TO: District Superintendents  
Principals  
Student Services Directors  
PowerSchool Coordinators  

FROM: Dr. Sabrina Moore  
Director, Office of Student Intervention Services  

DATE: April 29, 2020  

RE: COVID-19: Suspension and Expulsion Guidance  

In response to recent questions regarding the coding of students who were suspended or expelled before the Governor issued the Executive Order closing all of South Carolina’s public schools, effective March 16, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education issues the following guidance:

- If a student was suspended and completed the suspension before or on March 13, 2020, those suspension dates should remain on the student’s record. Suspension days that were scheduled to be completed after March 13 should be waived because of the statewide school closures. If the student participated in virtual learning or completed learning packets, the student should be marked present.

- Final expulsion decisions made before March 16, 2020, will be upheld. However, any pending expulsions and recommendations for expulsion not related to weapons or violent criminal offenses should be waived. It will be difficult to conduct expulsion hearings and investigations in the current environment. Therefore, students under “pending expulsion” who participate in virtual learning or receive learning packets should be marked present like all other students at this time.

- State law requires that students who bring weapons on to campus or commit other violent criminal offenses be expelled. As a result, expulsions for students who committed such offenses should be held in abeyance until school resumes and hearing can be held. In the
meantime, students who have been accused of criminal acts should be allowed to participate in virtual learning activities and considered present if they do so. However, when it is safe to do so or after schools are reopened, hearings for the students accused of criminal acts must be held to determine if the expulsion will be upheld. If the expulsion is upheld, it will begin at that time.

Please contact Aveene Coleman, acoiman@ed.sc.gov, if you have questions and for instructions on how to properly code OSS and expulsion incidents that have been waived.