



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders

FROM: Abbey Duggins, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

DATE: June 27, 2023

RE: CERDEP and Kindergarten Start Date Waiver

South Carolina Proviso 1A.62 (Kindergarten and Pre-K Start Dates) states: *A district superintendent or charter school authorizer may submit a request to the department to waive the minimum one hundred eighty day school attendance requirement for CERDEP and kindergarten students for the purpose of scheduling assessments. Upon approval of the waiver request, the approved school may stagger administering the assessments to CERDEP and kindergarten students during the first five days of the academic year.*

Note: This is the first year that the legislature has authorized Pre-K staggered start waivers. Only CERDEP students are eligible for staggered starts. Should a district choose to administer CERDEP or kindergarten assessments on a staggered schedule during the first five days of school, [the superintendent is asked to complete this form](#).

If approved, the minimum 180-day attendance requirement is waived only for CERDEP and/or kindergarten students. **Please note, approval from the South Carolina Department of Education must be granted prior to the district's start date for 2023–24. Please submit your waiver as soon as possible.**

Schools should use the SC-KTST attendance code for participating students; this code indicates the student was enrolled, not present in school, but not charged as an absence. This code may be used for both CERDEP and kindergarten students.

Please contact the following individuals for questions:

- Abbey Duggins, asduggins@ed.sc.gov, for questions related to this proviso;
- Meghan Walters, mgwalters@ed.sc.gov, for questions related to the administration of CERDEP assessments and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA); and
- Dan Ralyea, dralyea@ed.sc.gov, for questions about PowerSchool or school setups.

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