



# SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



June 29, 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](#).

# ARP ESSER

## ARP ESSER District Application

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents

**CONTACT:** [scesser@ed.sc.gov](mailto:scesser@ed.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Education is pleased to release the application package for funds provided by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act's Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds (ARP ESSER). Please note that you received your Grant Award Notification (GAN) on May 24<sup>th</sup> awarding you two-thirds of your ARP ESSER allocation. The remaining one-third will be awarded to you when the State's ARP ESSER Plan is approved by the U.S. Dept. of Education. The ARP ESSER District Application Package is found online at <https://ed.sc.gov/finance/grants/scde-grant-opportunities/american-rescue-plan-arp-act-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief-esser-program-subgrant/>.

Please note the following:

1. The [application](#) is an online form to which you must attach the [ARP ESSER Plan](#), the [ARP ESSER Spending Plan](#), your GEPA statement, and signed [Program-Specific Assurances](#).
2. The application is due on or before **August 24, 2021**.
3. The application and the required attachments must be completed in entirety for submission.
4. As part of your ARP ESSER Plan, you must get public input including from specific stakeholders, and document that evidence in your ARP ESSER Plan, and you must publicly post your plan to your website.
5. When developing your ARP ESSER Plan, you must budget the full amount of your award. Full amounts can be found online at <https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/arp-esser-funding-information/esserf-allocation/>.
6. You must budget at least 20% of your total grant on activities to address learning loss; these activities should align to or be the same as the goals/strategies/activities you developed as part of your Academic Recovery Plan. Those amounts are posted online as well using the link above.
7. The SCDE will post a pre-recorded webinar within the next week to give guidance on

completing the application package.

8. The SCDE has posted [ARP ESSER Application Guidance](#) that you should carefully read when completing your ARP ESSER Plan.

## FINANCE

### Bus Driver Wage Scale Guideline

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, Business Officials, Transportation Officials, Transportation Area and County Supervisors

**CONTACT:** Bill Tindal, [btindal@ed.sc.gov](mailto:btindal@ed.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) presents the attached pay scale as a guide to help districts in determining local school bus driver wages for the 2021-22 school year. As of July 1, 2010, one year of experience is equal to performing the duties of an SCDE-certified school bus driver for at least 152 days in a single school year, including summer school.

[School Year 2021-22 South Carolina School Bus Driver Wage Scale Guideline - Memo](#)  
PDF (138 KB)

[Bus Driver Salary Calculation - Attachment](#) Excel (26 KB)

## KINDERGARTEN

### Kindergarten Start Date

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

**CONTACT:** Dr. Quincie Moore (Proviso), [qmoore@ed.sc.gov](mailto:qmoore@ed.sc.gov), Tina Shaw (Administration of KRA), [tshaw@ed.sc.gov](mailto:tshaw@ed.sc.gov)

South Carolina Proviso 1A.74 (Kindergarten Start Dates) states *a district superintendent or charter school authorizer may submit a request to the department to waive the minimum one hundred eighty day school attendance requirement for kindergarten students for the purpose of scheduling a readiness assessment. Upon approval of the waiver request, the approved school may stagger administering the readiness assessment to kindergarten students during the first five days of the academic year.*

Should a district choose to administer the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) on a staggered schedule during the first five days of school, the superintendent is asked to complete the attached form and return it by email to Dr. Quincie Moore. If approved, the minimum 180-day attendance requirement is waived only for kindergarten students. Please note, approval from the South Carolina Department of Education must be granted prior to the district's start date for 2021–22.

[Kindergarten Start Date - Memo](#) PDF (141 KB)

[Kindergarten Readiness Assessment - Attachment](#) PDF (225 KB)

## PROVISOS

### 2021-22 General Appropriations Bill - New Provisos

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents

**CONTACT:** Katie Nilges, [knilges@ed.sc.gov](mailto:knilges@ed.sc.gov)

The purpose of this memo is to provide districts with information regarding new provisos adopted by the General Assembly in the [2021–22 General Appropriations Bill](#). Bolded portions within the provisos below indicate an area in which districts are required to submit a report to the South Carolina Department of Education. Additional information regarding due dates of these reports will be forthcoming.

[2021-22 General Appropriations Bill - New Provisos - Memo](#) PDF (200 KB)

## TECHNOLOGY

### Accessible Electric Document Training for Teachers, Administrators, and Therapists

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

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

The South Carolina Department of Education and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine-SC Assistive Technology Program are offering a live online training series on how to make electronic documents accessible September 8-10, 2021, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. each day. This training is at no cost to teachers, administrators, and therapists. Participants can earn 3.0 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

[Accessible Electronic Document Training for Teachers, Administrators, and Therapists - Memo](#) PDF (152 KB)

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### 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)

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is extending existing approvals of district technology plans through at least December 30, 2021. We are in the process of developing a new online process to mesh the key components of district plans with existing reporting plans required by the SCDE on an annual basis. The SCDE will provide additional information regarding this transition during SY 2021–22.

[South Carolina School District Technology Plans - Memo](#) PDF (152 KB)

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### SCETV Towers and Broadband

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, District Information Technology Leaders, District Facility Managers

**CONTACT:** Stephanie Frazier, [sfrazier@scetv.org](mailto:sfrazier@scetv.org), Valarie Byrd, [vbyrd@ed.sc.gov](mailto:vbyrd@ed.sc.gov)

The pandemic has heightened our awareness of multiple gaps in our learning ecosystem. Most notably, we are more keenly aware of the lack of equitable access to broadband and the ways in which that limited access impacts student learning. As longtime partners, South Carolina ETV (SCETV) and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) are working collaboratively, along with many others, to identify solutions that will lessen the broadband gap and increase access to quality learning experiences.

[SCETV Towers and Broadband - Memo](#) PDF (193 KB)

