

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders
District Test Coordinators

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

DATE: July 28, 2026

RE: Waivers for SC READY for 2026-27

This memo provides information about three possible waivers districts may apply for the 2026–27 administration of SC READY. Districts must fill out the [SC READY Waiver Form](#) to apply.

Waiver to Test on Paper Provided by The Technology Technical Assistance Proviso

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 Plan, or Individualized Language Acquisition Plan. Under the Continuing Resolution, Technology Technical Assistance Proviso 1.57 of 2025–2026 to be updated upon approval of the budget for 2026–2027, allowed districts and public charter schools to request a waiver from the State Board of Education (SBE) to administer the tests on paper. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is opening the waiver application process for districts and public charter schools seeking permission to administer assessments on paper.

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 apply to receive a waiver for the 2026–2027 school year.

Waiver to Extend the Testing Window

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 SBE to extend the testing window. Districts may request to extend the test window by ten days or less.

Waiver for Mixed-Mode Testing in Third- and Fourth-Grades

Additionally, districts may complete a waiver request to administer the SC READY 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 responsibility for complying with all procedures. Failure to do so could result in invalid scores.

The deadline to submit all three waivers is **August 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** All waivers should be submitted using the [SC READY Waiver Form](#).

Please send any questions to Crystal Huckabee at clhuckabee@ed.sc.gov in the Office of Assessment and Standards.