



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Accountability Directors  
District Testing Coordinators  
Instructional Leaders

**FROM:** Dan Ralyea  
Director, Office of Research and Data Analysis

Llewellyn Shealy  
Interim Director, Office of Assessment & Standards

**DATE:** July 18, 2023

**RE:** Accountability Waiver for the 2023-2024 SC READY Science Assessment

Full implementation and assessment of the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Science Standards 2021 is scheduled for the 2023-2024 school year.

Due to the significant content changes in grades 4 and 6, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is applying for an accountability waiver from the United States Department of Education to allow for a year of field testing. This will allow the SCDE to have enough assessment items aligned to the 2021 standards to create an operational assessment in 2025. If the accountability waiver is granted, the assessment will count for participation only and no scores will be reported in 2024.

**The 95 percent participation requirement for federally mandated summative science assessment remains. Failure to assess 95 percent of the enrolled students will result in a five-point reduction of the school's overall index.**

There were no significant shifts in Biology1 content; therefore, scale scores from the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP), Biology 1 assessment will be included as 20 percent of the final course grade. Preliminary rosters for EOCEP Biology 1 will be produced as usual and final data files and score reports will not be delayed.