MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
   District Information Technology (IT) Leaders
   Report Card/Accountability Coordinators

FROM: Molly M. Spearman
       State Superintendent of Education

DATE: May 19, 2020

RE: Interoperability Standards in State Reporting and Communication

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) provides state sponsored student information systems as a support for districts and a uniform source for student data. The utility of that data can be increased by allowing multiple data sources to share data across systems. Building the connectors that facilitate that sharing is a limiting factor in the effective use of data at the state and district levels. To mitigate the costs associated with sharing data across systems, the SCDE is adopting a series of interoperability standards for data exchange that will save the state and school districts time and money and improve data quality.

The SCDE has selected the Ed-Fi data model with South Carolina extensions for communication of student demographic and program information. SCDE has selected IMS Global Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange (CASE) for Academic Standards publication and the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) standards for student transcript exchange.

The adoption of these standards and identification of them as a communication requirement supports an enterprise view of data at the district level and helps minimize data collection requirements at the state level. The adoption will also drive data quality improvements. The SCDE is reviewing other data standards as it reviews state-level purchases, such as potential purchase of a Learning Object Repository and Learning Management System. If you have questions about these standards, please contact Dan Ralyea, Director, Office of Research and Data Analysis, dralyea@ed.sc.gov.