



# SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



November 8, 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

[Professional Development for Educators](#) (Through 12/20/2022)

[Annual Audit Report Submission](#) (12/1/2022)

## 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)

Contracts have been awarded to LTS, Mako, Rapid Reliable Testing (RRT), and Wellness Coaches. These highly experienced, qualified vendors will facilitate the smoothest onboarding process possible for your school or district. With rising rates of flu and other respiratory illnesses this time of year, testing continues to be critical to preventing further infectious disease spread. Contact Kendra Neely at [COVID19SCschools@dhec.sc.gov](mailto: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.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Professional Development for Educators

**AUDIENCE:** District Information Technology (IT) Leaders, District Instructional Technology Leaders

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

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has partnered with Microsoft Education to offer free online training opportunities for educators this fall. Participants can earn Continuing Education Units (CEU) for each session.

[Professional Development for Educators - Memo](#) PDF (149 KB)

# SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

## Qualifications for Special Education Teachers Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, Personnel Administrators, Special Education Directors, Education Deans, Directors of Teacher Education, Alternative Route Providers

**CONTACT:** Jill Christmus, [mchristmus@ed.sc.gov](mailto:mchristmus@ed.sc.gov), Mary Hipp, [mhipp@ed.sc.gov](mailto:mhipp@ed.sc.gov)

On October 4, 2022, the United States Department of Education (USED) issued a memorandum to state directors of special education regarding personnel qualifications under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Specifically, the memorandum addresses IDEA Part B requirements to ensure that special education teachers and related service providers are “appropriately and adequately prepared and trained” to meet the needs of the students they serve. The USED Office of Special Education Programs recognizes the challenges that states have faced related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing shortage of special education teachers and related service providers nationwide.

[Qualifications for Special Education Teachers Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) - Memo](#) PDF (250 KB)

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