



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

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Information Technology Leaders  
District Instructional Leaders

**FROM:** Rebecca M. Gunnlaugsson, Ph.D.  
Chief of Staff

**DATE:** January 7, 2025

**RE:** SCDE Welcomes New CIO

We are thrilled to announce that Dan Ralyea, our own respected leader in data and technology, will be stepping into the role of Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Department of Education.

Many of you know Dan from his exceptional work as our Director of Research and Data Analysis since 2015. Under his leadership, we've seen remarkable advancements, including the deployment of the statewide Ed-Fi data platform, the SLDS Early Learning Extension, and the implementation of machine-readable academic standards. His efforts have directly contributed to improving how we manage, analyze, and report data, ensuring our schools and partners have access to accurate and timely information.

With a strong foundation in education—holding both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mathematics Education—and extensive experience in both public education and the private sector, Dan brings a unique blend of technical expertise, strategic thinking, and a passion for improving educational outcomes. His career spans roles as a teacher, research specialist, and even Chief Operating Officer, collectively strengthening his ability to lead complex systems and drive meaningful change.

In his new role as CIO, Dan will begin transitioning from his current duties and will work closely with our teams to set the vision and direction for IT modernization, data-driven decision-making, and enhanced support services for districts. His collaborative approach and deep understanding

of our mission make him the ideal leader to guide us into a future of innovative and efficient technology solutions.

Please join me in welcoming Dan to this exciting new role! We are fortunate to have someone with his dedication and expertise guiding us forward. I know he is eager to connect with each of you as we work together toward our shared goals.