



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Principals
Local Board of Trustees, Chairpersons

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

DATE: October 29, 2024

RE: Accreditation of Districts and Schools in 2024-25

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance regarding South Carolina's accreditation system for 2024–25. 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 October 30, 2024.

Each district and school under Option 1 will receive a Preliminary Analysis Report from the SCDE in January 2024. These preliminary reports will give an initial accreditation status. An SCDE Education Associate will then advise districts and schools seeking 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](#).

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The SCDE believes that accreditation should be used to ensure quality and 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 lead to targeted interventions. Please reach out to Barret Leviner, your SCDE accreditation contact, for assistance or with questions via email at bleviner@ed.sc.gov or by phone at 803-734-3477.