



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



August 17, 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 WEBINAR

SCDE and DHEC COVID-19 School Operations Webinar

AUDIENCE: School and District Administrators

CONTACT: communications@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education and South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control will hold a joint webinar on **Thursday, August 19th** from **4:00-5:00 p.m.** The agencies will provide an update on COVID-19 as it relates to school operations and answer both public health and programmatic questions.

We ask that school and district administrators submit questions they wish for the agencies to address in advance via communications@ed.sc.gov. Questions should be submitted no later than Thursday, August 19th at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting **will be recorded** and made available for those that cannot attend.

[Click Here to Register](#)

COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

Beginning August 10, 2021, DHEC will update its COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students Dashboard for the 2021-2022 school year and will include cases from August 1-8, 2021. The dashboard will then be updated on Tuesday and Friday afternoons each week.

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 8/15/2021)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 8/15/2021)

[K-12 Schools Interim Guidance for Management of COVID-19 Cases](#)

ESSER III

Districts are reminded that their ARP ESSER (or ESSER III) plans are due to the South Carolina Department of Education on August 24, 2021. For information regarding ARP ESSER funds, please visit <https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/arp-esser-funding-information/>.

If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please e-mail scesser@ed.sc.gov.

ATTENDANCE

2021-22 Attendance Guidance

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, District Technology Coordinators

CONTACT: Aveene Coleman, acoleman@ed.sc.gov, Sabrina Moore, smoore@ed.sc.gov, Dan Ralyea (PowerSchool Coding), dralyea@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memo is to address onsite attendance and attendance in a virtual environment for students temporarily impacted by COVID-19.

The South Carolina Department of Education recommends that districts make appropriate accommodations for students who may be required to quarantine or self-isolate in accordance with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's [K-12 Schools Interim Guidance for Management of COVID-19 Cases](#). Accommodations may include temporarily moving the student(s) to a distance learning environment, such as electronic platforms or offsite environments (including home) utilizing instructional packets.

[2021-22 Attendance Guidance - Memo](#) PDF (190 KB)

[Frequently Asked Questions: Attendance - Attachment](#) PDF (294 KB)

DISTRICT WEBSITES

School District Website and Electronic Document Training

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Public Information Officers, Web Access Coordinators (WAC)

CONTACT: Valarie Byrd, vbyrd@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and the United States Department of Education-Office for Civil Rights (USDOE-OCR) is offering a live virtual training series on how school districts can make their websites and electronic documents accessible. This monthly training will occur from August through October 2021 from 3:00–4:00 p.m. The training is at no cost to districts. Participants can earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

[School District Website and Electronic Document Training - Memo](#) PDF (135 KB)

eLearning for School Make-Up Days

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Tammy Hegler or Rebecca Velasquez (Application), tthegler@ed.sc.gov
rvelasquez@ed.sc.gov, Lee D'Andrea (Regional Clusters), ldandrea@ed.sc.gov

Pursuant to 1A.69. (SDE-EIA: Digital Learning Plan) the implementation of the eLearning Days pilot program has become the responsibility of the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). Tammy Hegler and Rebecca Velasquez from the Office of Virtual Education will be the new program contacts starting with the 2021-22 school year.

Dr. Lee D'Andrea will continue to offer support and coordinate networking meetings for all districts through professional development. The five original regional clusters have been expanded to include all districts within the regional cluster.

Those eLearning school districts who meet the criteria for an eLearning district as determined by the SCDE may use up to five eLearning days to allow for the make-up of short-term disruptions to in-person teaching and learning interruptions (power outages, water main breaks, etc.). Please note that professional development days and COVID-19 related disruptions do not qualify as eLearning Days. (COVID-19 related disruptions are addressed in the Guidance for Confirming and Documenting Attendance memo, issued this month.)

[eLearning for School Make-Up Days - Memo](#) PDF (202 KB)

Digital Instruction Environment Support

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Lee D'Andrea, ldandrea@ed.sc.gov

All instructional delivery methods, face-to-face, synchronous virtual and synchronous online, depend on high quality instructional strategies, productive leadership, communications, effective resources, and ongoing professional development.

