

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Kristi D. Austin, PhD
Director, Office of Assessment and Standards

DATE: June 24, 2025

RE: SC READY and EOCEP Updates

The 2025-26 SC READY Mathematics and Algebra 1 EOCEP assessments will undergo important changes to align with the fully implemented 2025 South Carolina College and Career Ready (CCR) Mathematics Standards and to meet the requirements in the Education Accountability Act (EAA).

Key changes include:

- New 2-day testing format for SC READY Mathematics (Grades 3–5 only)
- Revised section order for SC READY Mathematics (Grades 6–8): No Calculator section will come first
- EOCEP Algebra 1: Aligned to CCR Standards, remains one-day with calculator use on all items
- Test security requirement: All SC READY and EOCEP testing rooms (all subjects) must have both a Test Administrator and a Monitor beginning in 2025–26

These changes also support the rollout of new growth measures, including Quantile scores, national percentile ranks, and vertical scale scores, which will be included in Individual Student Score Reports starting in 2025–26.

Why These Changes Are Required

Under Section 59-18-325 of the EAA, South Carolina’s summative assessments must:

- Be vertically scaled and benchmarked across four achievement levels
- Measure readiness for the next level of learning
- Align to national college- and career-readiness benchmarks
- Allow comparisons with students in other states

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To meet these expectations and align with new math standards, the OAS will embed field-test items to calibrate the new growth measures noted above. These updates will allow for stronger year-to-year progress tracking and better support for instructional decisions.

Specific Assessment Updates

SC READY Mathematics

- Grades 3–5: Administered over two days for the 2026 administration only
- Grades 6–8: The No Calculator section will be given first, followed by the Calculator section; this will remain the standard moving forward

Algebra 1 EOCEP

- Will assess the 2025 SC CCR Mathematics Standards
- Remains a one-day test
- Calculators allowed on all items
- Counts for 20% of the final course grade and used in state accountability reporting

New Test Security Requirement (All Subjects)

Starting in the 2025–26 school year, all testing rooms for SC READY and EOCEP assessments must include:

- One Test Administrator
- One Monitor

This is in response to increased incidents of unauthorized technology use, including cell phones and AI tools, which jeopardize test item security and inflate item replacement costs. This change strengthens statewide efforts to ensure test validity and safeguard resources.

What to Expect Next

- Additional implementation guidance, training materials, and scheduling resources will be sent to District Test Coordinators in the coming weeks.
- SCDE will provide tools to support school-level preparation for staffing and scheduling logistics.

For questions or assistance, contact Susan Creighton at screight@ed.sc.gov.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for ensuring a smooth transition to these updated assessment practices in service of South Carolina’s students.