



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



May 18, 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](#).

COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

DHEC began reporting positive COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools on September 4, 2020. Since that time, there have been **18,339** [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 5/16/2021) DHEC has reported **460,397** [positive cases among all South Carolinians](#).

This means that positive cases among K-12 students and staff who attended school account for **4.0%** 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 5/16/2021)

[Recent Disease Activity, by County Report](#) (as of 5/12/2021)

DHEC UPDATES

ELC Re-Opening Schools Funding

DHEC respectfully requests that any districts or schools that are interested in developing a routine asymptomatic testing program or who are exploring options for increasing diagnostic testing options through ELC Re-Opening Schools funding refrain from developing arrangements with testing vendors at this time. Any arrangements for ELC-funded testing will be coordinated through vendors and partners with contracts through DHEC. Details on this process, updates, and further instruction will be shared shortly.

DHEC is aware that testing vendors are contacting districts and schools and may be referencing ELC funding, but arrangements with these vendors have not yet been coordinated or finalized and their services might not be reimbursed or funded by the ELC Re-Opening Schools grant. **Please be aware that we will be unable to reimburse schools for**

Updated CDC School Guidance

DHEC shared with our CDC liaison that we received several notifications from district and school leadership that they were unable to find recommendations for continued mask use in schools referenced in Friday's DHEC response statement to the CDC's new mask guidance. The CDC updated their website this morning to clarify that the new recommendations for fully vaccinated people do NOT apply to schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>. The CDC recommends schools continue to use the current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2020-2021 school year to include:

- Consistent implementation of layered prevention strategies to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission in schools;
- Consideration of indicators of community transmission to reflect levels of community risk; and
- Phased prevention strategies based on levels of community transmission.

The following public health efforts provide additional layers of COVID-19 protection in schools:

- Testing to identify individuals with a SARS-CoV-2 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks
- Vaccination for teachers and staff as soon as possible

Complete CDC guidance for prevention strategies for K-12 for school administrators can be found [HERE](#) and DHEC's Interim School Guidance - Response to COVID-19 Cases can be found [HERE](#).

School Based COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

SC DHEC would like to provide assistance and coordination of **OPTIONAL** school vaccine clinics for students and their family members 12 and older and staff before the end of the school year. DHEC understands that this is a hectic time of year, and the time frame for planning is very limited, so participation is **COMPLETELY OPTIONAL**. This is meant only to be a service to school districts that wish to plan vaccine events in this time frame. We will continue to coordinate with the SCDE and school districts to plan summer and back-to-school vaccination events as well.

Certain retail pharmacies are interested in partnering with schools to coordinate end-of-year clinics. Additionally, DHEC compiled a list of Pfizer vaccine providers that are able to coordinate with school districts and schools. DHEC will aid in coordination and may be able to provide some clinics. Please be aware that DHEC and its partners wish to provide as many end of year clinics as possible and as dosage allocations allow. DHEC will need the information provided in this survey in order to help with coordinating any end of year events. Please review the attached information and answer the survey below so that DHEC can provide coordination assistance in these efforts.

[School Partnership Youth and Family Vaccination Toolkit](#)

[Pfizer Providers for School Partnerships](#)

[School District Survey](#)

[Charter School Survey](#)

WEBINAR

ESSER III Fund Technical Assistance Session

On May 19, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education will hold a technical assistance session at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This technical assistance session will be recorded for those who are unable to attend.

Event address:

<https://southcarolinadepartmentofeducation.webex.com/southcarolinadepartmentofeducation/onstage/g.php?MTID=ef9fddb1dfe6be4bf955002fc3692f425>

Event number: 173 239 4229

Event password: esseriii

Audio conference: US Toll

+1-415-655-0001

Show all global call-in numbers

Access code: 173 239 4229

Please direct any questions regarding ESSER III to scesser@ed.sc.gov

<https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/esser-iii-funding-information/>

DATA

2020-21 Discipline, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism Data Verification

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Student Services Directors, Incident Management Coordinators, Attendance Supervisors

CONTACT: Aveene Coleman, acoleman@ed.sc.gov

The 2020–21 Discipline, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism data are now posted in the Accountability Data Transfer System/Data Portal for review. These data will be used by the South Carolina Department of Education to complete state and federal reports as required. It is critical, therefore, that each district reviews, corrects, and confirms the accuracy of the data by **Thursday, July 1, 2021**, and completes the 2021 Data Verification Survey by **Thursday, July 8, 2021**.

To review data collection and reporting requirements, the Office of Student Intervention Services will host an *End-of-the-Year Data Reminders* webinar on **Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 10:00–11:30 a.m.** Please share this information with the appropriate individuals and encourage them to register for the webinar via the following link: [End-of-the-Year Data Reminders](#).

[2020-21 Discipline, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism Data Verification - Memo](#) PDF (146 KB)

GRANTS

2021 South Carolina McKinney-Vento Education

Program Non-Competitive Subgrant Application Grant Opportunity

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Title I Coordinators, McKinney-Vento District Liaisons
CONTACT: Linda Mirabal-Pace, lp Pace@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the McKinney-Vento Education Program is offering *non-competitive* subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) that currently *do not* receive a McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths competitive subgrant. This subgrant is now available online and up to \$500,000 in funding will be distributed on a non-competitive basis. The deadline to apply is June 16, 2021.

For this funding round, the SCDE will award funds to eligible LEAs that propose to improve the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth.

The SCDE will offer a technical assistance webinar for interested grant applicants on **May 24, 2021, from 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.** via [Adobe Connect](#).

[2021 South Carolina McKinney-Vento Education Program Non-Competitive Subgrant Application Grant Opportunity - Memo](#) PDF (140 KB)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Listening Circles Professional Development

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, District Instructional Leaders, School Counseling Personnel Directors

CONTACT: Dr. Tremekia Priestler, tkpriester@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Student Intervention Services will host S.C. Listening Circles, a professional development opportunity designed to increase student engagement through empathy and active listening and foster mutual support and understanding among educators and other school staff.

Two sessions of this virtual professional development opportunity will be held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. The first session will be held from 3:00–4:00 p.m., and the second session from 4:00–5:00 p.m. There is no cost to participate in S.C. Listening Circles; however, registration is required. To register for either session, complete the information requested via the following link: [S.C. Listening Circles Registration](#). The registration deadline is **Sunday, May 30, 2021**.

[Listening Circles Professional Development - Memo](#) PDF (136 KB)

