days beyond the three days forgiven by the local school district, not to exceed three additional days. The State Department annually before July first shall provide the General Assembly with a detailed report of information from each district listing the number of days missed and the reason, regardless of whether any were missed; days made up; and days waived. [§59-1-425, R43-234]

5. Early dismissal days for emergencies must be reported to and approved by the director of the Office of Federal and State Accountability. [R43-234] *A plan to make up days by lengthening the school day must be approved by the SCDE, Office of Federal and State Accountability before implementation. [R43-234]*
6. Schools may reduce the length of the instructional day to not less than three hours for not more than three days each year for staff development, teacher conferences, and for the purpose of administering end-of-semester and end-of-year examinations. [§59-1-425]

B. SCHOOL DAY/WEEK

1. The instructional day for secondary students must be at least six hours a day, or its equivalent weekly, excluding lunch periods. [R43-234, §59-1-425]
2. Schools may exercise options and vary the number of minutes in the instructional week, provided that such variation meets statutory requirements and is approved by the local board of trustees. [R43-234, §59-1-425]
3. A class period is defined as a minimum of fifty minutes or an accumulation of the equivalency of one hundred-twenty hours required for a Carnegie Unit of Credit. [R43-172]
4. Homeroom periods, announcement times, and administrative activities such as attendance are not counted as part of the instructional day. [R43-234]
5. Priority during the instructional day must be given to teaching and learning tasks. [§59-1-425]
6. Class interruptions are limited to emergencies. [§59-1-425]
7. The length of the school day for full-time teachers is a minimum of seven hours. [R43-57.1]

C. TEACHERS - CLASSLOADS/PREPARATIONS

1. The maximum daily teaching load for teachers of academic classes is one hundred-fifty students. No class may exceed thirty-five students in enrollment with the exceptions provided for physical education and music teachers which is a maximum of forty students per class. [R43-205, R43-234]
2. When band, chorus, or orchestra require rehearsals of the entire membership, any number of students is acceptable if adequate space is available. [R43-234, R43-205]

3. A teacher must not be permitted to teach more than fifteen-hundred minutes weekly. [R43-205]
4. A teacher must not be assigned classes requiring more than four preparations per day. [R43-205]
5. When a teacher's daily schedule includes a combination of academic and nonacademic subjects, the maximum daily teaching load is calculated in accordance with the Defined Program, grades nine through twelve. [R43-205, R43-234]
6. The teaching load for teachers of self-contained classes must not exceed the following student-teacher ratios: [R43-205]

Area	Maximum Ratio Based on Average Daily Enrollment
Mild Mental Disabilities	18:1
Emotional Disabilities	15:1
Learning Disabilities	18:1
Moderate and Severe Disabilities and Orthopedically Impaired	15:1
Visually Impaired	12:1
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	12:1
7. Cross-categorical classes must not exceed the following student-teacher ratios: [R43-205]

Area	Maximum Ratio Based on Average Daily Enrollment
Mild Mental Disabilities and Learning Disabilities	18:1
Mild Mental Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, and Emotional Disabilities	17:1
Mild Mental Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disabilities, and Orthopedically Impaired	16:1
8. The maximum teaching load for resource teachers and itinerant teachers for students with disabilities based on average daily enrollment is as follows: [R43-205]

Area	Maximum Teaching Load
Mild Mental Disabilities	33 students
Emotional Disabilities	33 students
Learning Disabilities	33 students
Moderate and Severe Disabilities and Orthopedic Impairment	20 students
Visual Impairment	15 students
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 students
9. The caseload for speech/language therapist does not exceed sixty. [R43-205]
10. When resource teachers and/or itinerant teachers serve students with differing disabilities, the maximum teaching load must be determined by the majority of the students in enrollment in an area of disability. [R43-205]

D. STUDENTS – ENROLLMENT/ATTENDANCE

1. Students are enrolled in accordance with state laws pertaining to age of attendance and qualifications for attendance. [§59-63-20, §59-63-30, §59-63-31, §59-65-10]

2. The school's attendance policy conforms to the state's definitions of lawful and unlawful absences. [R43-274, §59-65-10]
3. The district board of trustees or its designee(s) shall approve or disapprove any student's absence in excess of ten days, whether lawful or unlawful, for students in grades Kindergarten through twelve. [R43-274, §59-65-90]
4. Intervention plans are initiated for students who are truant (students ages six through seventeen who accrue three consecutive unlawful absences or five cumulative unlawful absences). [R43-274, §59-65-90]
5. Intervention plans contain the minimum elements stated in regulation. [R43-274, §59-65-90]
6. Family court referrals are made if the intervention is not successful and further inquiries by school officials fail. [R43-274, §59-65-50]
7. There is outlined specific, objective criteria for districts to use in identifying students who may be poorly prepared for the next level of study or who are at-risk of dropping out of school. [R43-274.1, §59-59-150]

E. STUDENT – DISCIPLINE/CONDUCT

There is a uniform system of minimum standards of student conduct and disciplinary enforcement procedures to be implemented by local school districts. [R43-279, §59-63-210 et. seq.]

