



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



August 11, 2020

COVID-19

Updated DHEC Guidance Documents

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has updated a number of their school based guidance documents within the last few weeks with the latest public health guidance related to COVID-19. Please take a moment to review this important information.

[Recent Disease Activity by County Report](#) (as of 8/10/2020)

[Official School and Child Care Exclusion List of Contagious or Communicable Diseases](#)

- [School and Childcare Exclusion Brochure for Parents](#) (English)
- [School and Childcare Exclusion Brochure for Parents](#) (Spanish)

[Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Schools: Management of Suspect and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases](#)

ASSESSMENTS

Guidance for Administering the Readiness Assessments in Fall 2020

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Test Coordinators

CONTACT: Tina Shaw, tshaw@ed.sc.gov

The below linked memorandum provides information for administering the prekindergarten and kindergarten assessments in fall 2020: Teaching Strategies GOLD™, Individual Growth and Development Indicators (myIGDIs™), or Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS™) and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). Please refer to the attachment below for further details.

[Readiness Assessments for Prekindergarten and Kindergarten - Memo](#) PDF (134 KB)

[Guidance for Administering the Readiness Assessments in Fall 2020 - Attachment](#) PDF

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Repurposing Federal Equipment and Supplies to Combat COVID-19

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, CTE Coordinators, Instructional Leaders, Regional Career Specialists, School Counselors

CONTACT: Maria Swygert, nmswygert@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) strives to continually support districts while facing the many unanticipated challenges during these uncertain times. As such, guidance is being provided to subgrantees for the temporary repurpose of equipment and supplies purchased with federal funds that are not currently needed to carry out a grant program as a result of COVID-19.

Generally, equipment and supplies purchased with federal funds may only be used to carry out the purposes of the federal program for which they were purchased and for intended beneficiaries. However, due to the national emergency caused by COVID-19, the US Department of Education (USED) has issued guidance on the allowable cost requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

[Repurposing Federal Equipment and Supplies to Combat COVID-19 - Memo](#) PDF (167 KB)

CERTIFICATION

Family and Consumer Science Teacher Certification 2020-21

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, CTE Directors, Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Angel Malone, amalone@ed.sc.gov or Nancy Williams, nwilliams@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memorandum is to confirm that, for the 2020-21 school year, Family and Consumer Science will be considered an area of Career and Technical Education (CTE) certification for the purpose of employing retired teachers exempt from the earnings limitations imposed by S.C. Code Ann. §9-1-1790. This expanded approval of Family and Consumer Science as a critical subject area designation for 2020-21 is only for the purpose of the retirement exemption and is allowable only because these educators teach designated CTE courses. Family and Consumer Science has not been designated a critical need subject area for the purpose of teacher loan forgiveness for the 2020-21 school year. The above referenced exemption is only applicable to the 2020-21 academic year.

[Family and Consumer Science Teacher Certification 2020-21 - Memo](#) PDF (132 KB)

Teacher Candidates and Student Teaching

We previously shared one of the recommendations from the AccelerateED Task Force Final Report relating to teacher candidates and student teaching on the SCDE's social media accounts. Unfortunately, the AccelerateED recommendation was confused as an official policy position of the agency. While the SCDE supports many of the recommendations put

forth by the task force, this particular recommendation has NOT been adopted by the agency. In order to clear up any confusion, we are providing Guidance for College- and University-based Field and Clinical Experiences for 2020-21 that was shared with institutions of higher education and school districts in July.

Please take a moment to read how colleges, universities, and school districts are preparing the next generation of educators for careers in South Carolina's public schools.

[Guidance for College- and University-based Field and Clinical Experiences for 2020-21](#)

DATA, TECHNOLOGY, AND AGENCY OPERATIONS

New SCDE Member Center Transition

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Web Access Coordinators

CONTACT: Jeff Henry, rhenry@ed.sc.gov

You will soon see a new landing page for the Member Center on the ed.sc.gov website. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is pleased to announce the release and transition plan for the Member Center replacement, Web Application Portal. The new portal will provide the appropriate district personnel with improved user management and access to agency applications. This system will provide a one-stop shop for district staff to access agency applications, create users, and assign applicable roles, increasing the efficiency of applications.

[New SCDE Member Center Transition - Memo](#) PDF (143 KB)

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Development Professional Learning Opportunities 2020-21

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Personnel Directors

CONTACT: Tom Smith, tsmith@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership Development is pleased to announce dates for instructional leadership development cohorts beginning fall 2020. All of our cohorts focus on growing highly-effective educators who are prepared to support all students to reach the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Each cohort is limited based on space; previous cohorts have filled quickly. Interested participants should register at the appropriate links below.

Given the current statewide measures regarding COVID-19, we will continue to monitor data and follow advice from the Department of Health and Environmental Control on group gatherings. Fall sessions for each cohort will be virtual. We will reach out to registrants and districts directly if any additional changes in format are warranted.

[Leadership Development Professional Learning Opportunities 2020-21 - Memo](#) PDF (177 KB)

SAFETY SIGNAGE MATERIALS

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Public Information Officers, Principals

CONTACT: Ryan Brown, rybrown@ed.sc.gov

The SCDE has developed a series of school safety signage to help reinforce students and staff wearing face coverings, washing their hands, avoiding touching their face, and social distancing while within the school building. The materials now include signage illustrating the state's recently announced face covering requirements. The SCDE is affixing the school bus face covering requirement to the 5500+ school bus fleet.

The safety materials, which include accompanying social media graphics, can be found by visiting the link below. The SCDE has worked with an industrial printing company should a school or district need assistance with quality, competitive priced printing of signage. The contact information is included in the link.

[School Safety Signage Materials](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SCTS 4.0 RUBRIC VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION TRAINING

The South Carolina Department of Education and National Institute for Excellence in Teaching are offering all educators in South Carolina the opportunity to participate in three, 90-minute sessions to learn more about effective virtual teaching practices. These sessions are completely free and will be offered multiple times over the course of 2020-21. Educators will leave these sessions with an understanding of what the SCTS Teaching Standards look like when applied to online teaching; ideas for how to plan, transform, and strengthen virtual lessons; and awareness of how they improve student engagement and increase student growth in a virtual learning environment. There will also be different options for teachers and principals to receive more tailored support based on their role.

[SCTS 4.0 Rubric Virtual Instruction Training Flyer](#)

[South Carolina Offers Free Training to Support Teachers and Principals with Virtual Instruction](#)

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