



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

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Matthew Ferguson, Ed.D. Esq.  
Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer  
Division of College, Career and Military Readiness

**DATE:** December 10, 2024

**RE:** Clarification of Calendar Requirements During Championship Season

**Congratulations to all our student-athletes and schools for their remarkable achievements this season!** The upcoming High School Football Championships showcase the dedication, skill, and teamwork of students, coaches, and communities across our state. We are proud to celebrate the pride and spirit these events bring to our schools and districts.

We recognize the desire to support students and teams during these important championship events. In response to district inquiries, we are providing clarification on state laws and policies related to school calendars and instructional time. This guidance, developed in consultation with education leaders in the legislative and executive branches, aims to help districts balance the celebration of student success with legislative requirements.

**eLearning Days**

The [eLearning Days District Handbook](#) specifies that districts may use up to five eLearning days per academic year for short-term disruptions to in-person learning caused by unforeseen emergencies (e.g., power outages, water main breaks).

- Athletic events, including state championship games, do not qualify as unforeseen emergencies.
- Therefore, eLearning days cannot be used to accommodate attendance at championship games.

### **Half-Days**

The [memo](#) sent to districts on February 29, 2024, provides guidance on half-day use:

- If a district has unused, available half-days not currently reflected on its calendar, these may be utilized.
- The use of half-days must comply with legal requirements for instructional time, ensuring that students receive the state-mandated minimum hours of instruction.

### **School Closures**

Districts may choose to cancel school on a particular day, provided that the instructional time is made up at a later date.

For any questions or further clarification, please contact Matthew Ferguson at [mferguson@ed.sc.gov](mailto:mferguson@ed.sc.gov).

Thank you for your commitment to celebrating student success while adhering to instructional and calendar requirements. Your dedication ensures that all students have access to full and meaningful educational opportunities.