



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

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Early Childhood Coordinators  
School Administrators  
Literacy Coaches

**FROM:** Dr. Abbey Duggins  
Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

**DATE:** April 18, 2023

**RE:** Early Learning Office Professional Learning Opportunities for Summer and Fall 2023

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) supports South Carolina's (SC) districts and will offer several free professional learning opportunities (PLOs) for teachers, teaching assistants, reading coaches, instructional coaches, and administrators. Furthermore, to improve educational outcomes, Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) legislation requires all personnel providing instruction and classroom support to participate annually in a minimum of fifteen hours of professional development including topics related to teaching children from poverty and strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate progress of emergent literacy.

The PLOs will consist of virtual and face-to-face experiences focused on early learning and literacy instructional strategies that have a direct impact on student learning. The Office of Early Learning partners with other state-level early childhood agencies to plan and host virtual learning opportunities focused on children aged birth through five. This memo provides PLO details that will be offered during summer 2023 and fall 2024.

Please note: face-to-face full day sessions outlined in this memorandum will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 4:00 p.m. Participants should plan to arrive between 8:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. Participants will have a one-hour and fifteen-minute lunch break. Registration must be submitted online via the links listed with the session title. Registration for these PLOs will close at noon one week prior to the session.

### **New CERDEP Teacher Training**

In this PLO, new CERDEP teachers and assistants will learn more about the Profile of Ready Kindergartener, South Carolina Early Learning Standards, CERDEP monitoring, the Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation (ELLCO) Tool, classroom schedules, literacy rich environments, assessment, and purposeful play. This will be a one-day regional PLO with various dates teachers and assistants may select from.

Session Title	Location and date	Registration
New CERDEP Teacher Training (Midlands)	Lexington 2 Innovation Center June 29, 2023	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
New CERDEP Teacher Training (Upstate)	Laurens 55 Training Room June 27, 2023	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
New CERDEP Teacher Training (Lowcountry)	TBD	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>

### **The Pyramid Model Sessions**

Beginning early in life, executive function is key for helping preschool children to understand and manage their emotions, feel, and show empathy for others, establish healthy relationships, set positive goals, and make responsible decisions. South Carolina has adopted the Pyramid framework to promote the social and emotional competence of children birth to age five in the context of nurturing relationships and high-quality learning environments.

The Pyramid PIECES State Leadership Team (SLT) is an interagency group of state-level partners who collaborate to plan, implement, evaluate, and sustain a professional development system that supports high fidelity use of the Pyramid Model in our state.

As part of the SC Pyramid, PIECES developed three different options for educators interested in the Pyramid Model. Pyramid Webinars will offer to allow participants the opportunity to gain information and easy to follow strategies for each of the three tiers. SC-ELS and Pyramid will be a face-to-face option for educators to learn how to incorporate the Pyramid Model in their current curriculum and daily routines. The Pyramid Cohorts will include three face-to-face sessions with an in depth focus on ways to implement and sustain evidence-based approaches that support the learning and engagement of ALL children through concrete strategies. In addition, early childhood educators and practitioners now have FREE access to [modules](#).

### **The Pyramid Model Webinars**

The Pyramid Model builds upon a tiered approach to provide universal supports to all children to promote wellness, targeted services to those who need more support, and intensive services to those who need them. *The Pyramid Model Tier 1: Universal Supports and Establishing the First*

April 18, 2023

*21 Days of School* includes the practices needed to ensure the promotion of the social development of all children and the first 21 days of school. *The Pyramid Model Tier 2: Responsive Teaching Practices to Support Positive Behaviors* will focus participants on targeted social emotional supports through explicit instruction in the areas of self-regulation, expressing and understanding emotions, developing social relationships and problem-solving. *The Pyramid Model Tier 3: Individual Supports* will be comprised of practices related to individualized intensive interventions and behavior support plans.

Session Title	Webinar Date and Time	Registration
The Pyramid Model Tier 1: Universal Supports and Establishing the First 21 Days of School	Live Webinar: July 11, 2023 9:00am-12:00pm	<a href="#">Register here.</a> The webinar link will be sent in a follow up email.
The Pyramid Model Tier 2: Responsive Teaching Practices to Support Positive Behaviors	Live Webinar: July 13, 2023 9:00am-12:00pm	<a href="#">Register here.</a> The webinar link will be sent in a follow up email.
The Pyramid Model Tier 3: Individual Supports	Live Webinar: July 18, 2023 9:00am-12:00pm	<a href="#">Register here.</a> The webinar link will be sent in a follow up email.

### **South Carolina Early Learning Standards (SC-ELS) and The Pyramid Model (One Day Sessions):**

The participants of this session will connect SC-ELS and assessments to the Pyramid Model. Participants will leave understanding how to implement their learning to curriculum design, daily routines, transitions, and anecdotal notes to support the growth and development of all children, especially children with diverse learning needs.

