



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders

FROM: Abbey Duggins, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

DATE: April 16, 2024

RE: Submission Process for 180-Day Attendance Waiver for Kindergarten & CERDEP to Administer Readiness Assessments

Act 114 of 2024 allows district superintendents or charter school authorizers to submit a request to the department to waive the minimum one hundred eighty-day school attendance requirement for kindergarten and South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) students to administer readiness assessments. Upon approval of the waiver request, the approved school may allow kindergarten and CERDEP students to be administered the assessments during a shortened school day within the first five days of the academic year.

Only 4K students enrolled in CERDEP are eligible for staggered starts. Should a district choose to administer CERDEP or kindergarten assessments on a staggered schedule during the first five days of school, [the superintendent is asked to complete this form.](#)

Submit your waiver as soon as possible. Approval from the South Carolina Department of Education must be granted before the district's start date for 2024–25. If approved, the minimum 180-day attendance requirement is waived only for CERDEP and/or kindergarten students.

Contact the following individuals with questions:

- Abbey Duggins, asduggins@ed.sc.gov, for questions related to Act 114 of 2024;
- Meghan Walters-Branham, mgwalters@ed.sc.gov, for questions related to the administration of 4K and 5K Readiness Assessments: Teaching Strategies GOLD®, myIGDIs™ by Renaissance, and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA); and
- Dan Ralyea, dralyea@ed.sc.gov, for questions about PowerSchool or school setups.