



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



November 1, 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](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

[Capital Needs Reports](#) (11/1/2022)

[U.S. Presidential Scholars Award Nominations](#) (11/4/2022)

- [Academic Application - Attachment](#) DOC (107 KB)
- [CTE Application - Attachment](#) DOC (122 KB)
- [Suggested CTE Criteria - Attachment](#) DOC (44 KB)

DHEC UPDATES

Please see the following school updates from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

COVID-19 Vendor Testing Interest Form

DHEC will soon be able to offer turnkey vendor COVID-19 testing free to public school districts and charter schools. We hope these testing services will greatly benefit school communities as there are fewer testing options available to the general public. There are some changes from last year, including:

- Vendors will perform rapid antigen tests for **COVID-19 AND Flu A/B** (while cross-panel tests remain available)
- All tests are rapid antigen. No PCR tests will be offered.
- Vendors will be able to hand out over-the-counter (OTC) at-home kits to students and staff
 - At-home kits are recommended for repeat testing within 24-48 hours when a symptomatic individual tests negative; and
 - At-home kits will likely test for COVID-19 only (not flu)

We anticipate that contracts will be awarded to testing vendors soon. Contracts will be awarded to highly qualified vendors with extensive experience facilitating a smooth onboarding process. Whether your school district or charter school received vendor testing services last year or not, consider communicating your interest in an introductory meeting with a vendor for regular testing services or in case of a school outbreak. Contact Kendra Neely at COVID19SCschools@dhec.sc.gov with any questions.

Please complete [this form](#) if you are interested in receiving COVID-19 and Flu A/B vendor testing services this year.

DHEC Authorizes Schools to Accept Federal Immunization Records for Military Children

Recognizing South Carolina's proud history of military service and support of all its current bases, personnel and families, DHEC is today temporarily authorizing school to accept a signed DD-2766C form as proof of immunization until state and federal software systems can be reconciled.

For children anywhere in South Carolina whose primary medical provider is a military one, DHEC will now accept as valid the signed federal immunization record attesting to the child having received the immunizations required by law for enrollment.

[Full Story](#)

ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDS

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test (ALT-ACCESS)

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, Special Education Directors, District Test Coordinators, District Test Coordinators-Alt

CONTACT: Deann McManus (Test Administration), dsmanus@ed.sc.gov, Angela Blackwell-Smith (Accommodations), ablackwellsmith@ed.sc.gov, Dianne Bennett (IEPs), dsbennett@ed.sc.gov

This memo provides districts with information about the administration of the stand-alone Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test required by the WIDA and Advancing ALTELLA between Tuesday, February 14, 2023, and Monday, April 17, 2023.

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test is a one-time, paper-based field test that will be given in addition to the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment that is administered this year. The field test is made up of newly developed test items which align to the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition, and will help to ensure that those test items measure what they are intended to measure.

[Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test \(ALT-ACCESS\) - Memo](#) PDF (220 KB)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Digital Accessibility Courtesy Observations for School District Websites

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District HR Directors, District Instructional Leaders, District Information Technology (IT) Leaders, District Chief Information Officers, Assistive Technology Contacts, Public Information Officers, Web Access Coordinators (WAC)

CONTACT: daco@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) will be providing free website Digital Accessibility Courtesy Observations (DACO) services to raise awareness and provide

ongoing state/federal compliance support to school districts starting November 2, 2022. District websites are a resource to communicate with communities and they have statewide and national outreach. The intent of this service is to inform school districts of current website features that may pose as unintended barriers to their audience, such as individuals with disabilities.

[Digital Accessibility Courtesy Observations for School District Websites - Memo](#) PDF (138 KB)

Network Vulnerability Scanning Initiative for School Districts

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Information Technology (IT) Leaders, District Chief Information Officers, District Information Security/Privacy Leaders, Public Information Officers

CONTACT: dvs@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is offering access to [Nessus Professional](#) on-premises network vulnerability scanning tools at no cost to districts. Access to these tools can assist districts with performing comprehensive vulnerability assessments on their network servers and workstations.

The intent is to provide districts with a tool that can help identify potential security risk factors that may impact the health of the school district networks. All equipment and software will be provided to the districts' IT Leaders or designated staff responsible for performing onsite network vulnerability scans for one month.

[Network Vulnerability Scanning Initiative for School Districts - Memo](#) PDF (141 KB)

South Carolina Department of Education
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