



# SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



February 9, 2021

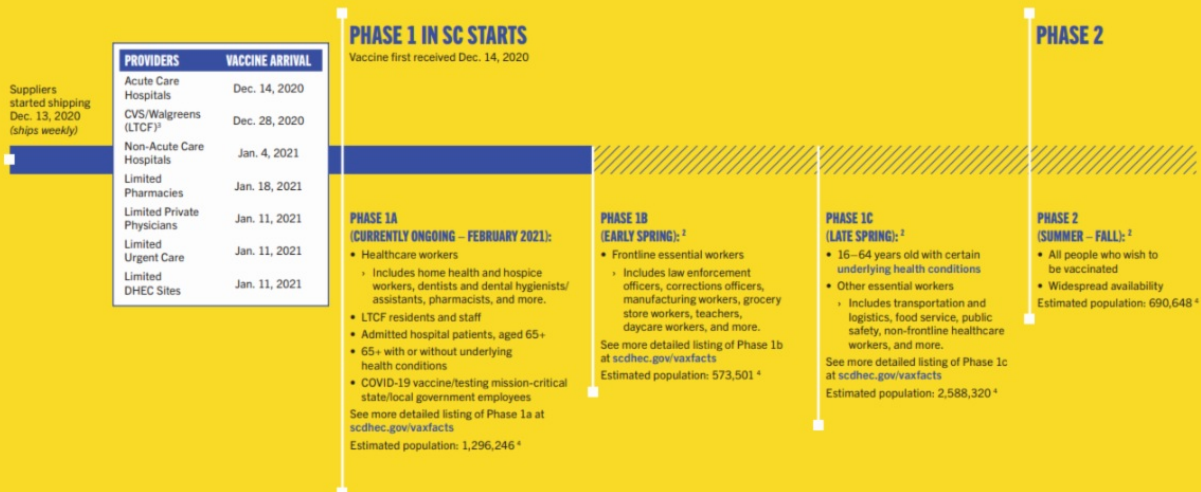
### Missed last week's memos?

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

## COVID-19 VACCINE

### COVID-19 VACCINE FLOW IN SC

This graphic shows the progression of the vaccine from the federal government to the state and the steps along the way from providers to vaccine recipients.<sup>1</sup>



### THE COVID-19 VACCINE

#### FOOTNOTES:

- All phase groups are subject to change based on CDC/ACIP/VAC recommendations
- All estimates subject to change due to vaccine availability, demand, and provider participation.
- Vaccine allocated to Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF)
- Sources: SC Department of Commerce and DOD Tiberius Planning Tool

CR-012891 2/21

### [DHEC COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage](#)

### [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Governor Henry McMaster and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control announced that beginning Monday, February 8, any South Carolina resident aged 65 or older, regardless of health status or preexisting conditions, can begin scheduling their appointment to receive COVID-19 vaccine.

DHEC's online tool at [scdhec.gov/vaxlocator](#) shows locations currently accepting appointments for COVID-19 vaccine and provides contact information for scheduling

appointments at those locations.

[See the complete listing for who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1a.](#)

**Have a general question about COVID-19? Call the DHEC Care Line at 1-855-472-3432 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.**

## 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 **10,942** [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 2/7/2021) DHEC has reported **340,284** [positive cases among all South Carolinians](#).

This means that positive cases among K-12 students and staff who attended school account for **3.2%** 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 2/3/2021)

[Recent Disease Activity, by County Report](#) (as of 2/3/2021)

## COVID-19 TESTING

DHEC has updated its BinaxNOW COVID-19 testing guidance to allow districts the option of using BinaxNOW test kits to test close contacts in quarantine (according to isolation and quarantine guidance) to end quarantine early for those districts and schools that choose to use the 7-day shortened quarantine option.

DHEC has also provided COVID-19 student and staff consent forms in Spanish for school and district use.

[School Rapid Antigen Testing Guidance](#)

[Student Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing \(Spanish\)](#)

[Staff Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing \(Spanish\)](#)

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

### Resources to Support African American History

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, Principals

**CONTACT:** Stephen Corsini, [spcorsini@ed.sc.gov](mailto:spcorsini@ed.sc.gov) or Chris Turpin, [cturpin@ed.sc.gov](mailto:cturpin@ed.sc.gov)

In an effort to assist South Carolina teachers in providing high quality resources to appropriately celebrate Black History Month, the South Carolina Department of Education will provide 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. These lessons and resources are not reserved just for the month of February, but should be used throughout the year to successfully teach all students.

