



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

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July 13, 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](#).

CONSOLIDATION

Proviso 1.104 Part A – Consolidation Funding

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Betsy Carpentier, bcarpentier@ed.sc.gov

The below linked memo provides school districts with information concerning Proviso 1.104 Part A funding and the preliminary plan which must be completed by districts who have intentions of consolidating and plan to seek funding. The preliminary plans are due by **Friday, July 30, 2021**.

Information on the additional funding of \$85,000,000 for Proviso 1.104(B) regarding capital improvements for disadvantaged school districts is forthcoming.

[Proviso 1.104 Part A – Consolidation Funding](#) PDF (181 KB)

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

On Friday, July 9, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools. In the guidance, the CDC emphasizes the following, among other important updates:

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.

- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Shortly after the CDC released their revised guidance, DHEC [issued a statement](#) that reads in part "DHEC is currently reviewing the guidelines and will use them to draft the agency's guidance for South Carolina's schools. DHEC continues to work closely with the South Carolina Department of Education and will share the school guidelines once complete in the coming weeks." DHEC's public health director, Dr. Brannon Traxler said, "Students deserve the opportunity to learn in a safe environment, and South Carolina's teachers, parents, school administrators and other employees should also be able to work in Palmetto State schools without the fear of getting sick. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and will help provide that healthy environment in our schools."

[CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten \(K\)-12 Schools](#)

[DHEC COVID-19 Back to School Flyer \(English\)](#)

[DHEC COVID-19 Back to School Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)

ESSER

Revised ARP ESSER Funds Allocation

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: scesser@ed.sc.gov

Due to a calculation revision by the US Department of Education, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has recalculated each district's American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act's Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant allocation. The revised amounts for this allocation are shown in the allocation tables found on the ARP ESSER [website](#).

Please note that this adjustment impacts the required reservations of 20% of your total award set aside for student learning loss under sections 2001(e)(1) and 2001(f) of the ARP Act.

The SCDE will account for these revised allocations when it awards districts the remaining one-third of the ARP ESSER funds after the approval of the ARP ESSER State Plan. Please use the revised amounts as you are preparing for your ARP ESSER Plan that is due on or before **August 24, 2021**.

[Revised ARP ESSER Funds Allocation Memo](#) - PDF (145 KB)

HOTSPOTS

2021-22 School Year Hotspot Program Updates

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Information Technology Leaders

CONTACT: Jeff Henry, rhenry@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education, Office of the Chief Information Officer, will be transitioning the billing of the hotspots and wired connections that were obtained through the Online Learning Initiative to the associated school districts effective August 1, 2021. Please plan accordingly if you intend to provide hotspots to your students after this date. For example, you may wish to amend the district's ESSER budgets to include the monthly service fees for hotspots so that these expenditures can be reimbursed.

Please note that there are several no- and low-cost options available currently; information on these offers is linked on our [website](#).

[2021-22 School Year Hotspot Program Updates - Memo](#) PDF (132 KB)

POWERSCHOOL

PowerSchool Enterprise Controller and eCollect

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Report Card Coordinators, Technology Coordinators, PowerSchool Coordinators

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

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has purchased two systems from PowerSchool to support data quality and accountability requirements. The SCDE purchased PowerSchool Enterprise Controller, which will be used to update PowerSchool databases with new data fields, reference fields and facilitate distribution of common forms across the PowerSchool implementations. The Enterprise Controller will be part of the toolset utilized by the District Data Governance Group to maintain the Ed-Fi Operational Data Store (ODS) and the distribution of survey instruments for accountability.

The SCDE has also purchased Ecollect Forms as a tool for administering required accountability surveys. The tool will also be available for district use. Ecollect distributes forms/surveys to students, parents, and staff. Ecollect uses parent portal to gather information and is capable of writing the information directly back to the PowerSchool database and returning it through the ODS. Ecollect has a base set of forms for district use as part of its initial implementation and the SCDE plan to distribute the annual parent, teacher, and student surveys using this instrument. For those districts already using Ecollect Forms, you should no longer see this item on your statement renewal from PowerSchool.

[PowerSchool Enterprise Controller and eCollect - Memo](#) PDF (178 KB)

PROVISO 1.108

Proviso 1.108 Guidance and Face Coverings on School Buses Update

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Katie Nilges, knilges@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance related to Proviso 1.108 (SDE: Mask Mandate Prohibition) and update the face coverings on school buses requirement. Proviso 1.108 was adopted by the General Assembly in the 2021-22 Appropriations Bill and reads as follows:

1.108. (SDE: Mask Mandate Prohibition): No school district, or any of its schools, may use any funds appropriated or authorized pursuant to this act to require that its students and/or employees wear a facemask at any of its education facilities. This prohibition extends to the announcement or enforcement of any such policy.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) interprets the above language to mean that school districts are prohibited from requiring students and employees to wear a facemask while in any of its educational facilities for the 2021-22 school year. Educational facilities include all property owned and operated by the individual district.

[Proviso 1.108 Guidance and Face Coverings on School Buses Update - Memo](#) PDF (189 KB)

Please note that per DHEC their Opt-Out Consent Form is no longer required. However, schools and districts may choose to develop their own consent forms if needed.

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