



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Attendance Supervisors
Dropout Prevention Contacts
School Counseling Personnel
Student Services Directors

FROM: Katie Nilges
Director of Governmental Affairs

DATE: February 23, 2021

RE: Expansion of ENGAGE South Carolina Attendance Recovery Program

As the 2020-21 school year moves forward, it is imperative that the educational needs and success of students and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are continued to be addressed and supported. To assist teachers, schools, and districts in these efforts, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) created the ENGAGE South Carolina program aimed at helping re-engage K-12 students. In partnership with Graduation Alliance, ENGAGE South Carolina is currently providing support to those students and families who may be struggling to adapt to new learning schedules and environments brought on by the pandemic. Information on ENGAGE South Carolina was provided to districts in an October 27, 2020, [memo](#).

In order for additional districts, students, and families to participate and receive on-going support throughout the summer and the 2021-22 school year, the SCDE is expanding this resource.

ENGAGE South Carolina will continue to bring an experienced student outreach and coaching team to:

- reach students who have disengaged during the transition to remote learning;
- identify and mitigate the obstacles preventing engagement;
- provide the services of a personal academic coach to help the student learn the skills necessary to succeed in new learning environments and connect, as necessary, with local resources;
- monitor the student's pace and progress throughout the school year; and
- provide the support the student needs to stay engaged, ensuring they continue learning

and earning credit toward graduation.

There are many reasons a student might be disengaged or not progressing as they should. Those struggling may even be those students who were previously thriving in their classes before the pandemic. This is not their fault, nor is it the fault of their teachers or their schools. Learning environments and the world itself has shifted in profound ways and it is reasonable that many students would be struggling with these changes.

This program is being offered to all public schools at no cost, but space is limited and districts must opt-in to participate. To opt-in you will need to identify your district or charter school team primary contact, estimate the number of students who have not engaged in learning or those you feel would benefit from ENGAGE South Carolina, and share information with your data coordinator about the program as Graduation Alliance will be reaching out to them to coordinate referrals. A representative from Graduation Alliance will contact districts in the coming days to share more information about the program and answer any questions.

To opt-in, visit <https://EngageSC.GraduationAlliance.com>.

To help facilitate questions and provide additional information, the SCDE and Graduation Alliance will host **a live webinar on February 25, 2021, at 12:00pm**. To register, [click here](#). A recording of the webinar is also available [here](#).

Questions can be directed and additional information can be obtained by emailing EngageSC@graduationalliance.com.