



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



September 21, 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 9/16/2021)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 9/19/2021)

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

i-Ready Cut Score Guidance for Grade 3 Retention

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Brandon Loudermilk, bloudermilk@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has computed cut scores on interim assessments to provide guidance for school districts in the identification of students at risk of not scoring at or above the Read to Succeed Criterion on the SC READY Reading subtest. The range of available scores for i-Ready® were restricted (limited scores available for the study) and may have impacted the cut score guidance location. This means that the score point was estimated from the trend of the observed data; so, there is a possibility that more data could cause these estimates to change.

The i-Ready® scores that correspond to the Read to Succeed Criterion is 419 based on a Lexile link and 352 based on a simple logistic regression equation. Districts may use this guidance to determine the value that is appropriate for determining grade 3 retention for the district's students.

[i-Ready Cut Score Guidance for Grade 3 Retention - Memo](#) PDF (135 KB)

FUNDING

Period of Performance Change for FY20 ESSA Grants

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, Chief Financial Officers, Title I, Part A Coordinators, Title I, Part C, Migrant Coordinators, ESEA Title I, Part D, N&D Coordinators, ESEA Title II Coordinators, ESEA Title III Coordinators, Title IV-A Coordinators, Title IV, Part B Coordinators, Title V (REAP) Coordinators, McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons, Grants

CONTACT: Sarah Longshore, sclongshore@ed.sc.gov

In response to the ongoing challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Education (USED) has granted fiscal waivers to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). This additional flexibility impacts K–12 education funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015.

[Period of Performance Change for FY20 ESSA Grants - Memo](#) PDF (199 KB)

STUDENT INTERVENTION SERVICES

Mental Health 101 Training Series

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Professional Development Coordinators

CONTACT: Suzanne Snyder, ssnyder@ed.sc.gov

Recently, Suzanne Snyder, a licensed professional counselor with over 20 years in the mental health field, joined the South Carolina Department of Education as the Mental Health

Program Manager. In this role, Ms. Snyder, who specializes in depression, anxiety, and life issues with an emphasis on working with adolescents, young adults, and the LGBTQ+ community, will be responsible for helping districts integrate mental health in schools and respond to the mental health needs of students and staff more effectively.

Beginning on Tuesday, October 5, and continuing throughout the month, Ms. Snyder will host a series of webinars titled Mental Health 101, which are designed to help participants better understand the various mental health needs of students and staff.

[Mental Health 101 Training Series - Memo](#) PDF (176 KB)

Addressing Learning Loss Webinar Series and Other Training Opportunities

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Attendance Supervisors, Student Services Directors, Professional Development Coordinators

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

The Office of Student Intervention Services (OSIS), in partnership with the National Dropout Prevention Center, will host Trauma-Skilled Schools: A Strategy for Learning Loss Recovery, part four of the six-part Learning Loss Professional Development Webinar Series. The webinar, scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, will explore the role of trauma as a cause of learning loss, particularly during and after the pandemic. Please share this information with the appropriate individuals in your districts and schools and encourage them to register using the following link, [Trauma-Skilled Schools: A Strategy for Learning Loss Recovery](#).

To further assist districts, the OSIS team is available to provide or coordinate training on several topics, including school climate, mental health, and restorative practices. To request virtual training for administrators, educators, and other staff in your district, please complete and submit the [Request for District Training](#).

[Addressing Learning Loss Webinar Series and Other Training Opportunities - Memo](#) PDF (141 KB)