



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

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April 27, 2021

Missed last week's memos?

All SCDE weekly memo communications are archived [here](#). Individual memos can be found on the [School District Memoranda Archive](#).

COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

DHEC began reporting positive COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools on September 4, 2020. Since that time, there have been **17,398** [positive cases among K-12 students and staff](#) who attended school face to face during their infectious period. During that same time period (9/4/2020 to 4/25/2021) DHEC has reported **447,713** [positive cases among all South Carolinians](#).

This means that positive cases among K-12 students and staff who attended school account for **3.9%** of South Carolina's total since K-12 positive case reporting began. Public and private K-12 students and staff make up approximately one fifth of South Carolina's total population.

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 4/25/2021)

[Recent Disease Activity, by County Report](#) (as of 4/21/2021)

FIVE-DAY IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

Five-Day In-Person Instruction and Requirements of S.704

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals

CONTACT: Katie Nilges, knilges@ed.sc.gov

On April 22, 2021, Governor McMaster signed into law [S.704](#), a joint resolution that impacts school operations for both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. Specifically, the legislation requires that for the current school year, every school district must offer five-day, in-person classroom instruction to students and families who have chosen this mode of instruction no later than April 26, 2021. For the 2021-22 school year, every school district must also offer five-day, in-person classroom instruction to students. There is no provision in the law that

prohibits a school district from continuing to offer virtual instruction to those students and their families who have chosen it this school year.

In addition to the in-person instruction requirements, S.704 allows districts to hire retired members of the South Carolina Retirement System above the earnings limitation imposed by SC Code Section [9-1-1790](#) up to \$50,000 annually without affecting the monthly retirement allowance that the member is receiving from the system so long as the individual retired on or before April 1, 2019 and returns to otherwise covered employment in the K-12 public education system. No retired member may be compensated for an employment period exceeding 36 consecutive months. School districts must notify the South Carolina Retirement System of the engagement of a retirement member to perform services.

[Five-Day In-Person Instruction and Requirements of S.704 - Memo](#) PDF (157 KB)

[Bill S. 704 - Attachment](#) PDF (139 KB)

[Frequently Asked Questions on S.704 - Memo](#) PDF (161 KB) **NEW**

ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Assessment and Accountability

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, Accountability Coordinators
CONTACT: Liz Jones (Assessments), ejones@ed.sc.gov, Dan Ralyea (Accountability), dralyea@ed.sc.gov

On March 26th, the United States Department of Education (USED) [denied the South Carolina Department of Education's \(SCDE\) waiver request for suspension of accountability testing](#) in English language arts and mathematics and [granted the SCDE's request for a waiver for accountability, school identification, and related reporting requirements](#) including the adjustment of the Academic Achievement indicator based on a participation rate below 95 percent.

In the [letter to Chief State School Officers on February 22nd](#), the USED explicitly stated "Certainly, we do not believe that if there are places where students are unable to attend school safely in person because of the pandemic that they should be brought into school buildings for the sole purpose of taking a test." Consistent with the guidance provided by these two communications, the SCDE has devised a system to record students that have not tested this year due to being unable to safely attend school and exempt them from current and longitudinal assessment accountability measures.

[Assessment and Accountability - Memo](#) PDF (169 KB)

LEARNING OBJECT REPOSITORY

Instruction Hub

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, Principals
CONTACT: David Mathis, dmathis@ed.sc.gov

The State Department of Education (SCDE) is building a Learning Object Repository known to South Carolina educators as the Instruction Hub. The Instruction Hub, created by Safari Montage, is a central comprehensive digital library for teachers in all districts to access high-quality, effective resources aligned to South Carolina College and Care Ready Standards. Of particular interest to teachers, the Instruction Hub will include resources purchased by the SCDE as well as lesson plans and units developed by South Carolina educators. Some of the purchased materials are currently available in the Instruction Hub and more will be provided as the repository continues to be developed. Lesson plan development will begin in May 2021

with lessons and units available to teachers no later than August 2021.

[Instruction Hub - Memo](#) PDF (161 KB)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Virtual K-12 Computer Science Professional Development Week (CSPDWeek)

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, CTE Directors, Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Andrew Cook, acook@ed.sc.gov

The following free virtual K–12 Computer Science professional learning opportunities are available to educators and school counselors. Please share this information with the appropriate persons to register using the [CSPDWeek July 26–30, 2021](#) link. Teachers who are appropriately, grade level certified *and* successfully complete the training offered through CSPDWeek will be able to teach the following courses: Discovering Computer Science, Fundamentals of Computing, and Fundamentals of Web Page Design and Development. CSPDWeek also provides a variety of virtual K–12 Computer Science professional learning opportunities beyond training for the introductory Computer Science courses listed above. These professional development opportunities span beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels of instruction.

