



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



January 5, 2020

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

DHEC Guidance Documents

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) continues to update their school based guidance documents with the latest public health information related to COVID-19. Please take a moment to review this important information.

[School & Childcare Centers \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Result COVID-19 Test Kits](#)

[Recent Disease Activity by County Report](#) (as of 12/31/2020)

[DHEC COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage](#)

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students

DHEC began reporting positive COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools on September 4, 2020. Since that time, there have been **7,412** [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 1/3/2021) DHEC has reported **199,972** [positive cases among all South Carolinians](#).

This means that positive cases among K-12 students and staff who attended school account for **3.7%** 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 1/5/2020)

AUDIT

Annual Audit Report Submission

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Career and Technology Education Directors, School Business Officials

CONTACT: Hershula Davis, hdavis@ed.sc.gov, or Melissa Myers, mmyers@ed.sc.gov

On November 10, 2020, our office distributed a memo indicating that the annual audit report deadline has been extended from December 1, 2020, to January 15, 2021, pursuant to authority granted to the State Superintendent under Act 135 (Continuing Resolution). The extension was granted due to the delay by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in releasing the addendum to the OMB Compliance Supplement that would be used by auditors for required testing of COVID-19 related programs. OMB estimated that the addendum would be issued in the fall of 2020. On December 22, 2020, the OMB released the addendum.

As a result of the delay in the release of the addendum to the OMB Compliance Supplement, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has extended the deadline of the single audit section only of audit reports of local educational entities (LEAs) until January 29, 2021. However, the financial statement section of the audit report, the SCDE supplemental schedules for each fund type, the OMB data collection form, and the supportive information sheet data are all still required to be submitted in the LEA Audit Reporting System (LARS) no later than January 15, 2021. LEAs who did not expend funds under COVID-19 programs are encouraged to submit the single audit section by January 15, 2021.

[Annual Audit Report Submission - Memo](#) PDF (133 KB)

CALENDARS

2021-22 School Calendars (REMINDER)

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, Public Information Officers

CONTACT: Sarah Longshore (Calendars), sclongshore@ed.sc.gov, or David Mathis (eLearning), dmathis@ed.sc.gov

[South Carolina Code of Laws 59-1-425](#) requires that all school districts establish a school calendar with 180 instructional days and designate annually at least three days within their school calendar to be used as make-up days. All school districts must include three make-up days in their 2021–22 school calendars. This includes districts approved as eLearning districts in the eLearning Pilot Project. [Proviso 1A.69](#) allows districts approved as eLearning Districts, the ability to provide virtual instruction during the scheduled make-up days.

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

[2021-22 School Calendars - Memo](#) PDF (134 KB)

DATA

Release of 2019 Census Data for School Year 2021-22 Title I, Part A Allocations (REMINDER)

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Title I, Part A Coordinators

CONTACT: Jewell Stanley, jstanley@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updates regarding allocations under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every

Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The U.S. Department of Education (USED) will use the 2019 Census data to calculate school year (SY) 2021–22 allocations under Title I, Part A ESSA.

Please find the attached table that shows the 2019 population and poverty estimates for the local educational agencies (LEAs) in South Carolina, which the United States Census Bureau (Census Bureau) released on December 8, 2020. These data are also available at: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>

[Release of 2019 Census Data for School Year 2021-22 Title I, Part A Allocations - Memo PDF](#) (160 KB)

[2019 Census Poverty Data by Local Education Agency - Attachment](#) Excel (50 KB)

FINANCE

National Comprehensive Center School Spending Pilot

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Hannah Jarmolowski, hannah.jarmolowski@georgetown.edu

The National Comprehensive Center (National Center) has received U.S. Department of Education funding to guide and support local education agencies (LEAs) in their efforts to improve the usefulness of school- by-school per-pupil expenditure data and enhance decision-making capacity about resource allocations, particularly among parents and other education advocates, school board members and administrators.

Participating LEAs will receive customized school-by-school spending visualizations as well as training and conversation guides to support them in using ESSA-required spending data to examine resource allocations and opportunities to improve equity and student outcomes.

Regional Centers and SEAs are welcome to nominate an LEA with leadership who would be interested in participating, and LEAs are also welcome to self-nominate.

[National Comprehensive Center School Spending Pilot - Attachment](#) PDF (246 KB)

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, PowerSchool Coordinators, Food Service Directors

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

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), partnering with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), developed and implemented a plan for participation in the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT). The SCDE and DSS have identified eligible participants by compiling the list of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligible students and Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) eligible students. The DSS is filing a plan to continue those benefits through the 2020-21 school year.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services requires that all students eligible to receive the benefits be identified in the state plan and has developed guidelines for continuing the benefit. The guidelines for eligibility require that the schools' calendar must be impacted by five days of remote instruction and that the impacted students can be identified for each day that they were not able to receive direct benefits. The SCDE will use the Virtual Present code in PowerSchool to count the number of days students

will receive benefits.

[Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program - Memo](#) PDF (133 KB)

South Carolina Farm to School Junior Chef Competition (REMINDER)

AUDIENCE: CTE Administrators, Food Service Directors

CONTACT: Chris Strong, cstrong@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Office of Health and Nutrition (OHN) is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual South Carolina Farm to School Junior Chef Competition. Culinary teams consisting of a coach and 2-5 team members in grades 9-12 may enter. Only local educational agencies (LEAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are eligible.

To enter, teams must submit a completed application packet along with their recipe and nutritional analysis by **March 19, 2021**. The application packet is available from your local Food Service Department or online at the SCDE Health and Nutrition website:

<https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/nutrition/special-programs/2021-sc-junior-chef-competition/>.

[South Carolina Farm to School Junior Chef Competition - Memo](#) PDF (137 KB)

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

2020-21 Leaders Making Readers Literacy Symposium

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Read to Succeed Liaisons

CONTACT: Jakki Wiseman, jwiseman@ed.sc.gov, Taylor Seale, tseale@ed.sc.gov, or Marie Gibbons, mgibbons@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) invites you to attend Leaders Making Readers Literacy Symposium on Thursday, February 11, 2020. This conference is intended for district leaders who work with Summer Reading Camps (SRC), literacy instruction and interventions, and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This event will be held virtually.

[2020-21 Leaders Making Readers Literacy Symposium - Memo](#) PDF (172 KB)

Office of Early Learning and Literacy Professional Learning Opportunities for Spring 2021 (REMINDER)

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Early Childhood Coordinators, District Read to Succeed Liaisons

CONTACT: Wendy Burgess, wburgess@ed.sc.gov, or Marie Gibbons, mgibbons@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) supports South Carolina's districts and schools by providing early learning professional development opportunities (PLOs). During spring 2021, the OELL will offer several free PLOs for teachers, teaching assistants, reading coaches, and administrators that will consist of face-to-face experiences and virtual meetings to focus on literacy instructional strategies that impact student learning for students in four-

year-old kindergarten (4K) through middle school. Participation in these PLO sessions will afford attendees the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Profile of a Ready Kindergartener, Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, South Carolina Early Learning Standards (SC-ELS), and South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards. The early learning 4K PLOs will be certified for South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) credit hours.

[Office of Early Learning and Literacy Professional Learning Opportunities for Spring 2021 - Memo](#) PDF (234 KB)

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