



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



February 15, 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](#).

COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

As of February 9, 2022, DHEC has reported the following student and staff quarantines and isolations since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

- 422,414 student quarantines
- 121,705 student isolations
- 14,164 staff quarantines
- 21,652 staff isolations

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 2/9/2022)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 2/13/2022)

UPDATED K-12 COVID-19 GUIDANCE

DHEC has modified its COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 schools to include updated standards for masking and Test to Stay (TTS) requirements for sports and other extracurricular activities. Changes to this are in response to the welcomed decline of COVID-19 cases and reflect DHEC's efforts to safely keep kids in schools and active in their varying interests outside of the classroom.

[COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 schools](#) (as of 2/13/2022)

DATA

Section Coding and Address Validation

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Accountability Leaders, Instructional

Leaders, Technology Coordinators, PowerSchool Coordinators, School Counselors
CONTACT: PowerSchool@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) needs district assistance in ensuring quality data is entered in the student information system, PowerSchool.

[Section Coding and Address Validation - Memo](#) PDF (211 KB)

[Alternative Instruction - Attachment](#) Excel (112 KB)

Delivery of Seals of Distinction to Students and District Contact

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Accountability Leaders, Instructional Leaders, Technology Coordinators, PowerSchool Coordinators, School Counselors
CONTACT: PowerSchool@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) awards Seals of Distinction to students based on evidence of learning achievement for a student's pathway and area of focus as detailed in the [South Carolina Diploma Pathways Overview](#). Seals of Distinction are delivered in the form of digital credentials issued via the Parchment application. Successful issuing of Seals of Distinction for all recipients, including early graduates, requires at least one contact for each district to serve as a liaison between the district and the Office of Research and Data Analysis (ORDA) at the SCDE. Districts are therefore asked to designate a staff member (or multiple staff members) and to add that person to the Seals of Distinction Contact role in the [District Entity Management System \(DEIM\)](#).

[Delivery of Seals of Distinction to Students and District Contact - Memo](#) PDF (136 KB)

FUNDING

2022-23 EEDA Preparing College- and Career-Ready Graduates Grant Opportunity

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Public Information Officers
CONTACT: Maria Swygert, nmswyger@ed.sc.gov, Tiffany Dorsey, tdorsey@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2022–23 Request for Proposals for the Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA) Preparing College- and Career-Ready Graduates grant program is now available [online](#). Approximately \$1.5 million in funding will be distributed on a competitive basis and the deadline to apply is **March 31, 2022**.

For this funding round, the SCDE will fund eligible school districts to help schools implement evidence-based strategies and/or models specifically designed to address the academic and career development needs of students with proven academic deficiencies so that, upon completing high school, these students will possess the world class knowledge, skills, and life and career characteristics of the [Profile of the South Carolina Graduate](#).

[2022-23 EEDA Preparing College- and Career-Ready Graduates Grant Opportunity - Memo](#) PDF (143 KB)

Professional Learning Allocations for Gifted and Talented and International Baccalaureate Programs

AUDIENCE: Regional Gifted and Talented Coordinators, Fiscal Agents, Finance Officers
CONTACT: Melanie Cooper (Allocations), mcooper@ed.sc.gov, Josie Stratton (Programmatic), jstratton@ed.sc.gov

Each Regional Fiscal Agent will receive a Professional Learning allocation of \$10,000 to be paid through District Revenue Code: **3597A**. The funding is provided through the 2021-22 Annual Appropriations Act Professional Development line item and Proviso 1A.25. Payments will arrive within 30 days of processing.

Gifted and Talented (GT) Professional Learning funding provides academic support for GT teachers and GT coordinators, as well as other educators in every region of South Carolina. The purpose of the funding is to provide GT educators with annual professional learning opportunities based on regional needs. These opportunities will better equip GT teachers and ultimately support all high-achieving students in maximizing their potential.

[Professional Learning Allocations for Gifted and Talented and International Baccalaureate Programs - Memo](#) PDF (188 KB)

Technical Assistance Funding

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Business Officials, District IT Leaders
CONTACT: Steven Strother, sgstrother@ed.sc.gov

According to Proviso 1.69 (SDE: Technology Technical Assistance), of the funds appropriated in VIII – Technology for the K-12 Technology Initiative, the Department is authorized to withhold up to \$350,000 in order to provide technical assistance to school districts. According to Proviso 1.70 (SDE: Technology Technical Assistance) funds appropriated to the Department of Education for Technology Technical Assistance must be used to increase the capacity of districts, first who are or were the original trial and plaintiff school districts in the Abbeville law suit, and then other districts that need such assistance. Funds shall be used by the department to assist school districts in procuring appropriate technology to include devices and infrastructure and to build capacity to offer online testing and increased access.

