



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents
Principals
Local Board of Trustees, Chairpersons

FROM: Jewell Stanley
Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability

DATE: November 7, 2023

RE: Accreditation of Districts and Schools in 2023-24

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance regarding South Carolina's accreditation system for 2023-24. Pursuant to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation [43-300](#), two accreditation options are available.

Option 1: Schools and districts may be accredited through the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE).

- District administrators and school principals must verify that all applicable SBE Regulations, South Carolina Code of Laws, and Accreditation Standards are met by completing the online Accreditation Compliance Form found in the Member Center at <https://ed.sc.gov>. This verification must be completed no later than November 20, 2023.
- Each district and school falling under Option 1 will receive a Preliminary Analysis Report from the SCDE in January 2023. These preliminary reports will give an initial accreditation status. An SCDE Education Associate will then advise districts and schools in working towards a resolution before the final accreditation status is published.

Option 2: Schools and districts may also be accredited through Cognia. If an accreditation rating becomes less than fully accredited when utilizing Option 2, the district or school will automatically be reviewed by the SCDE's Option 1 procedures. Additional accreditation resources and information, including the list of SCDE accreditation contacts, can be found on the SCDE webpage by following this [link](#).

The SCDE believes that accreditation should be used to not only ensure quality, but also to foster a culture of continuous improvement, working to identify and prioritize the best drivers of student achievement. This process can also highlight problems early and can lead to targeted interventions. Please reach out to Barret Leviner, your SCDE accreditation contact for assistance or with questions via email, bleviner@ed.sc.gov or by phone at 803-734-3477.