Session Title	Location and date	Registration
Pyramid Practices to Support the Growth and Development of ALL Children (Upstate)	Laurens 55 Training Room July 18, 2023	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
Pyramid Practices to Support the Growth and Development of ALL Children (Lowcountry)	Men Riv Educational Center July 25, 2023	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
Pyramid Practices to Support the Growth and Development of ALL Children (Midlands)	Lexington 2 Innovation Center July 27, 2023	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>

**Pyramid Regional Cohorts (Three Day Sessions)**

As part of the SC PIECES State leadership work, we will provide regional cohorts where educators will participate in **three** Pyramid sessions designed to develop executive function competence for academic success. Each participant should be willing to commit to attending **three** regional sessions, as well as, developing a plan to support executive function development within their classroom, school and/or district. These three sessions will focus on ways to implement and sustain evidence-based approaches that support the learning and engagement of ALL children through concrete strategies. Session one will focus on developing nurturing, responsive relationships and designing high-quality supportive environments. The focus of session two will be how to implement and sustain evidence-based approaches that teach strategies for social and emotional competence through developing friendship skills, controlling anger and impulse, and developing problem-solving skills. Session three will focus on developing an individualized behavior support plan with intensive intervention.

Session Title	Location and dates	Registration
The Pyramid Model Cohort : Upstate	Laurens 55 Training Room – September 13, 2023, October 11, 2023, and November 8, 2023	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
The Pyramid Model Cohort: Aiken	Aiken County School District September 6, 2023, October 19, 2023, and November 1, 2023	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
The Pyramid Model Cohort: Midlands	Lexington 2 Adult Education Center September 15, 2023, October 20, 2023, and November 11, 2023	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
The Pyramid Model Cohort: PeeDee Area	TBD TBD	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
The Pyramid Model Cohort: Lowcountry	Charleston TBD	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>

**(SC-ELS) Sessions: Purposeful, Playful Mathematics in Early Childhood Education**

This training will focus participants on being intentional while nurturing and engaging each student in his/her development of mathematical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving within data analysis, geometry, and measurement. This session will build an awareness of how development occurs through counting, sorting, classifying, and later patterning as well as how to scaffold students' development of mathematical concepts through hands-on, purposeful play scenarios throughout the preschool day to build an understanding of geometry and measurement, focusing specifically on 2-D and 3-D shapes as well as weight using balance scales. Participants

will leave with a goal and next steps in how to intentionally promote, encourage, support, and expose children to math in different everyday playful learning situations and activities for each child in their care.

### **SC-ELS Sessions: Scaffolding Preschooler's Early Writing Skills**

Writing is just one part of a busy early childhood classroom, but even in little doses, a nurturing approach can work wonders and help children connect the natural writer inside them to a life of expressing themselves on paper. The OELL team will explore a framework teachers can use to provide writing opportunities, easily evaluate children's writing, and help children take the next step in their writing development. This session will address the importance of fostering early writing skills, how writing typically develops in young children, and how teachers can actively support this development.

### **SC-ELS Sessions: Effectively Using Assessments to Support School Readiness**

By closely observing student behaviors and actions in classrooms, teachers can identify and gain insight into student interests, strengths, learning styles, behavior, and academic progress. The information gathered through kidwatching can be used to plan and implement class tasks, strategies and tools tailored to students' needs and interests. During this session, participants will observe students, record observations, and plan learning experiences to support school readiness for all students.

Session Title	Location, date, and time	Registration
SC-ELS: Math	September 12, 2023- Lexington 2 Innovation Center	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
SC-ELS: Early Writing Skills	October 17, 2023-Lexington 2 Innovation Center	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>
SC-ELS: Assessment	November 8, 2023-Lexington 2 Innovation Center	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>

### **SC-ELS Session: I Am a Teacher Too**

This session is designed for the preschool teacher's assistant and paraprofessional. During this session, participants will have the opportunity to listen, interact and exchange ideas to ensure their performance in the classroom maximizes student outcomes. Topics will include the participants role in oral language development through interactions and engagement, purposeful play-based activities, and recording observations.

Session Title	Location, date, and time	Registration
SC-ELS: I Am a Teacher Too	Lexington 2 Innovation Center July 25, 2023	<a href="#">To register, click here.</a>

### **Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree: Rooted in High Quality Early Learning Environments**

The Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree is a collaboration between the SCDE, Head Start, SC First Steps and the SC Department of Social Services (DSS) and is supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5). This training will focus on ways to support and uplift the child's natural curiosity through natural play and learning. All SC pre-K/preschool teachers, support staff and administrators are invited to join the virtual event. This conference will be held on the morning of August 1, 2023 and the afternoon of August 2, 2023. All attendees can qualify for SC DSS/SC Endeavors credit hours. Additional information and registration link is forthcoming.

### **Champions Symposium –The Building Blocks of Literacy**

The Champions for Young Children Symposium aims to provide a rich professional development experience around a specific theme for participants and to offer an opportunity for professionals from multiple facets of early childhood education and parents to access information and network (e.g., mental health, Head Start, pre-K (public and private), early intervention, home visitation, child care, early childhood education, early childhood special education). This conference will inspire and empower participants to understand their role related to reigniting their passion for supporting young children and their families and renewing their use of strategies to engage young children in learning. This conference is scheduled for August 4, 2023 at R2I2. All attendees can qualify for SC DSS/SC Endeavors credit hours. Additional information and registration link is forthcoming.

If your school or district would like to request a book study or additional support via virtual training or face-to-face training please submit a request by clicking [here](#).

For more information concerning the OELL professional learning opportunities, please contact Wendy Burgess, Team Lead for Early Learning, at [wburgess@ed.sc.gov](mailto:wburgess@ed.sc.gov), 803-734-5858, or Sherri Evans at [sqevans@ed.sc.gov](mailto:sqevans@ed.sc.gov) 803-734-1286.