



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Sheila Quinn, Ed.D
Deputy Superintendent
Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

DATE: March 21, 2016

RE: Educator Evaluation Focus Groups

The South Carolina Department of Education's Office of Educator Effectiveness, in conjunction with the Southeast Comprehensive Center, is conducting regional focus groups to gather feedback related to revisions to the March 2015 Expanded ADEPT/PADEPP Evaluation Guidelines. Focus groups will be conducted during the weeks of March 14-18 and March 21-25, 2016 in six regional locations. Feedback will help to shape the Expanded ADEPT/PADEPP guidelines revisions as approved by the South Carolina Board of Education on January 13, 2016.

The Southeast Comprehensive Center, a regional branch of American Institutes of Research (AIR), organized and is conducting the focus groups in order to keep participants and their feedback anonymous. Focus group participants were selected randomly from the list of self-nominated teachers and principals. Those selected to participate received an email notice directly from AIR (air.org) regarding their selection status.

Principal focus groups last one hour, and are conducted between 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., teacher focus groups last one hour and are conducted between 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Those traveling farthest from the host site were scheduled into later times so as not to impact instructional time. Educator voice is critical in making meaningful adjustments to the evaluation system and we appreciate your support in this effort.

For questions related to the Focus Groups, contact Kris Joannes, Director of Educator Effectiveness at kjoannes@ed.sc.gov, (803)734-0443.