



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



September 22, 2020

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

Updated DHEC Guidance Documents

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) continues to update their school based guidance documents with the latest public health information related to COVID-19. Please take a moment to review this important information.

[School & Childcare Centers \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Recent Disease Activity by County Report](#) (as of 9/21/2020)

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 9/22/2020)

[Management of Suspect and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases](#) (updated 9/9/2020)

COMMUNITY

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center Waiver Request - For Public Comment

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Public Information Officers

CONTACT: Joyce Patterson, jypatterson@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is seeking approval from the U.S. Department of Education to waive the requirement of Section 4201(b)(1)(A) in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that restricts activities provided by a Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program to activities provided only during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session for the 2020–21 school year. If approved, the waiver will permit 21st CCLC programs to provide supplemental activities when school is in session but students are not receiving in-person instruction, such as by permitting a teacher to provide additional academic supports during remote learning. All other requirements for a 21st CCLC program continue to apply.

DATA

Digital Equity Outreach Month

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Dan Ralyea, dralyea@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) supports efforts by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and EducationSuperHighway to understand home digital access needs so that we can close the digital divide. To that end, CCSSO and EducationSuperHighway designated September as Digital Equity Outreach Month, a national outreach effort for gathering data to support the initiative. Resources related to the campaign can be found here: <https://digitalbridgek12.org/connect-every-student/>.

To support the initiative and make it easier for districts, the SCDE had its vendors add fields to PowerSchool where schools and districts can enter information on the students' access to technology and internet service adequate for online learning. We hope that these fields can become part of your district's annual review of families' digital access as the state works to close the digital divide.

[Digital Equity Outreach Month - Memo](#) PDF (132 KB)

[Student Access to Technology - Attachment](#) PDF (104 KB)

FINANCE

ESSER Equitable Services Updated Guidance

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: scesser@ed.sc.gov

On Friday, September 4, 2020, a federal court judge ruled that Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and the United States Department of Education (USED) violated the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act in issuing a rule directing public schools to allocate a portion of their CARES funding to private schools. This ruling applies to all states and districts subgrantees (including state-operated programs) and to the CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.

The ruling in NAACP v. DeVos indicates that the proportionate share established for equitable services required under CARES Act need not comply with the final rule established by the USED; rather that districts should comply with Section 1117i of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) when determining the proportionate amount for equitable services. As a result of the judge's order related to the matter, the SCDE provides the following guidance.

[ESSER Equitable Services Updated Guidance - Memo](#) PDF (189 KB)

REMOTE LEARNING

Additional Sessions: National Institute for Excellence

in Teaching Virtual Rubric

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, Principals

The South Carolina Department of Education and National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) are offering all educators in South Carolina the opportunity to participate in three, 90-minute sessions to learn more about effective virtual teaching practices. These sessions are completely free.

Given the high demand for these sessions, which had initially filled up at the start of the semester, NIET is allowing a limited number of additional educators into future sessions starting in late September. Any educator who is not able to be added immediately will be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted about upcoming sessions in the event of an opening.

[Additional Sessions: National Institute for Excellence in Teaching Virtual Rubric Memo](#)
PDF (134 KB)

TESTING

SC READY ELA Passage Booklets

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Kevin Fatica, kjfatica@ed.sc.gov

This memorandum provides new information about the discontinuation of paper passage booklets during the online administration of the SC READY English language arts (ELA) tests.

The Education Accountability Act mandates online testing; however, the one-year proviso that allows districts to submit a waiver to administer tests on paper is still in effect. As the state has been moving to online testing, the passages on the online SC READY ELA test have also been provided for each student in a paper booklet. Beginning in spring 2021, passage booklets will no longer be available. Due to the extensive experience with online learning and virtual instruction in the past months, students should now be more equipped to interact with texts in an online testing environment. In addition, this is a significant cost savings in this time of budget uncertainty. Students testing on paper will continue to read the passages in their regular test booklets.

[SC READY EL Passage Booklets - Memo](#) PDF (134 KB)

ACT 142 Pre-Test Data Collection

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, PowerSchool Coordinators, Accountability/Report Card Coordinators

CONTACT: Dan Ralyea, dralyea@ed.sc.gov

Per Act 142, all students in grades 4K through eighth grade must be assessed during the first two weeks of school in order to identify students needing additional support and the support to be provided. Additionally, students will be assessed again prior to the end of the 2020 calendar year in order to measure the impact of intervention provided.

Districts are required to submit the results of the pre- and post-assessments to the Department of Education (SCDE) which, in turn, must be provided to the Education Oversight Committee (EOC). The EOC will then evaluate the results to report on the pandemic's impact on student learning, as well as the interventions on student learning.

[ACT 142 Pre-Test Data Collection - Memo](#) PDF (174 KB)