## African American History Instructional Materials Grant

The African American Instructional Materials Grant is an annual grant program funded by the South Carolina General Assembly and administered by the South Carolina Department of Education. It provides funding for non-profit organizations to create instructional materials to enhance instruction of the African American experience.

[African American Instructional Materials Grant Resources](#)

## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### 2020-21 CTE College- and Career-Readiness Industry Recognized Certifications

**AUDIENCE:** CTE Administrators and Directors

**CONTACT:** Murline Ingram, [mingram@ed.sc.gov](mailto:mingram@ed.sc.gov)

The 2020–21 certifications approved by the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) for College- and Career-Readiness (CCR), can be accessed by using the following link, [CTE College- and Career-Readiness Certifications](#). All newly approved and/or deleted certifications are *italicized*.

An updated comprehensive list of all certifications and assessments with descriptions can be found in Appendix E of the 2020–21 [CTE Student Reporting Procedures Guide](#).

[2020-21 CTE College- and Career-Readiness Industry Recognized Certifications - Memo](#) PDF (180 KB)

[College and Career Ready Certifications - Attachment](#) PDF (502 KB)

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### National Health Science Credentialing Assessment Remote Proctoring Coverage

**AUDIENCE:** CTE Directors, Principals, Instructional Leaders

**CONTACT:** Angel Clark, [aclark@ed.sc.gov](mailto:aclark@ed.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) has agreed to cover the cost of remote proctoring, as part of the Career Cluster Partnership Grant, for the National Health Science Credentialing (NHSC) Assessment. This coverage only applies to virtual health science completers who need to take the assessment. This coverage does not include face-to-face or hybrid test takers. This coverage is only for the NHSC assessment and does not cover any proctoring for practice tests or beta testing.

[National Health Science Credentialing Assessment Remote Proctoring Coverage - Memo](#) PDF (155 KB)

## DATA

### P-EBT Data Collection

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, PowerSchool Coordinators, Technology Coordinators, Accountability Coordinators, Food Services Directors

**CONTACT:** Ellen Mason (school eligibility), [emason@ed.sc.gov](mailto:emason@ed.sc.gov), Aveene Coleman (attendance coding), [acoleman@ed.sc.gov](mailto:acoleman@ed.sc.gov), (data collection), [PowerSchool@ed.sc.gov](mailto:PowerSchool@ed.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is working with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) services to eligible students in eligible National School Lunch Program (NSLP) schools. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service requires a state plan that identifies eligible NSLP schools. Those schools must have their operating calendars impacted by five consecutive days of closure or mandated reduced attendance. SCDE is identifying those impacted schools in order to qualify eligible students for this benefit.

Eligibility is determined by a student's free or reduced lunch status and the student's ability to receive the lunch benefit. On the days students are attending school virtually, they are not able to receive their lunch benefit so they are eligible to receive a benefit transfer. The USDA has further determined that any student enrolled in a fully virtual program (or a hybrid program with a virtual component) is eligible to receive benefits for the full term of their enrollment in the virtual program. In other words, students may receive benefits for each day they are assigned to attend class in a virtual environment during the academic year. As a result, until the SCDE is able to develop a system to identify the various instructional models, students' enrollment in virtual classes in hybrid schedules will be based on the SC-VTP codes.

[P-EBT Data Collection - Memo](#) PDF (168 KB)

## OPERATIONS

### Bus Capacity Waiver

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents

**CONTACT:** Garry Fast, [gfast@ed.sc.gov](mailto:gfast@ed.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) issued [guidance](#) for social distancing and capacity limits on school buses in August 2020. Bus capacity cannot exceed 67 percent of standard capacity of the bus. This capacity limit is effective statewide and has not been modified since issued.

We realize that this limit may be a challenge for districts, especially as you implement plans to reconvene five day in-person instruction. South Carolina's bus capacity limit is one of the most lenient in the nation, but when combined with other mitigation strategies is a safe and healthy means of student transport. We believe few, if any, exposures to COVID-19 were caused by students riding school buses.

