



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



September 28, 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 9/22/2021)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 9/26/2021)

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.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accreditation and State Compliance Monitoring of Districts and Schools in 2021-22

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Local Board of Trustees, Chairpersons

CONTACT: Karen Cook, kcook@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memo is twofold, to provide guidance regarding South Carolina's accreditation system and to explain the procedures that will be used for state compliance monitoring in 2021-22. Pursuant to State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation [43-300](#), two accreditation options are available.

[Accreditation and State Compliance Monitoring of Districts and Schools in 2021-22 - Memo](#) PDF (182 KB)

ASSESSMENTS

Waiver Requests for SC READY and SCPASS

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, District Test Coordinators

CONTACT: Susan Creighton, screight@ed.sc.gov

The [Education Accountability Act](#) (EAA) mandates computer-based testing for SC READY and SCPASS, with the exception of students with disabilities as specified in their Individualized Education Program or 504 plan. Proviso 1.70 in the General Appropriations Bill allows districts and public charter schools to request a waiver from the State Board of Education (SBE) to administer the tests on paper.

The EAA also requires districts to administer SC READY and SCPASS during the last twenty days of each district's regular instructional calendar but allows districts and charter schools to request a waiver from the SBE to extend the testing window.

[Waiver Requests for SC READY and SCPASS - Memo](#) PDF (135 KB)

Gifted and Talented Academic Identification Assessments

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Susan Creighton (Assessments), screight@ed.sc.gov, Josie Stratton (Identification/Programmatic), jstratton@ed.sc.gov

As mandated by SC Code Ann. § 59-29-170 and 2 SC Code Ann. Regs. 43-220, districts are required to provide services for all gifted and talented students at the elementary and secondary levels. Students are identified for this program by demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas. To meet this purpose, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) administers an aptitude test Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and an achievement assessment (Iowa) to second grade students, which meet the mandated requirements. All second-grade students must be administered these

assessments.

Students must meet the criteria for two out of the three dimensions outlined in the law. Dimension A (Reasoning Abilities) requires students to demonstrate high aptitude (93rd national age percentile) in one or more of these areas: verbal/linguistic, quantitative/mathematical, nonverbal, and/or a composite of the three. Dimension B (Achievement) requires that students demonstrate high achievement in reading and/or mathematical areas (94th national percentile) as measured by a nationally normed or statewide assessment.

[Gifted and Talented Academic Identification Assessments - Memo](#) PDF (177 KB)

DIPLOMAS

Diploma Information

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, High School Principals, School Counselors

CONTACT: Laura McNair, lmcnair@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Career and Technical Education has created a webpage with essential links to information on, but not limited to, the Diploma Order Tracking System, transcripts, and graduation requirements. Policies, manuals, regulations, and updated communication pertinent to the aforementioned items are now in one place. Please use this [link](#) to access pertinent information.

It is imperative that new and interim superintendents and principals update their information in the District Entity Information Management System (DEIMS), as well as, send Jostens their signature for diplomas.

[Diploma Information - Memo](#) PDF (131 KB)

EARLY LEARNING AND LITERACY

South Carolina Return to Learn Technology Grant Learning Engagement Coach for Teachers Regional Training Sessions

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Read to Succeed District Liaisons, Family Engagement Liaisons, Early Childhood Coordinators

CONTACT: Wendy Burgess, wburgess@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is pleased to announce some exciting opportunities for South Carolina (SC) educators who work with students in grades Pre-K through third grade. This memo outlines the details for these opportunities.

The SCDE Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) recently secured regional learning engagement coaches (LECs) for families and teachers as part of the South Carolina Return to Learn (SCR2L) Technology Grant. The role of the LECs for families is to support the families of young learners while the LEC for teachers will support SC educators. The OELL will be hosting regional training sessions for SC educators on how to effectively use the resources located in the Learning Object Repository (LOR) to generate high quality digital learning materials and lessons.

[South Carolina Return to Learn Technology Grant Learning Engagement Coach for Teachers Regional Training Sessions - Memo](#) PDF (178 KB)

South Carolina Return to Learn Technology Grant Learning Engagement Coach for Families Regional Training Sessions

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Read to Succeed District Liaisons, Family Engagement Liaisons, Early Childhood Coordinators

CONTACT: Wendy Burgess, wburgess@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is pleased to announce some exciting opportunities for South Carolina families of early learners. This memo outlines the details for these opportunities.

The SCDE Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) recently secured regional Learning Engagement Coaches (LECs) for families as part of the South Carolina Return to Learn (SCR2L) Technology Grant. These LECs will focus on working with families in South Carolina public schools, including charter schools, non-public schools, and home school families. The focus of this work is to support families of early learning students and disadvantaged learners.

[South Carolina Return to Learn Technology Grant Learning Engagement Coach for Families Training Sessions - Memo](#) PDF (208 KB)

FUNDING

State Funded School Nurse Allocation

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, School Business Officials, District Lead Nurses

CONTACT: Melanie Cooper (Funding), mcooper@ed.sc.gov, Victoria Ladd (MOA), vladd@ed.sc.gov

Districts may utilize funding to employ school nurses in all K–12 public school settings. In prior years, districts completed an application process for funding, which was exclusively for elementary school nurses. Proviso 1.46 of the FY 2021–22 Appropriation Act now directs that funding can be used for school nurses of all K–12 schools. The per nurse allocation for this fiscal year is expected to be up to \$21,097.27.

[State Funded School Nurse Allocation - Memo](#) PDF (205 KB)

[School Nurse Memorandum of Agreement - Attachment](#) PDF (152 KB)

[Nurse District Listing - Attachment](#) Excel (79 KB)

American Rescue Plan and Supplement not Supplant

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Special Education Directors, District Business Officials

CONTACT: Michelle Williams Young (IDEA ARP), smwilliamsyoung@ed.sc.gov, Tonia Smith (ESSER), tmsmith@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide critical reminders and distinctions about emergency funds recently provided under the American Rescue Plan (ARP), which was authorized in March 2021. As you are aware, the ARP provided South Carolina with an additional grant in excess of two billion dollars through the ARP Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds. In addition, the APR authorized additional

funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), referred to as ARP ESSER.

These additional federal funds are to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) in addressing the challenges faced in ensuring special education and related services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under ESSER I, ESSER II and ARP ESSER funds, there is no provision related to supplement not supplant. In fact, each of the enacting laws provided that supplement not supplant does not apply to ESSER I, ESSER II, or ARP ESSER funds.

[American Rescue Plan and Supplement not Supplant - Memo](#) PDF (181 KB)

