



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

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January 4, 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 updated its School and Childcare Exclusion List to reflect the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance regarding isolation and quarantine timelines. As a reminder, the School and Childcare Exclusion List is not a guidance document but a requirement governed by state statute that schools and childcares must follow. The most recent (12/31/2021) revisions are listed on page three of the document titled **School and Childcare Exclusion List** linked below.

DHEC has also updated its **COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools Booklet** to reflect the latest CDC guidance and revised School and Childcare Exclusion List. Please note that DHEC anticipates additional guidance coming from the CDC this week that will be incorporated into the COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools Booklet as needed.

- [School and Childcare Exclusion List](#) - **12/31/2021 Update**
- [COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools Booklet](#) - **1/4/2022 Update**

COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

As of December 29, 2021, DHEC has reported the following student and staff quarantines and isolations since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

- 239,787 student quarantines
- 52,744 student isolations
- 6,075 staff quarantines
- 6,214 staff isolations

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 12/29/2021)

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 [provided 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 7 to 14 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](#)

DATA

eCollect Training and Accountability

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

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The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) purchased eCollect as a statewide service to administer surveys to parents, students, and teachers. The eCollect service has been installed in every school district. PowerSchool has customized the product to allow responses to be encrypted within the application to assure the ability to maintain anonymity of the responses.

The SCDE has provided, in partnership with PowerSchool, both one-on-one and half-day virtual training to school districts. There will be future offerings of 50 more one-on-one sessions and 148 slots for half-day training. The one-on-one training will allow the development of an operational survey for administration. The half-day training will develop base knowledge on administration of the system.

[eCollect Training and Accountability - Memo](#) PDF (133 KB)

STANDARDS

South Carolina College- and Career Ready Science Standards 2021

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders

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The [South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Science Standards 2021](#) as posted on the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) website were approved by the State Board of Education and the Education Oversight Committee on June 14, 2021.

The SCDE will begin offering professional development in early 2022 and continue throughout the 2022-23 school year to assist districts with the implementation of the 2021 standards. Full implementation and assessment of the *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Science Standards 2021* is scheduled for the 2023-24 school year.

[South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Science Standards 2021 - Memo](#) PDF (177 KB)

