MEMORANDUM

TO: Education Stakeholders

FROM: Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: November 9, 2016

RE: S.C. Department of Education to Host Focus Group Meetings on ESSA Implementation and Development of the Consolidated State Plan

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is hosting a focus group meeting Monday, November 21, 2016, from 1:00 – 4:30 to discuss the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and the development of the South Carolina Consolidated State Plan, which must be submitted in March 2017. This meeting will be the first of three focus groups.

We are seeking additional input from all stakeholders. Please register for the meeting using the registration link by November 17.

Participants will break up into one of following five groups, which are the five components of the Plan: (1) Consultation and Coordination; (2) Challenging Academic Standards and Academic Assessments; (3) Accountability, Support and Improvement for Schools; (4) Supporting Excellent Educators; (5) Supporting All Students. Workgroup Leaders will facilitate the discussion among participants in each workgroup, seeking specific feedback on decision points that must be addressed. All stakeholders are encouraged to take part in this meeting, including parents, community-based organizations, civil rights associations, organizations representing students with disabilities, groups representing English learners, business organizations, industry officials, Indian tribes, local education associations, teachers, teachers’ representatives, administrators, students, and specialized instruction support personnel.

If you are unable to attend on November 21, 2016, there will be other opportunities for you to participate in the future. If you wish to attend a future session, please email essa.comments@ed.sc.gov or contact Scott Winburn, swinburn@ed.sc.gov.

To register for the November meeting, please have them click this registration link and select their preferred workgroup. https://scde.formstack.com/forms/essa_focus_group_nov2016