



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



December 1, 2020

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

DHEC Guidance Documents

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

[School & Childcare Centers \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Recent Disease Activity by County Report](#) (as of 11/25/2020)

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 12/1/2020)

[Celebrating the Holidays Safely](#)

COVID-19 SCHOOL BASED TESTING

Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Result COVID-19 Test Kits

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, School Principals in the Charter Institute at Erskine and S.C. Public Charter School District

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Below you will find important guidance as well as a participation survey with distribution logistics for rapid result COVID-19 testing in our state's public education system. The three guidance documents have been prepared by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and have been reviewed by the SCDE.

Important information:

- DHEC and SCDE aim to provide access to Abbott BinaxNOW beginning the week of November 30 to help school districts prepare for cold and flu season amidst a COVID-19 environment. **This testing is optional, and participating school districts may**

begin testing once they are prepared and have systems in place.

- The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has secured an umbrella Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver which will allow testing to begin immediately. School districts and individual charter schools in the Charter Institute at Erskine and the S.C. Public Charter School District must still pursue their own CLIA waiver. Information about obtaining a CLIA waiver is in the guidance and appendix document and has also been sent separately to lead school nurses from the state school nurse consultant, Victoria Ladd.
- DHEC and the Governor's Office are working on a uniform state parental consent form. We will provide this form to you when it becomes available.
- DHEC has developed a basic [FAQ for parents](#)
- Dr. Brannon Traxler, DHEC Interim Public Health Director, will present at the S.C. Association of School Administrators (SCASA) Superintendents' Roundtable Meeting on **December 3, 2020**. DHEC, SCASA, and the SCDE are also coordinating to allow districts to pick-up allotted test kits on site. Additional details are in the below participation survey.

[COVID-19 School Based Testing Participation Survey](#)

[Charter Institute at Erskine and S.C. Public Charter School District COVID-19 Participation Survey](#)

[PreK-12 Schools Abbott BinaxNow Testing Guidance Resource Appendix](#) PDF (4 MB)

[Abbott BinaxNow Rapid Antigen School Testing Overview](#) PDF (165 KB)

[Abbott BinaxNow Rapid Testing in Schools Checklist](#) PDF (147 KB)

[School Nurse Abbott BinaxNow Testing Standing Order](#) PDF (2 MB)

ASSESSMENTS

2020-21 Mandatory Third Grade Retention

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, Read to Succeed Coordinators

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Pursuant to [Act 284 of 2014 \(Read to Succeed\)](#), mandatory retention is required at third grade for students who fail to demonstrate reading proficiency as indicated by scoring at the lowest level on SC READY. While a student may be exempt from the mandatory retention for good cause, they shall still continue to receive instructional support, services, and reading interventions appropriate for their age and reading level.

As a result of school closures in spring 2020 related to COVID-19, the United States Department of Education (USED) granted waivers from mandated assessments; therefore, SC READY was not administered during the 2019–2020 school year. School districts were asked to follow local school board policy with regard to student retention.

[2020-21 Mandatory Third Grade Retention - Memo](#) PDF (167 KB)

