



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



February 16, 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](#).

CDC COVID-19 GUIDANCE

On Friday, February 12 the CDC issued [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation](#) and referred to it as a “one-stop-shop” for schools to use in opening for in-person instruction and staying open. (Please note that much of the CDC guidance is not new or different from what CDC has issued around school reopening in the past; instead, it is put in one place and intended to be used as a roadmap.) Among the highlights of the CDC Operational Strategy:

- Evidence that show schools can safely reopen for in-person instruction when health and safety protocols are in place and based in science.
- Recommend prioritizing two mitigation strategies: universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.
- Clarify the community risk indicators to inform reopening and link directly to information on community transmission.
- Acknowledge that many schools are already providing in-person instruction and should continue to do so in accordance with health and safety protocols.

In alignment with CDC's updated operational strategy, USED published its [first volume of its new COVID-19 Handbook](#). This is intended as a supplement to the CDC operational strategy with practical recommendations for the school setting. It covers 11 topic areas. See the attachments for more information. This is the first of series.

[CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation](#)

[ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume 1](#)

[ED COVID-19 Handbook Fact Sheet](#)

COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

DHEC began reporting positive COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools on September 4, 2020.

Since that time, there have been **12,126** [positive cases among K-12 students and staff](#) who attended school face to face during their infectious period. During that same time period (9/4/2020 to 2/13/2021) DHEC has reported **360,870** [positive cases among all South Carolinians](#).

This means that positive cases among K-12 students and staff who attended school account for **3.4%** of South Carolina's total since K-12 positive case reporting began. Public and private K-12 students and staff make up approximately one fifth of South Carolina's total population.

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 2/16/2021)

[Recent Disease Activity, by County Report](#) (as of 2/10/2021)

COVID-19 VACCINE PLANS

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, COVID-19 Vaccine Coordinators

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

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the South Carolina Department of Education want to assist as districts continue to plan and prepare for educator and support staff eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine. Many districts have established partnerships with vaccine providers in their community. The below linked survey will help provide DHEC information on the status of your vaccination plans so that DHEC can target support to school districts in their planning efforts.

We ask that you complete this survey by **Friday, February 19th at 5:00 p.m.**

[COVID-19 Vaccine Provider and School District Partnership Preparation](#)

Charter Schools

Charter schools in the Charter Institute at Erskine and the S.C. Public Charter School District should complete the below charter specific survey by Friday, February 19th at 5:00 p.m. Charter schools authorized by local school districts should formulate vaccination plans in coordination with their authorizing district.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Provider and Charter School Partnership Preparation](#)

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Resources to Support African American History

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, Principals

CONTACT: Stephen Corsini, spcorsini@ed.sc.gov or Chris Turpin, cturpin@ed.sc.gov

In honor of Black History Month, the South Carolina Department of Education is providing educators with a series of four, weekly memoranda throughout the month of February that are intended to highlight current and pre-released resources developed to inform students' knowledge and understanding of African American History. Our goal is to assist teachers in providing high quality resources to appropriately celebrate Black History Month. The lessons and resources shared are not reserved just for the month of February, but should be used throughout the year to successfully teach all students.

The below links highlights materials developed by recipients of the African American Instructional Materials Grant funded by the South Carolina General Assembly.

African American Instructional Materials Grant Resources

The instructional materials listed below were developed by educators working with recipients

of the African American Instructional Materials Grant. Materials are aligned to the 2019 South Carolina Social Studies College-and Career-Ready Standards.

[African American Instructional Materials](#)

Civil Rights Digital Oral Histories

The Auntie Karen Foundation created digital oral histories telling the stories of eight South Carolina leaders in the Civil Rights Movement. The link below will take you to the Office of Standards and Learning Social Studies resources page. The recordings and transcripts can be found in the “African American History Resources” section. The vignettes provide students examples of civics in action.

[Civil Rights Digital Oral Histories](#)

[Resources to Support African American History - Memo](#) PDF (169 KB)

CALENDARS

School Calendars

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Chief Financial Officers, Public Information Officers, Report Card/Accountability Coordinators

CONTACT: Sarah Longshore, sclongshore@ed.sc.gov

Pursuant to §[59-1-425](#) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, all school districts are required to establish a calendar with 190 days, which must include a minimum of 180 days of instruction covering at least nine months, at least three days to be used as make-up days, and three scheduled days used for collegial professional development. All school districts, including those approved as eLearning districts in the eLearning Pilot Project, must include three scheduled make-up days in their 2021–22 school calendars.

While additional flexibility was granted during the 2020–21 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all statutory and regulatory requirements, including make-up days, will remain in effect for the 2021–22 school year unless changes are made during this legislative session. Districts should ensure they comply with applicable state statutes and regulations as 2021–22 school calendars are developed.

[School Calendars - Memo](#) PDF (160 KB)