[Virtual K-12 Computer Science Professional Development Week \(CSPDWeek\) - Memo](#) PDF (166 KB)

MTSS

2020-21 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Required Reporting

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, District MTSS Coordinators

CONTACT: Quincie Moore, qmoore@ed.sc.gov

On May 18, 2018, Governor Henry McMaster signed into law Act 213, which directed districts to begin implementation of MTSS during the 2019–20 school year. A full copy of the law, including requirements for schools, districts, and the state, may be found [here](#).

Act 213 requires all districts and charter schools to report data on the implementation of MTSS and universal screening procedures. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) will combine this data to present to the State Board and General Assembly. **These district reports are due to the SCDE by June 30, 2021.**

[2020-21 Multi-Tiered System of Supports \(MTSS\) Required Reporting - Memo](#) PDF (176 KB)

GRANTS

Arts Curricular Innovation Grants - Distinguished Arts Program Grant Opportunity

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Public Information Officers

CONTACT: Gary Seaboldt, gseaboldt@ed.sc.gov or Monique Curry, lmcurry@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2021–22 Request for Proposals for the Arts Curricular Innovation Grants (ACIG)—**Distinguished Arts Program** grant is now available online. Approximately \$700,000 in funding will be distributed on a competitive basis and the deadline to apply is **June 2, 2021**.

For this funding round, the SCDE will fund one-year projects to schools and districts proposing arts initiatives that significantly improve student achievement in the arts and include all arts forms—dance, music, theatre, and visual arts—over a three-year period of their strategic arts plan.

[Arts Curricular Innovation Grants - Distinguished Arts Program Grant Opportunity - Memo](#) PDF (141 KB)

Arts Curricular Innovation Grants - Equitable Arts Advancement Program (EAAP) Grant Opportunity

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Public Information Officers

CONTACT: Gary Seaboldt, gseaboldt@ed.sc.gov or Monique Curry, lmcurry@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2021–22 Request for Proposals for the Arts Curricular Innovation Grants (ACIG)—**Equitable Arts Advancement** Program grant is now available online. Approximately \$396,000 in funding will be distributed on a competitive basis and the deadline to apply is **June 7, 2021**.

For this funding round, the SCDE will fund [South Carolina Title I schools](#) and/or [South Carolina Priority schools](#) to support the advancement of school arts programs, including dance, music, theatre, and/or visual art to provide equitable access, resources, and arts opportunities to all students. Applications may include any and all arts areas.

[Arts Curricular Innovation Grants - Equitable Arts Advancement Program \(EAAP\) Grant Opportunity - Memo](#) PDF (142 KB)

S.C. TEACHER OF THE YEAR GALA



South Carolina
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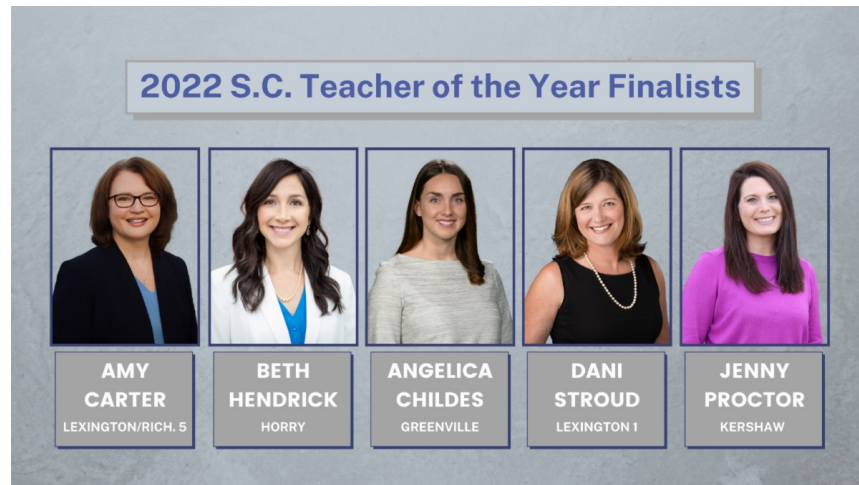
The annual South Carolina Teacher of the Year Gala, popularly known as the “Academy Awards” of teaching, will take place on **May 5, 2021** from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center (1101 Lincoln St, Columbia, SC). Prior to the start of the Gala, a reception beginning at 6:00p.m. will be held at the same location.

This event is the largest celebration of teaching in our state and hosts 79 District Teachers of the Year, legislators, and business and community leaders in an effort to acknowledge the importance of the teaching profession. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center has implemented measures that follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and are designed to keep guests safe. These include limited seating capacity, socially distanced tables and chairs, mask wearing when not eating or drinking, and temperature checks upon entry. A full list of measures and precautions can be found [here](#).

There are a **VERY LIMITED** number of tickets remaining.

[Purchase Tickets to the S.C. Teacher of the Year Gala](#)



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