[Bus Capacity Waiver - Memo](#) PDF (234 KB)

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### School Operation Guidance

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents

On Thursday, February 4th, State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman rescinded guidance from the AccelerateED Task Force report, published June 2020, that bases school operations on community spread trends and data given the abundance of state and national reports showing low COVID-19 risk of in-person operations when proper mitigation strategies have been implemented.

Operational decisions should be made based upon individual school staffing availability and ability to implement the [five key mitigation strategies](#) referenced in the below studies. The SCDE encourages all districts to work towards offering families a full, five day face to face

option as soon as possible.

CDC - <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2775875>

MUSC – <https://web.musc.edu/about/news-center/2021/01/19/data-on-covid-in-charleston-county-schools-stun-doctor-who-crunched-the-numbers>

Duke University - <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2021/01/08/covid-north-carolina-schools-study-010821>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Virtual Instruction Professional Development: Student Engagement, Thinking, and Choice

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, Principals

**CONTACT:** Lilla Toal-Mandsager, [lmandsager@ed.sc.gov](mailto:lmandsager@ed.sc.gov), David Mathis, [dmathis@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dmathis@ed.sc.gov)

The National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) continues to partner with the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) in offering virtual professional learning for teachers and administrators. Beginning in March, sessions will be provided that focus on effective teaching practices in blended and hybrid environments.

This training consists of two sessions where educators will examine instructional structures and strategies that support individual student needs and individualized learning. Participants will analyze blended and hybrid instructional strategies through the planning, delivery, and assessment components of a lesson. Participants will also identify steps to strengthen current instructional practices by utilizing blended and hybrid learning strategies that offer students critical thinking opportunities and choice. The sessions will be delivered through virtual synchronous models.

[Virtual Instruction Professional Development: Student Engagement, Thinking, and Choice - Memo](#) PDF (158 KB)

## TECHNOLOGY

### South Carolina School District Technology Plans

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, District Information Technology (IT) Leaders, District Information Security/Privacy Leaders

**CONTACT:** Valarie Byrd, [vbyrd@ed.sc.gov](mailto:vbyrd@ed.sc.gov)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a pending request to eliminate or revise proviso 1A.20: (Certified Staff Technology Proficiency) the review process for school district technology plans has been suspended until further notice. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is therefore extending existing approvals of district technology plans through at least June 30, 2021, as we await action by the General Assembly. We will provide additional guidance after the 2021 legislative session. We do recommend that you continue to review your plans for education technology improvements and review the direction established in the [2020-24 South Carolina Educational Technology Plan](#).

[South Carolina School District Technology Plans - Memo](#) PDF (150 KB)

## VIRTUAL LEARNING

# Virtual Learning Program Guidance and Requirements

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, District Strategic and School Renewal Contacts, State Accreditation

**CONTACT:** Bradley Mitchell (virtual programs), [bmitchell@ed.sc.gov](mailto:bmitchell@ed.sc.gov), Dr. Sarah Longshore (waiver process), [sclongshore@ed.sc.gov](mailto:sclongshore@ed.sc.gov)

State Board of Education (SBE) Regulations [43-205](#), [43-231](#), [43-232](#), and [43-234](#) detail the qualifications, duties, and workloads of administrative and professional personnel, as well as the defined minimum program for each grade span, including instructional hours in a school day and seat time requirements. While additional flexibility was granted during the 2020–21 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all statutory and regulatory requirements, including seat time, will be in effect for the 2021–22 school year unless changes are made during this legislative session. Therefore, districts should ensure they comply with applicable state statutes and regulations as plans are being made for the upcoming school year.

Equally, pursuant to Regulation [43-261](#), the SBE has the authority to waive any regulation that may impede the implementation of an approved district strategic plan or school renewal plan. Federal statutes, regulations, and requirements may not be waived, and state statutes may not be waived unless the statute explicitly grants the SBE authority to do so. The link to submit a waiver request can be found at [https://scde.formstack.com/forms/ofsa\\_waiver\\_form](https://scde.formstack.com/forms/ofsa_waiver_form). It is important to note that the waiver must be completed in full, and the SBE has ultimate authority in granting or denying any such waiver. Districts must get a waiver approved in advance of implementation in order to maintain compliance with state statutes and regulations.

[Virtual Learning Program Guidance and Requirements - Memo](#) PDF (163 KB)

