



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

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
School Principals

**FROM:** Kristi Austin, PhD  
Director, Office of Assessment and Standards

**DATE:** August 6, 2024

**RE:** DRC BEACON

The South Carolina Department of Education is launching a pilot utilizing DRC BEACON in grades 3–8 for the 2024–25 school year. DRC BEACON is a computer-adaptive interim assessment that helps educators identify student learning needs, measure progress, and achieve growth. It checks for student learning with real-time online reports at multiple points during the school year, providing immediate insights that will help guide formative instructional practices and learning in South Carolina classrooms. Participation in the pilot is of no cost to districts and schools.

DRC BEACON can adapt to two levels below or above a student’s grade level to provide appropriate content for all students. The program also offers either a full-length session or shorter length tests that can be combined for a full score.

DRC BEACON does not replace the required formative interim assessment required in 2024–25 as indicated in South Carolina Code Ann. 59-18-310 (Supp. 2007). While participation in the pilot does require an additional interim assessment, given sufficient South Carolina participation administering DRC BEACON during the 2024–25 school year, BEACON will have the capability to predict SC READY performance starting in 2025–26. Starting in 2025–26, DRC BEACON will also be 100% aligned to South Carolina’s standards and the Educator Instructional Strategies will be re-coded to South Carolina’s standards coding. In addition, in 2025–26, Early Years assessment in K–2: <https://drcbeacon.com/drc-beacon-early-years> will be offered. Starting in 2026–27, schools will be able to access results from up to two (2) previous administration years within the reporting system.

## DRC BEACON

Page 2

Date

DRC BEACON utilizes the summative assessment platform, DRC Insight. This will be familiar to students in grades 4–8 and could provide third graders an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the platform prior to SC READY in the spring.

For more information regarding DRC BEACON, you may sign up to participate in the upcoming webinars:

### August 13 Webinar:

When: August 13, 2024, 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Topic: DRC BEACON for South Carolina - General Informational Webinar

Registration for the webinar:

[https://datarecognitioncorp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ol9fox2vSzWaQQKRwQh\\_UQ](https://datarecognitioncorp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ol9fox2vSzWaQQKRwQh_UQ)

### August 27 Webinar:

When: Aug 27, 2024, 10:00 am-11:00 am

Topic: DRC BEACON for South Carolina - Setup and Administer Shelf BEACON Webinar

[Register](#) in advance for this webinar.

Additional information is located on [SC DRC BEACON Information](#) and [DRC BEACON FAQ](#).

It is not necessary for every school in a district to participate. If you will be participating in this pilot DRC BEACON administration, please complete the following survey by August 29, 2024.

If the entire district will be participating, please complete the following form:

<https://forms.gle/Go26A28onA78W7Zz5>.

If registering at the school level, please complete the following form:

<https://forms.gle/svdyeHQzm462dhSh6>.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Creighton at [screight@ed.sc.gov](mailto:screight@ed.sc.gov) or Kristi Austin at [kdaustin@ed.sc.gov](mailto:kdaustin@ed.sc.gov).