



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents

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

**DATE:** August 20, 2024

**RE:** SC READY ELA Format Changes

The Office of Assessment and Standards (OAS) is implementing updates to the SC READY English Language Arts (ELA) assessment format for the 2024–25 school year. These changes are designed to align with the fully operational 2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready ELA Standards and to ensure that our assessments continue to reflect the rigorous expectations outlined in the Education Accountability Act (EAA).

As mandated by Section 59-18-325 of the EAA, the summative assessment must rigorously measure student mastery of state standards in English/language arts, reading, writing, and mathematics and document student growth. Specifically, the EAA requires that the assessment:

- Be vertically scaled and benchmarked on at least four student achievement levels.
- Measure a student's preparedness for the next level of education.
- Document student progress toward national college and career readiness benchmarks.
- Report South Carolina students' performance compared to peers in other states.

To meet these objectives, the OAS will field test additional items on the ELA test. These items will help establish new Lexile measures, national percentile ranks, and vertical scale scores, all of which will be included in the students' Individual Score Reports.

**Key Change to SC READY ELA 2025 Administration:**

- **Three-Day Testing Requirement:** The 2025 SC READY ELA assessment will be administered over three days, with each of the following sections given on separate days: **Writing, Reading Section A, and Reading Section B.** The reading sections must be administered on consecutive days, with at least one school day separating the reading sections from the writing section.
- **End-of-Course Examination Program for English 2:** The EOC for English 2 will also assess the 2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready ELA Standards but remain a two-day test.

Additional details and guidance will be communicated to District Test Coordinators in the coming weeks.

We recognize that this transition may require adjustments at the district level, and we are committed to providing the necessary support and resources. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Susan Creighton at [screight@ed.sc.gov](mailto:screight@ed.sc.gov).

Thank you for your continued dedication to the academic success of South Carolina's students.