



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



February 23, 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 VACCINE

As districts prepare for the eligibility of educators and support staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, DHEC, in consultation with the Medical University of South Carolina, has developed a Schools and Community Partnership Vaccination Toolkit.

The toolkit contains considerations for districts, training materials for appropriate staff, post vaccine planning, and tips for addressing vaccine hesitancy.

[Schools and Community Partnership for COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit](#)

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 **12,946** [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 **377,441** [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 2/17/2021)

GATHERINGS OF 250+

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Public Information Officers, Principals

Governor McMaster's Executive Order 2020-50 that prohibits certain gatherings of 250 or more people applies to school graduation ceremonies, proms, and award ceremonies. The SCDE has conferred with the S.C. Department of Commerce (Commerce) on how districts can apply for exceptions and is pleased to offer the below guidance and video tutorial.

School districts will submit a **written safety plan** outlining protocols that will be followed for graduation, proms and ceremonies. The plan will be reviewed by Commerce, in consultation with DHEC. This plan will be the safety guidelines and capacity limits that will need to be followed by all schools within that district. Districts will need to submit that written plan to events@sccommerce.com and reopeningguidance@dhec.sc.gov.

Once approved the district representative will be instructed to submit the formal application through the [Commerce website](#) and Department of Commerce will issue a blanket approval.

[Commerce 250+ Mass Gathering Exception Process Video Tutorial](#)

[Slides from Video Tutorial](#)

[Overview of Blanket Approval Exception Process](#)

[PDF of Formal Application Questions](#) (must still submit via online form on Commerce website)

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Resources to Support African American History

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, Principals, Career and Technical Education Directors

CONTACT: Angel Malone, amalone@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. . The resources shared are not reserved just for the month of February, but should be used throughout the year to successfully teach all students.

CTE Resources to Support African American History

The Office of Career and Technical Education has curated a list of resources to highlight the contributions of African Americans in various technical industries.

[CTE Resources to Support African American History - Memo](#) PDF (129 KB)

[Career and Technical Education African American Resources](#)

ATTENDANCE

Expansion of ENGAGE South Carolina Attendance Recovery Program

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Attendance Supervisors, Dropout Prevention Contacts, School Counseling Personnel, Student Services Directors

CONTACT: engagesc@graduationalliance.com

As the 2020-21 school year moves forward, it is imperative that the educational needs and

success of students and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are continued to be addressed and supported. To assist teachers, schools, and districts in these efforts, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) created the ENGAGE South Carolina program aimed at helping re-engage K-12 students. In partnership with Graduation Alliance, ENGAGE South Carolina is currently providing support to those students and families who may be struggling to adapt to new learning schedules and environments brought on by the pandemic. Information on ENGAGE South Carolina was provided to districts in an October 27, 2020, [memo](#).

In order for additional districts, students, and families to participate and receive on-going support throughout the summer and the 2021-22 school year, the SCDE is expanding this resource.

[Expansion of ENGAGE South Carolina Attendance Recovery Program - Memo](#) PDF (183 KB)

CALENDARS

School Calendars

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

CONTACT: Sarah Longshore, sclongshore@ed.sc.gov or DEIM@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)

CONTRACTS

Educator Contracts for the 2021-22 School Year

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Mary Hipp, mhipp@ed.sc.gov, Lilla Toal-Mandsager, lmandsager@ed.sc.gov

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § [59-25-410](#), districts are required to give written notice to all currently employed teachers regarding the status of their employment for the upcoming school year before May 1 (i.e., **by April 30**). Failure to provide this written notice on or before April 30 will necessitate the issuance of a contract to that teacher.

Superintendents have until on or before **August 15** to notify teachers of their tentative assignment for the next year.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § [59-25-420](#), teachers who have been offered reemployment by the district must notify the district's board of trustees in writing of their acceptance of the contract before May 11 (i.e., **by May 10**). Other than these statutory deadlines, there is no prescribed amount of time that must, or cannot, pass between the issuance of an offer of

employment and the acceptance of that offer by the teacher.

[Educator Contracts for the 2021-22 School Year - Memo](#) PDF (185 KB)

DATA

District Data Governance Group

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Technology Coordinators, Accountability Coordinators, PowerSchool Coordinators

CONTACT: Dan Ralyea, dralyea@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has been working with a chartering committee to develop this mid-tier support organization for the governance of the district Ed-Fi operational data store (ODS). This mid-tier support organization will be composed of a partnership between the SCDE and member school districts. The ODS provides a platform for integrating data between distinct sources collected by districts. In this case, the ODS will integrate the student information system (PowerSchool), assessment reporting system, and the individualized education program system. The SCDE's interest in this system is a consolidated reporting environment for sending to the state required data and promoting equitable access to data for instruction. The districts' interests include access to integrated, structured data for internal reporting and rostering. Information about this organization has been shared at various SCASA roundtables and professional meetings.

This mid-tier support organization will be based on a modified shared governance model. Shared governance usually functions within a single organization and is designed to make sure various stakeholder groups are represented in a decision-making process with clearly delineated areas of responsibilities. This proposed shared governance model includes a tiered board (based on district size) composed of member districts and state representatives.

[District Data Governance Group - Memo](#) PDF (158 KB)

[District Data Governance Group Job Description - Attachment](#) PDF (147 KB)

[District Data Governance Group Agreement - Attachment](#) PDF (1,565 KB)

GRANTS

2020-21 South Carolina Migrant Education Program Formula Subgrant Application

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Title I Coordinators, Migrant Education Program Coordinators

CONTACT: Zachary Taylor, ztaylor@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2020–21 Migrant Education Program (MEP) grant is available now, online. Approximately \$150,000 in funding will be distributed to local organizational agencies that meet eligibility and demonstrate the ability to fulfill the obligations required for MEP. The deadline to apply is **March 17, 2021**. For this funding round, the SCDE will fund applicants that propose to improve educational opportunities for migratory children and youth to help them succeed in the regular school year, meet the same challenging state academic standards that all children and youth are expected to meet, and earn a high school diploma.

Please visit the [SCDE Grant Opportunities](#) page for updated information on grants, eligibility, application deadlines, and technical assistance.