[Technical Assistance Funding - Memo](#) PDF (195 KB)

MENTAL HEALTH

School-Based Mental Health Services Survey

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents
CONTACT: Virgie Chambers, vmchambers@ed.sc.gov

Governor McMaster recently issued [Executive Order 2022-02](#), directing the SC Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) to conduct a review of the School Mental Health Services Program of the SC Department of Mental Health (SCDMH).

The SC Department of Education (SCDE) is facilitating a [School-Based Mental/Behavioral Health Services Survey](#) to assist the SCDHHS in its effort to identify barriers to access and recommendations to increase the pool of mental health service providers in schools.

[School-Based Mental Health Services Survey - Memo](#) PDF (182 KB)

[School-Based Mental/Behavioral Health Services Survey - Attachment](#) PDF (148 KB)

Supporting Educators in Addressing Mental Health

and Behavioral Challenges

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Professional Development Coordinators, School Counseling Personnel Coordinators

CONTACT: Sabrina Moore, smoore@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Student Intervention Services has coordinated a series of training opportunities designed to help administrators, educators, other school staff, and families address several mental health and behavioral challenges among students.

[Supporting Educators in Addressing Mental Health and Behavioral Challenges - Memo](#)
PDF (174 KB)

STANDARDS

Selection of the State Standards Writing Committees for Mathematics and English Language Arts

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Sandra Ammons (Math), sammons@ed.sc.gov, Kayce Cook (ELA), klcook@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is organizing State Standards Writing Committees for the revision of the *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Mathematics Standards* and the *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready English Language Arts (ELA) Standards* as part of the Cyclical Review process. In partnership with the SCDE, Dr. Abbey Duggins will facilitate the ELA committee and Dr. Kelly Pew will facilitate the math committee. The role of the *Mathematics Standards* committee is to develop a draft of revised academic standards. The role of the *ELA Standards* committee is to continue to revise the draft of the academic standards. The goal is for both sets of standards to be aligned with research and best practices in the field and to be approved for adoption by the State Board of Education and the Education Oversight Committee.

[Selection of the State Standards Writing Committees for Mathematics and English Language Arts - Memo](#) PDF (209 KB)

STUDENT WRITING CONTEST

Dominion Energy and S.C. Department of Education Invite High School Students to Enter Second Annual Writing Contest to Celebrate Notable African Americans

AUDIENCE: High School Principals

Dominion Energy and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) encourage high school juniors and seniors to enter the second annual Strong Men & Women in S.C. History student essay contest. The program builds on SCDE's longstanding South Carolina African American History Calendar that honors prominent African Americans in the state who have made noteworthy contributions.

All South Carolina high school juniors and seniors are invited to submit a 500-word essay for a chance to receive an Apple MacBook Air and \$1,000 for their school. Winning students will be invited to participate in the unveiling ceremony of the 2023 African American History

Calendar, and their essays will be showcased on the Dominion Energy and SCDE websites.
Deadline for entries is March 1, 2022.

[Student Writing Contest Website](#)

[Student Writing Contest Flyer](#)

TORNADO DRILL

Tornado Drill on March 9, 2022

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Public Information Officers

Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week will be observed in South Carolina the week of March 6-12, 2022. The National Weather Service will initiate a statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, March 9, at approximately 9:00 a.m. using NOAA weather radios. This year, it will be jointly sponsored by the National Weather Service and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) and conducted in coordination with the South Carolina Broadcasters Association and the South Carolina Department of Education.

The signal to begin the drill will be broadcast using the standard test coding used for the weekly tests issued by the National Weather Service. If your school radio is set to receive required weekly test codes, it should receive the drill message at approximately 9:00 a.m. If your radio malfunctions or is not properly programmed, and you have not received the drill message by 9:15 a.m., please proceed with the drill anyway. Additionally, should there be actual severe weather that Wednesday; the back-up time for the drill will be 9:00 a.m. Friday, March 11.

[Tornado Drill on March 9, 2022 - Memo](#) PDF (133 KB)

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