



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

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January 18, 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](#).

UPDATE: COVID-19 EXCLUSION LIST AND GUIDANCE

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has released an updated School Exclusion and Childcare List as well as an updated COVID-19 School Guidance Booklet. Please find the two updated items linked below.

Updates include:

- Allowance for teachers and school staff to continue to work during quarantine in times of crisis staffing conditions
- Criteria for return from quarantine of negative test on day 4 or later amended to be strongly recommended for students no sooner than day 5
- Test To Stay program testing criteria changes to require one negative test between days 5-7

[School and Childcare Exclusion List](#) - **1/15/2022 Update**

[COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools Booklet](#) - **1/15/2022 Update**

COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

As of January 12, 2022, DHEC has reported the following student and staff quarantines and isolations since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

- **301,295 student quarantines**
- **72,622 student isolations**
- **9,666 staff quarantines**
- **10,360 staff isolations**

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 1/12/2022)

TEMPORARY VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

As has been previously communicated, [state law](#) requires that school districts offer full, five day face to face instruction to all students. Flexibility from this requirement and the ability to move to temporary virtual instruction has been provided when necessitated in response to high numbers of positive cases and quarantines amongst students and staff in individual schools and districts. Flexibility cannot be provided to move to virtual instruction preemptively in anticipation of higher cases. If a district moves to temporary virtual instruction preemptively, additional in-person days must be added to the school calendar to satisfy the statutory 180-day requirement.

DHEC has [guidance](#) as to when schools and districts *may* consider moving to temporary virtual instruction.

Consideration for a school or grade level temporarily going to virtual learning:

There are currently no data to provide an evidence base for a decision to go to virtual learning at a specific threshold of school cases. However, recognizing school district leadership could potentially benefit from expert recommendations, DHEC medical epidemiologists have developed potential thresholds for consideration, based on their professional judgement.

- Consideration may be given by a school district for a school (or grade level) to temporarily go virtual in the following scenarios:
 - School is unable to maintain operations with current staffing as determined by the school district,
 - 30% or higher rate of absenteeism in the school or grade level due to COVID-19 (including students in isolation and in quarantine),
 - 5–10% or higher of the student body is in isolation simultaneously after testing positive (or being assumed positive based on symptoms when not tested), or
 - When discussed with and recommended by local medical and public health professionals based on the local healthcare system's capacity.

If a school (or grade level) temporarily goes to virtual learning for one of the above scenarios, it is recommended that they remain virtual for 5 to 10 days then re-evaluate the situation.

The South Carolina Department of Education asks schools or districts that can no longer safely operate and provide face to face instruction due to staffing shortages resulting from COVID-19 or a similar infectious disease to please complete the form linked below notifying a move to temporary virtual only instruction.

[South Carolina Department of Education Notification of School or District Move to Temporary Virtual Instruction](#)

ACCOUNTABILITY

SC Innovation Station

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, District Strategic and School Renewal Contacts, Title I, Part A Coordinators, ESEA Title II Coordinators, ESEA Title III EL Coordinators, ESEA Title IV-A Coordinators, ESEA Title V (REAP) Coordinators, Grants - School Improvement, Principals
CONTACT: Basil Harris, bharris@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Federal and State Accountability (OFSA) is pleased to announce the launch of the SC Innovation Station online resource portal located at <https://scinnovationstation.ed.sc.gov/>.

The SC Innovation Station provides high-quality, research-based, vetted resources and professional learning opportunities to support South Carolina educators seeking innovative strategies for improving the quality of education for all students. These resources are made available to assist districts and schools in making necessary adjustments that positively impact leadership, teaching and learning, school culture, parent and community engagement, and most importantly, positive outcomes for students.

[SC Innovation Station - Memo](#) PDF (180 KB)

CALENDARS

School Calendars, Make-up Days, and eLearning Days

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Tammy Hegler (eLearning), tthegler@ed.sc.gov, Rebecca Velasquez (eLearning), rvelasquez@ed.sc.gov, Greg King (Calendars), gking@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarifying information about school calendars as plans are being considered for the 2022–23 school year.

Statutory and Regulatory Requirements

All statutory and regulatory requirements, including make-up days, remain in effect for the 2022–23 school year. Districts should ensure they comply with applicable state statutes and regulations as 2022–23 school calendars are developed.

Pursuant to [S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425](#) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, all 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 districts, including those approved as eLearning districts, must include three scheduled make-up days in their 2022–23 school calendars.

[School Calendars, Make-up Days, and eLearning Days - Memo](#) PDF (183 KB)

GRANTS

New Electronic Grants Management System

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Federal Programs Directors, School Business Officials

CONTACT: Sarah Longshore, slongshore@ed.sc.gov, Steven Strother, sgstrother@ed.sc.gov

Through a competitive process, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) recently awarded a contract to REI Systems to streamline and consolidate its grants management process using GovGrants®. This new system will assist the SCDE in modernizing its grants management approach with a comprehensive system that aligns with all federal and state funding sources. GovGrants® is a configurable system built on the Salesforce cloud technology platform, making it reliable, secure, and easy to use for both internal and external stakeholders. Most importantly, GovGrants® provides the SCDE with accountability mechanisms to ensure funding is distributed appropriately, while showing the programmatic results from the use of grant monies.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Instructional Materials Review Panel Recommendations

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Kriss Stewart, kstewart@ed.sc.gov

The State Board of Education (SBE) has approved the subject areas that will have instructional materials reviewed and adopted for the 2022 adoption cycle. Instructional Materials Review Panels will be created for these subject areas according to the SBE regulations. Your assistance is needed to establish the pool of candidates from which nominees and alternates for the Review Panels will be selected. Please use the attached Excel spreadsheet to provide your recommendations for outstanding teachers currently teaching in the subject areas listed or district content area specialists. Your recommendations need to be submitted by email to Kriss Stewart by February 11, 2022.

[Instructional Materials Review Panel Recommendations - Memo](#) PDF (135 KB)

[Instructional Materials Review Panel Recommendations - Attachment](#) (Excel 25 KB)

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Office of Early Learning and Literacy Professional Learning Opportunities for Spring 2022

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Early Childhood Coordinators, Read to Succeed Liaisons, MTSS Coordinators, District Instructional Technology Leaders

CONTACT: Wendy Burgess, wburgess@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) supports South Carolina's (SC) districts and will offer several free professional learning opportunities (PLOs) for teachers, teaching assistants, reading coaches, instructional coaches, technology coaches, and administrators that will consist of face-to-face experiences to focus on early learning and literacy instructional strategies that directly impact student learning.

[Office of Early Learning and Literacy Professional Learning Opportunities for Spring 2022 - Memo](#) PDF (190 KB)

Talent Matters Webinar Series Beginning January 19, 2022

AUDIENCE: District Personnel Administrators, District Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Lilla Toal Mandsager, lmandsager@ed.sc.gov

In conversations with principals, personnel leaders, and instructional leaders, the need for

sharing fresh ideas about recruitment and retention has come across loud and clear. The Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership Development (OEELD) is committed to supporting school and district leaders to build expertise in best practices for recruiting, retaining, and developing high-quality teachers. The OEELD is partnering with the Urban Schools Human Capital Academy (USHCA) to provide a series of webinars designed to address the most pressing human capital needs in our districts and schools.

[Talent Matters Webinar Series Beginning January 19, 2022 - Memo](#) PDF (158 KB)

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