



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



August 2, 2022

Missed last week's memos?

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

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

[District Retiree List](#) (7/29/2022)

[Title II, Part A Application](#) (7/31/2022)

[McKinney-Vento Subgrant Application](#) (8/1/2022)

[RBHS Contract Implementation Report](#) (8/12/2022)

[Expenditure Claims in GAPS](#) (8/15/2022)

[Website Legal Requirements Updates](#) (8/15/2022)

[Title IV, Part A Application](#) (8/31/2022)

COVID-19

DHEC COVID-19 Guidance for the 2022-2023 School Year

DHEC strongly recommends that school administrations utilize [CDC guidance](#) on school safety related to COVID-19, consistent with its approach to COVID-19 as an endemic condition and its approach to other communicable diseases in schools. The [2022-23 School and Childcare Exclusion List](#) is now available, providing requirements for isolation of those infected with COVID-19 or related symptoms.

Quarantine for close contacts of those with COVID-19 has been removed from the Exclusion List. Additional information regarding recommendations for close contact quarantine can be found in the CDC guidance.

[DHEC COVID-19 Outbreak Guidance](#) in the school setting has been published on the [DHEC Schools website](#) under the COVID-19 Outbreaks tab at the bottom of the page. This document provides guidance when 20 percent or more of the children/students/staff within a shared setting of more than 5 (i.e., a classroom, sports team, etc.) are identified as having COVID-19, or absent/sent home due to COVID-19 within 72 hours of each other. Outbreaks are required to be reported to the health department, and outbreak guidance includes quarantine for close contacts that are not up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination and have not

tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

Apart from the Exclusion List and Outbreak Guidance, DHEC does not plan to collect COVID-19 related data or require specific procedures or protocols for the 2022-23 school year. However, DHEC will continuously be performing surveillance related to COVID-19 and will re-evaluate guidance if there becomes public health benefit to doing so. DHEC appreciates everything its school partners have done throughout the pandemic to provide the safest and least restrictive learning environment possible for students in South Carolina.

Expiration Date Extension: At-Home iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests

The FDA has granted an additional three month shelf-life extension to At-Home iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests if printed expiration date is before September 29, 2022. iHealth Rapid tests distributed by DHEC have a printed expiration date in July 2022 which has now been extended six months past the printed date to January 2023. [Click here](#) for more information, including lot numbers and additional dates that received the extension. At-Home iHealth COVID-19 tests can be ordered by charter schools and districts using [this order form](#). As many SC counties are currently at a high COVID-19 community level, DHEC recommends that schools distribute tests to students and staff and maintain testing capacity on campus as an important preventive measure for infectious disease spread. Please contact COVID19SCschools@dhec.sc.gov with any questions.

EARLY LEARNING AND LITERACY

State Funded Reading/Literacy Coach Allocation

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, School Business Officials, Read to Succeed Liaisons

CONTACT: Marie Gibbons, mgibbons@ed.sc.gov, Michael Scheele, mscheele@ed.sc.gov

This memo provides an overview of required documentation for districts utilizing their 2022–23 reading/literacy coach allocation(s).

Requirements for the hiring of reading/literacy coaches continues under Proviso 1.59 for FY 2022–23. Districts may utilize funding to employ school-based reading/literacy coaches that may serve in a primary, elementary, or middle school or a combination of these schools depending on the area of highest need in the district. The district must align the placement of coaches to the district reading plan that is approved by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE).

[State Funded Reading/Literacy Coach Allocation - Memo](#) PDF (204 KB)

[Reading Coach vs. Interventionist Guidance - Attachment](#) PDF (91 KB)

[Reading Coach MOA - Attachment](#) PDF (167 KB)

[Reading Coach District List FY23 - Attachment](#) Excel (58 KB)

eLEARNING

eLearning Days Applications and District Handbook

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Tammy Hegler, tthegler@ed.sc.gov, Rebecca Velasquez, rvelasquez@ed.sc.gov

Pursuant to 1A.65.(SDE-EIA: Digital Learning Plan) The implementation of the e-Learning program is the responsibility of the Department of Education. Those e-Learning school districts who meet the criteria for an e-Learning district as determined by the Department of

Education may use up to five e-Learning days to allow for the make-up of short-term disruptions to in-person teaching and learning.

[eLearning Days Applications and District Handbook - Memo](#) PDF (151 KB)

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Lead in Drinking Water

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Facility Managers, School Food Service Directors

CONTACT: Wayne Stokes, wstokes@ed.sc.gov, Donna Davis, ddavis@ed.sc.gov, Jennifer Hughes, hughesjr@dhec.sc.gov

In recent years, there has been increased attention to lead in drinking water. Although lead is found throughout the environment, lead can accumulate in the body over time and cause health problems if inhaled or swallowed. As such, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) are acting to address drinking water quality in schools.

[Lead in Drinking Water - Memo](#) PDF (186 KB)

Lead Testing of Drinking Water at Qualifying Elementary Schools and Child Care Centers

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Donna Davis, ddavis@ed.sc.gov, Jocelyn Walters-Brannon, walterjy@dhec.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) is the recipient of a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement a "Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Programs Drinking Water Program." Authorized under Section 2107 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, the grant provides funding for qualifying schools and child care centers to voluntarily have their drinking water tested for lead.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is partnering with the SCDHEC to share information about this grant. The goal of this program is to protect and promote the health and well-being of our youngest children who are among the most vulnerable to the health effects of lead exposure. This is a statewide effort but will target only those elementary schools and child care centers that meet the SCDHEC's qualifying criteria.

[Lead Testing in Drinking Water at Qualifying Elementary Schools and Child Care Centers - Memo](#) PDF (140 KB)

[Lead Testing in Drinking Water at S.C. Schools and Child Care Centers Fact Sheet - Attachment](#) PDF (102 KB)

OMBUDSMAN

New Contact for Agency Ombudsman Office

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Jennifer Austin, joaustin@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memo is to inform districts of the contact information for the new ombudsman for the South Carolina Department of Education.

As of July 28, 2022, Wanda Davis has retired from the agency. During her 16 years of service as ombudsman, Mrs. Davis provided tireless support to parents, educators, and our state. Her hard work and dedication will be greatly missed.

[New Contact for Agency Ombudsman Office - Memo](#) PDF (135 KB)

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023 U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program Competition

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, High School Principals

CONTACT: Stephen Corsini, spcorsini@ed.sc.gov

The 61st Annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Washington Week event will take place March 4-11, 2023, 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 2022-23 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 2023 in person or online Washington Week event set for March 4-11, 2023. To review all student eligibility requirements please visit our USSYP [website](#).

[2023 U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program Competition - Memo](#) PDF (139 KB)

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Proviso 1.91 (SDE: Public School Virtual Program Funding)

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Bradley Mitchell, bmitchell@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memo is to remind districts that the following proviso remains in effect for the 2022-23 school year:

1.91. (SDE: Public School Virtual Program Funding): *For Fiscal Year 2022-23, school districts shall be permitted to offer a virtual education program for up to five percent of its student population based on the most recent 135 day ADM count without impacting any state funding. The Department of Education shall establish guidelines for the virtual program and parameters students must meet in order to participate in the virtual program. School districts must submit their plans for the virtual program to the State Board of Education for approval. School districts offering a virtual program must report their ADM counts for students participating in their virtual program and the number of students participating face to face for the 5th, 45th, 90th, and 135th day to the Department of Education.*

[Proviso 1.91 \(SDE: Public School Virtual Funding\) - Memo](#) PDF (192 KB)