As a continuation of eLearning pilot project work in these areas, all districts (regardless of eLearning status) have been included in the Regional Clusters for Digital Instruction Environment Support during the 2021–22 school year. Each Regional Cluster will meet either virtually or in-person twice each semester to continue and expand on topics considered during the pilot project. These include the use of the district Learning Management System (LMS), the Instruction Hub (Learning Object Repository (LOR)), local resources, professional development needs and opportunities, and technical infrastructures. The Regional Clusters are identified in the attached **SC Regional Clusters for Digital Instruction Networking Map**. Meeting dates and locations are being developed and will be published in early September.

[Digital Instruction Environment Support - Memo](#) PDF (162 KB)

[SC Regional Clusters for Digital Instruction Networking Map - Attachment](#) PDF (343 KB)

[SC Implementation Process for Districts - Attachment](#) PDF (321 KB)

Kindergarten Staggered Start

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, PowerSchool Coordinators, Attendance Coordinators, Elementary School Principals, Primary School Principals

CONTACT: Quincie Moore (Waivers), qmoore@ed.sc.gov, Code Availability, PowerSchool@ed.sc.gov, Aveene Coleman (Attendance Coding), acoleman@ed.sc.gov

South Carolina Proviso 1A.74 (Kindergarten Start Dates) states a district superintendent or charter school authorizer may submit a request to the department to waive the minimum one hundred eighty day school attendance requirement for kindergarten students for the purpose of scheduling a readiness assessment. Upon approval of the waiver request, the approved school may stagger administering the readiness assessment to kindergarten students during the first five days of the academic year.

Proviso 1A.74 allows districts to apply for a [waiver](#) to provide flexibility in kindergarten start dates and allows a modification of 180 day compulsory attendance mandate. This waiver is for the purpose of administering the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. This flexibility should not impact the schools average daily membership or adversely impact the student's attendance record. To facilitate those goals the following coding schema should be used.

[Kindergarten Staggered Start - Memo](#) PDF (137 KB)

POWERSCHOOL

PowerSchool Coding

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, District Instructional Technology Coordinators, Attendance Coordinators, PowerSchool Coordinators

CONTACT: PowerSchool@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memo is to provide information to districts on coding student virtual/remote learning participation and coding course section instructional modality in PowerSchool.

[PowerSchool Coding - Memo](#) PDF (179 KB)

PROVISO 1.97

Guidance for Proviso 1.97 - School District Employees Data

AUDIENCE: School Business Officials, District Personnel Administrators

CONTACT: Desiree Williams, dawilliams@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memo is to remind districts of the reporting requirements set forth in Proviso 1.97 and to provide guidance on the appropriate way for districts to ensure this information is uploaded into SC Educator.

1.97. (SDE: School District Employees Data) By October 1, 2021, school districts shall provide a report detailing school, district administration, and Career Centers employees to the Department of Education. The report shall specify job duties and indicate the number of individuals whose primary job is to provide classroom instruction. The department is directed to compile the information received into a comprehensive report and submit such report to the General Assembly.

U.S. SENATE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

2022 U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program Competition

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals

CONTACT: Wanda Davis, wdavis@ed.sc.gov

The 60th Annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Washington Week event will take place March 5-12, 2022, with current plans for a timely national selection process and an in-person program in Washington, D.C., pending public health and safety guidelines for travel and indoor gatherings.

Two students from each state will be selected to attend and each student will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship. Students must be currently serving in an elected or appointed position representing their school or constituency for the entire 2021-22 school year, must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents at the time of application to the U.S. Senate Youth Program, and must be able to attend the entire 2022 in person or online Washington Week event set for March 5-12, 2022. To review all student eligibility requirements, you may refer to <http://ussenateyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2022-Brochure-with-ADA.pdf>.

[2022 U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program Competition - Memo](#) PDF (134 KB)

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Virtual Program Approval and Coding

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, District Instructional Technology Coordinators, Attendance Coordinators, PowerSchool Coordinators

CONTACT: Bradley Mitchell, bmitchell@ed.sc.gov, Coding of Virtual Students, PowerSchool@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) has approved district plans to implement a virtual instructional delivery program for the 2021–22 school year.

To meet the reporting requirement of Proviso 1.103, the SCDE is defining a special program code and an expanded series of section coding requirements.

[Virtual Program Approval and Coding - Memo](#) PDF (190 KB)

