



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Academic Recovery Camp Request – CARES Relief Fund

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requests \$50,759,092 in reimbursable funds from the CARES Relief Fund. This specific request will be used for intensive instructional recovery summer opportunities in reading and math with students in grades kindergarten through third grade who are at risk of falling behind in their learning.

Originally stated in Executive Order 2020-29, and reiterated in subsequent orders, school districts were urged to “work with the Department to provide voluntary, in-person summer learning opportunities for students who were enrolled in kindergarten through the eighth grade during the 2019–2020 school year but who are at risk of falling behind in their learning.” Furthermore, the SCDE was instructed to “work with districts to identify any available state and federal funds to facilitate such voluntary summer learning opportunities.”

To meet this request, State Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman, convened AccelerateED, a task force composed of teachers, administrators, school board members, health advisors and parents representing all aspects of the K–12 public education system. In the first meeting on April 30, 2020, Superintendent Spearman charged the members with studying barriers to school operations and student learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and providing recommendations on how schools and districts can best meet the needs of struggling learners in the summer and restart the state’s public education system in the fall.

It is imperative to show student progress in the summer so that there can be success in the fall when schools re-open. For summer 2020, the SCDE is proposing that districts hold Academic Recovery Camps (ARC) with instruction for at-risk students.

Academic Recovery Camp (ARC):

The purpose of the ARC is to mitigate disrupted learning time and support educational recovery for students due to COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of schools on March 16, 2020. Students eligible for this program are those in kindergarten through third grade who need supplemental learning opportunities to access the essential skills for standards of instruction in reading and math. The proposal is to provide a face-to-face summer program to strategically work with students by providing instruction for 120 minutes a day in literacy and 50 minutes a day in math for four weeks.

Districts determined and identified 25,000 students using academic data from the 2019-2020 school year. The data included: benchmark assessments (i.e. MAP and STAR) administered during the year, Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) screening tools, classroom performance, teacher recommendations, as well as any other assessment tools districts determined were needed. Historically, the participants score in the lowest assessment quartile (25th percentile and below). Research shows that students who are not on grade level by the end of third grade have extraordinarily little chance to reach grade level by the time of graduation. “Academic success, as defined by high school graduation, can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by knowing someone’s reading skill at the end of third grade. A person who is not at least a modestly skilled reader by that time is unlikely to graduate from high school.” (National Research Council, 1998). These students need the most intensive, face-to-face instruction and interventions.

The full recovery recommendation is to continue extensive interventions for these identified students through the fall semester with 1) extended day services, and 2) employing interventionists to specifically target literacy and numeracy growth. Again, the goal is to provide strategic, intensive, focused support to the students who are most at risk for not being on grade level in grades K-3.

Districts must develop an overall action plan for K-3 academic recovery detailing strategies for summer learning and fall interventions. The plan must include a pre and post assessment to determine academic growth and indicators for next level of learning. Additionally, an individualized plan must be shared with parents outlining the current performance level, targeted performance level of December 2020, and strategies that will be in place by the school to provide intensive instruction.

To support the implementation of a high quality instruction program, the SCDE staff within the Office of Early Learning and Literacy created 20 sample lesson plans for each grade level (80 total) for teachers to access during the ARC. An example of a lesson plan can be found at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rJMDdBH322RIhJuTeCvi-i0PRp6ysEcL/view>

District Data:

Most districts have started planning to host an ARC this summer. Total statewide, districts estimated they plan to serve 25,000 students through a face to face program. Ten districts, well prepared with e-learning, will offer a virtual program to 4,900 students. Additionally, 67 districts indicated they were prepared to serve 34,000 students virtually should face to face instruction be impossible due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Cost per Student:

The total average cost per student for face to face instruction through an ARC is estimated to be \$1,766.00. Should COVID-19 create restrictions for face to face instruction, the total average cost per student for virtual instruction is \$1,351.00.

Cost Breakdown for Face to Face - \$1,766.00 per student/ \$44,150,000 total:

- One teacher for every twelve students
- One teacher aide for every twelve students
- One nurse for every 200 students
- One counselor for every 250 students
- One administrator for every 250 students
- One reading coach for every 250 students
- One custodian for every 250 students
- One bus driver for every 26 students
- \$750 per student for instructional supplies, materials, and diagnostic tools
- \$0.40 per meal for meal costs
- \$0.40 per meal for additional labor costs

Cost Breakdown for Virtual - \$1,351.00 per student/ \$6,609,000 total:

- One teacher for every twelve students
- \$750 per student for instructional supplies, materials, and diagnostic tools

Total Request for Reimbursement = \$50,759,092

- Face to Face Instruction:
 - 25,000 students x \$1,766.00 per student = \$44,150,000.00
- Virtual Instruction:
 - 4,892 students x \$1,351.00 per student = \$6,609,000.000