



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



May 3, 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](#).

COVID-19

COVID-19 Testing

DHEC continues to strongly encourage schools to maintain capacity for testing as a preventative measure for increases in cases. We will continue to supply schools who are using BinaxNOW rapid point of care antigens and with CUE tests so long as we have supply. School and district administrations can also coordinate to submit a bulk request for [at-home iHealth Covid-19 Antigen Rapid test kits using this form](#). Expiration dates for these at-home tests [have been extended](#) an additional 3 months, increasing utility into next school year.

Please consider additional testing for upcoming events such as prom and commencement ceremonies. Additional important considerations when determining your school or district testing needs should include any programs, camps or trips taking place over the summer. You may also consider hosting a vendor testing event or distributing at-home tests to staff and students a couple days before the school year starts in the fall. Facilitating COVID testing before return to school will help ensure the safest return possible. Please contact Kendra Neely at Covid19SCschools@dhec.sc.gov with any questions.

School Isolation and Quarantine Report

The Isolation and Quarantine Data survey sent out each week continues to be an important reporting tool for COVID activity in the state and our schools. If a school is able to suspend quarantine, TTS, and contact tracing, the school should enter 0 for numbers of staff and students absent due to quarantine. **The school should continue to report all staff and students absent due to isolation for COVID which includes:**

- a positive test result (PCR, rapid antigen, home test)
- COVID symptoms and known close contact
- COVID symptoms without a test but without another diagnosis

We are thankful and appreciative of your partnership and for all your efforts to provide the highest quality education in the safest possible environments to South Carolina students. Thank you again for all of your hard work and dedication during these difficult two years.

MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Multilingual Learner Identification

AUDIENCE: Superintendents, ESEA Title III MLP Coordinators

CONTACT: Susan Murphy, smurphy@ed.sc.gov, Elizabeth Supan, esupan@ed.sc.gov

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires standardized, statewide entrance and exit procedures for multilingual learners (MLs). ESEA section 3113(b)(2) states that all students who may be MLs are assessed for such status within thirty (30) calendar days of enrollment in a school. In South Carolina, all potential MLs must be screened using a South Carolina approved English Language Proficiency (ELP) screener to determine identification within the first thirty (30) calendar days of enrollment at the start of the school year. Additionally, students who enroll after the start of the school year should be identified within the first two (2) weeks, or fourteen (14) calendar days, of enrollment to ensure students are receiving the appropriate services within a timely manner.

[Multilingual Learner Identification - Memo](#) PDF (97 KB)

TEACHSC

Invitation to Join TeachSC and Access Robust Teacher Recruitment Tools

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Personnel Administrators, District Teacher Certification Contacts

CONTACT: Katie Crews, kcrews@teachsc.org

TeachSC is a new, statewide initiative [being led and funded by the South Carolina Department of Education](#) (SCDE) in collaboration with education preparation programs, government agencies, associations, community organizations, and nonprofit stakeholders, and is free for all participating partners. TeachSC is committed to elevating the perception of the teaching profession and developing a statewide teacher recruitment system to attract the next generation of high quality, diverse and dedicated South Carolina teachers.

TeachSC and the SCDE are inviting school districts to join and take advantage of this opportunity to cultivate talent within your district. To learn more about the TeachSC initiative, you can review the [linked flier](#) and visit the recruitment platform at TeachSC.org. In neighboring North Carolina, the same initiative has already generated over 2,000 educator preparation program applicants in the past two years.

[Invitation to Join TeachSC and Access Robust Teacher Recruitment Tools - Memo](#) PDF (97 KB)