

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Instructional Leaders  
District Test Coordinators

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

**DATE:** July 8, 2025

**RE:** Waivers for SC READY for 2025-26

The Education Accountability Act (EAA) mandates computer-based testing for SC READY except for students with disabilities as specified in their Individualized Education Program, 504, or Individualized Language Acquisition Plan. The Technology Technical Assistance Proviso (Proviso 1.57) in the General Appropriations Bill for FY 2025–26 allows districts and public charter schools to request a waiver from the State Board of Education (SBE) to administer the tests on paper.

The intent of this proviso is to provide financial assistance to districts that do not have sufficient devices or infrastructure to offer online testing. Waivers indicating that districts or specific schools do not have access to the internet or do not have appropriate technology to support online testing for all students may be eligible to receive a waiver for the 2025–26 school year.

The EAA also requires districts to administer SC READY during the last twenty days of each district’s regular instructional calendar but allows districts and charter schools to request a waiver from the State Board of Education to extend the testing window. Districts may request to extend the test window by ten days or less.

Additionally, districts may complete a waiver request to administer the SC READY TDW (text dependent writing) test on paper for third-and fourth-grade students. Districts will be required to pay if the waiver request is approved. Details regarding the mixed-mode procedures will be provided in a separate communication. Districts will assume

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responsibility for complying with all procedures. Failure to do so could result in invalid scores.

The deadline to submit waivers is **August 15, 2025**. All waivers should be submitted using [https://scde.formstack.com/forms/assessment\\_waiver\\_form](https://scde.formstack.com/forms/assessment_waiver_form).

Please send any questions to Susan Creighton at [screight@ed.sc.gov](mailto:screight@ed.sc.gov) in the Office of Assessment and Standards.