F. RECORDS, REPORTS, AND REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

1. Each school district must file a record of all dropouts that specifies for every student the name of the school in which he or she was enrolled and reports the following information on the student: his or her name, grade, race, sex, date of birth, free/reduced meals status, English proficiency status, and migrant status. Each district superintendent must verify the accuracy of the student enrollment, attendance, membership by category, and dropout reports submitted to the State Department of Education's Office of Finance. [R43-172, R43-234, §59-65-470]
2. Each school must have an appropriate means of reporting academic achievement to parents. [R43-234, §59-18-930] (*Proviso 1.35 – Student Report Card – GPA: For each high school student, school districts shall be required to print the student's individual cumulative grade point average for grades nine through twelve on the student's report card.*)
3. Financial resources are to be allocated, expended, and accounted for in accordance with accounting practices specified in the Financial Accounting Handbook, Funding Manual, and the Pupil and Staff Accountability Manual. [R43-172, §59-20-60]
4. Financial records are audited annually by a certified or licensed public accountant. [R43-172, §59-20-60]
5. A report of previous year graduates post-high school education or employment status is submitted to the State Department of Education by May 1 each year. [R43-234] (*Proviso 1.63 – if a high school has a graduation rate below sixty percent, using appropriated funds a local school district board of trustees must provide a report detailing a plan to increase the graduation rate in accordance*

with the provisions of the Education Accountability Act to the State Board of Education).

6. Each student transferring shall be given a transfer form showing name, date of birth, grade placement, and attendance record to present to the appropriate school official where he or she is enrolling. Appropriate additional data shall be furnished by the sending school when requested in writing by the receiving school, as soon as possible but no later than ten business days upon receiving the written request, excluding weekends and recognized state holidays. Accurate accounting records shall be developed and maintained for student transfers and withdrawals. Comprehensive transcripts shall be submitted directly to the receiving school when requested in writing, as soon as possible, but no later than ten business days upon receiving the written request, excluding weekends and recognized state holidays. A permanent record of the transferred student shall be retained in the school from which the student is transferred. The school of record must transfer a student's disciplinary record of suspensions and expulsions to the public or private school to which the student is transferring as soon as possible, but no later than ten business days upon receiving the written request, excluding weekends and recognized state holidays. Schools may not withhold the transfer of records to a public or private school for fees owed by the student. [R43-273, §59-63-420]
7. Each school district must maintain accurate student data according to the pupil accounting system prescribed by the SCDE. [R43-234]
8. Student participation in interscholastic competition is in accordance with regulatory and statutory requirements. [R43-244.1, §59-63-100]

G. SCHOOL RENEWAL PLANS

1. Each school district must develop a five-year district strategic plan and each school must develop a five-year school renewal plan and annual updates. The district strategic plan, school renewal plans, and annual updates must be reviewed and approved by the local board of trustees and coordinate funding from local, state, federal, and private sources. New five-year district and school plans, along with the annual update of the district strategic plan, must be submitted to the SCDE by April 30 of each year. [§59-20-60, §59-139-10 et seq., R43-261]
2. The School Improvement Council must actively participate in the development of the school renewal plan and annual updates. [§59-20-60, §59-139-10, R43-261]
3. The School Improvement Council annually, by November fifteenth, provides to parents and constituents a report on the school's progress in meeting school and district goals and objectives. [§59-20-60]
4. The School Improvement Council performs other duties as specified in law. [§59-20-60]
5. A staff development program has been implemented that meets national professional development standards, and provides participants the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the strategies. Coordination of funding is from local, state, federal, and private sources. [R43-261, §59-20-60]

H. HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SCHOOL FACILITIES

1. STUDENT IMMUNIZATION

Immunization records are current for each student. Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained by the institution, school, or day care facility to which the child or person has been admitted [§44-29-180]

2. EVALUATION FOR TUBERCULOSIS

No person will be initially hired to work in any public or private school, kindergarten, nursery or day care center for infants and children until appropriately evaluated for tuberculosis. [R43-207, §44-29-150, §44-29-160]

3. PROTECTIVE EYE DEVICES

A pupil and teacher shall wear an industrial quality eye device while participating in courses necessitating wearing of protective eye devices. [§59-1-390]

4. FIRST AID SUPPLIES

Each school shall provide adequate first aid supplies and equipment. [R43-166]

5. SCHOOL FACILITIES

All operating school facilities shall comply with sanitation and health regulations prescribed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. [R61-42, R43-71, R43-237.1, §59-31-330]

6. DISASTER PLANS AND SCHOOL DRILLS

A. All operating school facilities shall comply with safety regulations prescribed by the State Fire Marshal. [§5-25-370, §5-25-390, §5-25-400]

B. All public schools, including charter schools whose instruction is not primarily delivered online, shall conduct fire, active shooter/intruder, and severe weather/earthquake drills. Within each school year, schools must conduct at least two active shooter/intruder drills, and two severe weather/earthquake drills, with at least one of each drill conducted each semester.[§59-63-910(A) This is addition to the monthly fire drills required by §405.2 SC Fire Code]

C. A plan shall be designed to provide for the protection and welfare of students in the event of any disaster which threatens to involve the school community. [R43-166]

D. Each school shall conduct at least one emergency drill within the first month of school. [R43-166, §59-63-910]