



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



October 5, 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

On September 15, 2021, DHEC's school cases dashboard was [archived](#) and replaced with a new weekly report for K-12 public, private, and charter schools. It provides COVID-19 numbers reported directly from our state's schools.

The report includes the number of:

- students and school staff who are isolated - meaning they meet the CDC case-defining criteria for a Confirmed or Probable COVID-19 case, as present in the [DHEC COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 schools](#),
- students and school staff who are quarantined - meaning they are close contacts,
- students and school staff who have been quarantined and isolated since the start of the 2021-2022 school year, and
- students and school staff who became positive during their 2-week quarantine.

All public and private schools in South Carolina have been given access to a secure portal to use to report their school's isolation and quarantine counts on a weekly basis. A value of "NR" means that the school did not report or provided an incomplete submission.

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 9/29/2021)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 10/3/2021)

TEMPORARY VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

The South Carolina Department of Education asks schools or districts that can no longer safely operate and provide face to face instruction due to staffing shortages resulting from COVID-19 or a similar infectious disease to please complete the form linked below notifying a move to temporary virtual only instruction.

ASSESSMENTS

United States History and the Constitution End-of-Course Examination Program

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Kirsten Hural, khural@ed.sc.gov

As announced previously, beginning this school year (2021–22), End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) United States History and the Constitution (USHC) tests will be aligned to the 2019 South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards. During this implementation year, students' scores will not count as 20 percent of their final course grades. However, as in the past, the test scores will be included in the calculation of district and school report card ratings.

To allow time for additional analyses, scores will be provided to districts approximately three to four weeks after testing. Scores for the remaining EOCEP subjects (English 2, Algebra 1, and Biology 1) will be provided within the typical 36 hours.

[United States History and the Constitution End-of-Course Examination Program - Memo](#) (133 KB)

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Emergency Educator Evaluation Flexibility 2021-22

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District HR Directors, District Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Lilla Toal Mandsager, lmandsager@ed.sc.gov

During the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers, school leaders, and districts have needed to shift to new practices that prioritize school safety, student and staff social emotional health, and different modes of teaching and learning. Recognizing that quarantine and emergency virtual instruction have been necessary in many schools to ensure the safety of students and staff, the Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership Development (OEELD) offers these flexibility provisions for educator evaluations in the 2021–22 school year.

[Emergency Educator Evaluation Flexibility 2021-22 - Memo](#) PDF (191 KB)

Representatives for PADEPP Revisions Panel

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Vicki Traufler, vtraufler@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE's) vision is that all students graduate prepared for success in college, career, and citizenship. The SCDE is committed to cultivating safe learning environments where all students experience respect, dignity, and civility and feel supported and understood. To support that commitment, the Office of Educator Effectiveness

and Leadership Development is seeking nominations for representatives to serve on an advisory group tasked with reviewing and providing feedback on the Program for Assisting, Developing, and Revising Principal Performance (PADEPP).

The advisory group will consider revisions aligned with inclusive leadership, including a review of the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders and the updated South Carolina Teaching Standards Environment Domain. Nominees should include principals, principal evaluators, or district level leadership development staff who actively seek to develop and support responsive and inclusive leadership and schools.

[Representatives for PADEPP Revisions Panel - Memo](#) PDF (158 KB)

Giving John Maxwell's *Change Your World* to Middle School Teachers

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Middle School Principals

CONTACT: Lilla Toal Mandsager, lmandsager@ed.sc.gov, Sarah Gams, ssgams@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is excited to send free copies of *Change Your World* by John Maxwell to middle school teachers. The book is about a simple and profound idea that each of us can create positive change. Middle school teachers are experts in transformation and play an important role in helping their students make choices about the kind of people and citizens they want to be. Too often middle school teachers are ignored; the gift of Maxwell's book about transformation is one small way to recognize their work and their expertise.

[Giving John Maxwell's Change Your World to Middle School Teachers - Memo](#) PDF (167 KB)

EDUCATOR SERVICES

Speech-Language Pathology-Assistants

AUDIENCE: District Special Education Directors

CONTACT: Mary Hipp (SLPs/SLP-Is), mhipp@ed.sc.gov, Rebecca Davis (Speech-Language Impairment), rcdavis@ed.sc.gov

The Offices of Educator Services (OES) and Special Education Services (OSES) have received numerous requests for clarification of terms associated with the providers of speech-language pathology services in a public school setting. These terms include speech-language pathologist (SLP), speech-language pathology intern (SLP-I), speech-language therapist (SLT), and speech-language pathology assistant (SLP-A). The definitions used by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) for these four terms may be found in Section 40-67-20 (15) of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

This memo pertains strictly to the term, SLP-A. Additional information about educator certification for SLPs, SLP-Is, and SLTs may be found on the OES certification website at <https://ed.sc.gov/educators/certification/slp/> and on the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (SCLLR) website at <https://llr.sc.gov/aud/>.

[Speech-Language Pathology-Assistants - Memo](#) PDF (155 KB)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Nominations for 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholar

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, High School Principals

CONTACT: Wanda Davis, wdavis@ed.sc.gov

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964. Since that time, the program has honored more than 8,000 high school seniors on the basis of outstanding scholarship. For most of the program's existence, nominees have been recognized based upon SAT or ACT scores, but as the program evolved, candidates have been recognized in other ways. Since 2013, Chief State School Officers have been invited to nominate candidates from their states for the Academic/General Component category, and in 2016, outstanding students who demonstrated excellence in Career and Technical Education (CTE) were included for recognition.

[Nominations for 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholar - Memo](#) PDF (198 KB)

[Career and Technical Education Criteria for Candidate Nomination - Attachment](#) PDF (148 KB)

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

School Closings Due to Extreme Weather Conditions

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Chief Information Officers

CONTACT: Greg King, gking@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide annual notice of the requirements for school and district closings due to snow, extreme weather conditions, or other disruptions and to remind districts of two separate reporting requirements. Pursuant to state law (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425), all districts must designate three days in the annual academic calendar to be used as make-up days.

For schools that are closed four to six days due to snow, extreme weather conditions, or other disruptions, the local school board of trustees, by a majority vote, may waive those missed days. This board waiver would apply to any applicable school, charter school, or home school association. Alternatively, the local school board of trustees may elect to make up days four to six by lengthening the school day for at least one hour or by operating on a Saturday. Saturday school operations must accommodate or alternatively reschedule normal Saturday tutorial instruction. Plans to lengthen the school day, however, must be approved by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), Office of Federal and State Accountability (OFSA), prior to implementation. For any schools closed six to nine days due to snow, extreme weather conditions, or other disruptions, the local school board may request a waiver from the State Board of Education (SBE).

[School Closings Due to Extreme Weather Conditions - Memo](#) PDF (190 KB)