



# 2024 SCREADY SCIENCE ASSESSMENT WAIVER

## When did South Carolina adopt new science standards?

- The South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Science Standards 2021 were officially approved by the State Board of Education and the Education Oversight Committee on June 14, 2021.
- The standards are rich in content and require students to use science and engineering practices, cross-cutting concepts, and make connections across science disciplines.

## What would occur if this flexibility is granted?

- South Carolina will administer a census field test of the general and alternate science assessments in spring 2024 for all eligible students enrolled in grades 4 & 6.
- South Carolina will not administer the current general and alternate science assessments in grades 4 and 6 and not report individual assessment field test results to parents, educators, or the public.
- South Carolina will hold districts and schools accountable for participation in the field test and report that data to the Department.

The South Carolina Department of Education is seeking flexibility from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2024 SCREADY Science Assessment.

## What is South Carolina's current science assessment?

- The current state assessment is the SCREADY Science in grades 4 and 6.
- The SCDE is NOT seeking a waiver for the EOCEP Biology I assessment.

## Why is South Carolina seeking flexibility by applying for a waiver?

- About 67% of content of the grade 4 standards is new content, 69% of grade 6 standards is new. A formal item bank alignment revealed the loss of 97% of the general assessment item bank and approximately 50% of the alternate assessment item bank.
- Due to the above considerations, it is necessary for South Carolina to administer a census field test to build an item bank that could support the development of general and alternate operational assessment for 2024-2025. To do this, South Carolina needs a waiver from sections III(b)(2)(B)(v)(ii)(aa) and III(b)(2)(B)(v)(ii)(bb) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- If the waiver is approved, it would allow districts and teachers adequate time to implement instruction based on the new standards, which represent nearly two-thirds new content in each grade.

## How can I give my input on this flexibility request?

Please participate in this [statewide survey](#) by August 1, 2023.