



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

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Molly M. Spearman  
State Superintendent of Education

**DATE:** June 14, 2017

**RE:** Cursive Writing Instructional Materials

The Back to Basics in Education Act of 2014, S.C. Code Ann. § 59-29-15, requires each school district to provide instruction in cursive writing to ensure that students can create readable documents through legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade. The Act requires the S.C. Department of Education to assist school districts by providing state-adopted consumable cursive writing student materials. Beginning with school year 2015–16, schools have ordered consumable cursive writing materials for grades two through five through the Office of Instructional Materials.

Providing cursive writing materials in grades two through five for a three-year transition period was to ensure that students could create legible documents in cursive writing by end of the fifth grade. School year 2017–18 is the last year schools will receive the consumable student materials for grades two through five. Beginning in 2018–19, schools will continue to order the consumable cursive writing materials for second and third grade through the Office of Instructional Materials. The student materials for fourth and fifth grade will remain on state contract for schools to purchase with local funds, if needed.

Hopefully, this advanced notice will allow the schools within your district ample time to prepare for the grade-level change in ordering instructional materials for cursive writing. If you have questions or need additional information about this change, please contact the Office of Instructional Materials at 803-832-8210.

cc: District Instructional Leaders  
District Instructional Materials Coordinators