



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Early Childhood Coordinators
School Administrators
Instructional Coaches

FROM: Abbey Duggins, PhD
Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

DATE: May 9, 2024

RE: Early Learning Office Professional Learning Opportunities Summer 2024

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) will offer several free professional learning opportunities (PLOs) for teachers, teaching assistants, reading coaches, instructional coaches, and administrators. 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 be face-to-face and focused on early learning and literacy instructional strategies that have a direct impact on student learning. This memo provides PLO details that will be offered during summer 2024.

Please note: the face-to-face sessions outlined in this memorandum will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 4:00 p.m. Participants should 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.

Joyful Center-Based Learning in PreK: The What, Why, & How!

ELLEN E. WEAVER · STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
RUTLEDGE BUILDING · 1429 SENATE STREET · COLUMBIA, SC 29201
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This PLO is intended to support any teacher new to CERDEP or to rejuvenate seasoned educators with a refresh of the value in providing joyful center-based learning experiences. In this session, participants will actively engage in understanding the what, why, and how of using purposeful play-based explorations and investigations as a leading instructional strategy using the SC Early Learning Standards, curriculum, and/or theme to promote children's development across all domains.

I Am a Teacher Too!

Designed for preschool and kindergarten paraprofessionals, this session will equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to foster children's playful learning. Building an understanding of the importance of play in young children's development, participants will actively engage in concrete examples of understanding the hallmarks of a play facilitator and effective practices and play-based activities to support teachers in maximizing student outcomes—the ability to communicate ideas, collaborate with others, creatively innovate new solutions, critically think and evaluate data, have the confidence to try new things, develop the willingness to fail, and most importantly, grow healthy relationships.

Session Title	Location and dates	Registration
<u>Joyful Center-Based Learning in PreK: The What, Why, & How!</u>	<p>July 18, 2024 Upstate: Laurens 55 Training Room 301 Hillcrest Drive, Laurens, SC 29360</p> <p>July 17, 2024 Midlands: Lexington 2 509 Bulldog Boulevard Cayce, SC 29033</p>	https://scde.formstack.com/forms/oell_early_learning_summer_2024_plos
<u>I Am a Teacher Too!</u>	<p>July 23, 2024 Upstate: Laurens 55 Training Room 301 Hillcrest Drive, Laurens, SC 29360</p> <p>July 22, 2024 Midlands: Lexington 2 509 Bulldog Boulevard Cayce, SC 29033</p>	https://scde.formstack.com/forms/oell_early_learning_summer_2024_plos

If you would like to request training please [submit a request](#).

For more information concerning the OELL professional learning opportunities, please contact Wendy Burgess, Team Lead for Early Learning, at wburgess@ed.sc.gov, 803-734-5858.