



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders

FROM: C. Matthew Ferguson, EdD, JD
Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer

DATE: June 4, 2024

RE: Clarification on AP Course Offerings

Last week, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) notified district staff via email that the course code previously assigned to the African American Studies AP Pilot would not be valid for the 2024-25 school year. The SCDE created this course code two years ago at the request of districts that wanted to participate in the pilot of this course. The pilot has now concluded, and the SCDE has not added any new AP courses to its roster for the 2024-25 school year. This includes both the African American Studies course and the Pre-Calculus course.

In the years since this pilot began, there has been significant controversy surrounding the course concerning issues directly addressed by South Carolina's General Assembly in a budget proviso as well as in pending permanent legislation. Additionally, the state's social studies standards are coming up for their routine cyclical review. As a result, the SCDE has not approved any new statewide social studies courses, instead focusing efforts to ensure future course offerings are aligned both with the soon-to-be-updated standards and state law.

There is nothing preventing districts from continuing to offer AP African American Studies as a locally-approved honors course should they choose to do so, in addition to continuing to offer other approved African American courses as districts have already done for a number of years.

The SCDE maintains its unwavering commitment to teaching the factual historical experience of African Americans to our students. We will continue to proactively seek ways to highlight the innumerable contributions black South Carolinians have made to our state, our nation, and the world through special projects like the annual South Carolina African American History Calendar and celebration, Superintendent Weaver's student essay contest to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Dr. King's iconic "I Have a Dream Speech," and others.