

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders
Principals
District Math Coordinators

FROM: Alisha Green, EdD
Director, Office of Instructional Supports

DATE: July 29, 2025

RE: Palmetto Math Project Tiered Support for 2025-2026

This memorandum provides key updates on the Palmetto Math Project (PMP), an initiative developed in response to a statewide need to improve mathematics achievement in underperforming schools across South Carolina.

Overview

The PMP supports schools in which 50% or more of 5th and/or 8th grade students score in the *Does Not Meet* category on the SC READY Math assessment. These schools will collaborate closely with South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Math Specialists to strengthen student numeracy through structured, tiered support.

- **Phase 1 (2024–2025):** The project launched with 10 pilot schools.
- **Phase 2 (2025–2026):** The initiative will expand to additional schools identified using 2024 SC READY Math data. Participating schools will receive either Tier 3 or Tier 2 support, as outlined below.

Tier 3 Support

Schools identified for Tier 3 support will be assigned a dedicated, onsite math specialist who will provide:

- Ongoing professional development on implementing the 2025 math standards
- Guidance on using newly adopted high-quality instructional materials (HQIM)
- Monthly training sessions
- Classroom observations followed by coaching cycles

Tier 2 Support

Schools receiving Tier 2 support will work with regional math specialists who will provide:

- Quarterly professional development on the 2025 math standards, effective use of HQIM, and manipulatives during Tier 1 instruction
- Optional school visits upon request by school administrators or leadership teams

Tier 1 Statewide Math Support

While Tier 1 schools do not meet the criteria for PMP identification, all schools (Tiers 1, 2, and 3) have access to two key instructional resources via the Instruction Hub:

Zearn

Zearn supports learning acceleration through just-in-time scaffolding and foundational math skills linked to grade-level content. Key features include:

- Tier 2 student support aligned with the MTSS framework
- K–8 digital lessons aligned with the 2025 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Mathematics Standards
- Differentiated pathways to help students catch up and advance
- Interactive professional development for teachers

The Modern Classrooms Project

This resource provides comprehensive guidance and videos to support implementation of the 2025 math standards and HQIM, including:

- Standard-by-standard breakdowns with student-friendly learning goals
- Clear instructional focus for each standard
- HQIM alignment and coherence across related standards
- Practical instructional language and strategies for mastery learning

Additional details about both Zearn and The Modern Classrooms Project will be provided in an upcoming agency memorandum, scheduled for release in the coming months.

Next Steps

Schools eligible for PMP participation have been identified using 2024 SC READY Math data and will engage in a three-year cycle of tiered support. The Office of Instructional Support (OIS) will contact superintendents and principals of identified schools with additional details and next steps.

For questions or additional information, please contact Elizabeth Schumpert at:

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