



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



September 8, 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) has updated a number of their school based guidance documents within the last few weeks with the latest public health guidance 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 9/7/2020)

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 9/8/2020)

[COVID-19 in Schools: Frequently Asked Questions for Parents](#) (English)

[COVID-19 in Schools: Frequently Asked Questions for Parents](#) (Spanish)

[Guidance for Persons Who Have Had Close Contact with a COVID-19 Case](#)

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

2020-21 African American History Instructional Materials Grant

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Nonprofit Organizations, Institutions of Higher Education

CONTACT: Stephen Corsini, spcorsini@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2020-21 Request for Proposals for the African American History Instructional Materials Grant is now available

online. Approximately \$200,000 in funding will be distributed on a competitive basis and the deadline to apply is **October 21, 2020**.

For this funding round, the SCDE will fund nonprofit organizations, school districts, or Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) that are capable of developing one of the African American History instructional materials as detailed in the Request for Proposals. The purpose of this program is to facilitate the development of additional instructional materials for African American history curricula.

[2020-21 African American History Instructional Materials Grant - Memo](#) PDF (138 KB)

ASSESSMENTS

English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment Online Administration

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, English Language Proficiency District Test Coordinators

CONTACT: Susan Murphy (Administration of ACCESS for ELLs), smurphy@ed.sc.gov, Jill Christmus (Administration of Alternate ACCESS for ELLs), mchristmus@ed.sc.gov, Angela Blackwell-Smith (Accessibility and Accommodations), ablackwellsmith@ed.sc.gov

This memorandum provides information about changes to the availability of paper administrations of the ELP assessment, ACCESS for English language learners (ELLs).

The ACCESS for ELLs test is administered in compliance with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and the test scores are included in federal accountability reporting. As with all assessments administered in compliance with ESSA, the assessment must be evaluated by a federal peer review committee and approved by the United States Department of Education (USED). For peer review, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is required to send evidence about all aspects of the testing program, including information about development, administration, technical quality (e.g., validity, reliability), and reporting.

[English Language Proficiency \(ELP\) Assessment Online Administration - Memo](#) PDF (187 KB)

EARLY LEARNING AND LITERACY

New Reading Coaches: Year One and Year Two

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Read to Succeed Liaisons, School Administrators

CONTACT: Marie Gibbons, mgibbons@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) supports South Carolina's districts and schools by providing SCDE Reading Coaches with two years of professional learning. In order to receive the SCDE Literacy Coach Endorsement, coaches must complete two courses: Principles of Coaching and Action Research. During their first year, coaches must take and complete the Principles of Coaching course. Coaches who are entering their second year must take and complete the Action Research course. This two-year training will provide coaches with the SCDE Literacy Coach Endorsement and certificates of completion.

During the 2020-21 school year, the OELL will offer regional training using a virtual model for Year One and Year Two coaches. It requires the virtual presence of both facilitator and coach, with some elements of coach control over time, place, path, or pace. There will be monthly sessions along with opportunities for virtual one on one or small group support. The online component will expose participants to the work of coaching scholar-practitioner.

2020-21 District and School Reading Plans

The Read to Succeed Act requires that the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), with the approval of the State Board of Education (SBE), develop, implement, evaluate, and continuously refine a comprehensive state plan for prekindergarten through grade twelve to improve reading achievement. The South Carolina State Reading Plan has been developed to guide the support of the SCDE for districts and schools. The South Carolina State Reading Plan also provides guidance to district and school plans as they work to support the reading and writing development of their students with research-based, outcomes oriented strategies. The South Carolina State Reading Plan was approved by the SBE on June 10, 2015.

The 2020–21 district and school reading plans deadline was extended this year from **April 30, 2020 to October 15, 2020**.

[2020-21 District and School Reading Plans \(due October 15, 2020\) - Memo](#) PDF (170 KB)

[Directions for Completing 2020-21 District and School Reading Plans - Attachment](#) PDF (219 KB)

2020-21 Literacy Specialist Support

The OELL commits to supporting districts in their implementation of Read to Succeed as outlined in the Read to Succeed Act. As part of our effort to promote literacy achievement, the OELL will continue the Palmetto Literacy Project (PLP) in the 2020–21 school year. The PLP will involve members of the Read to Succeed team and the Literacy Specialist team supporting Tier 3 schools through research and collaboration with district and school staff to strengthen literacy outcomes. The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the role of the Read to Succeed and Literacy Specialist teams in support of the PLP for the 2020–21 school year. As part of our effort to continue promoting the success of all students in reading achievement, the OELL will also continue to provide support and assistance to all schools in South Carolina during the 2020–21 school year.

[2020-21 Literacy Specialist Support - Memo](#) PDF (177 KB)

[Palmetto Literacy Project Chart of Support - Attachment](#) PDF (116 KB)

PADEPP EVALUATIONS

COVID-19 Principal Evaluation Orientation Date Extension

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

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

The Program for Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Principal Performance (PADEPP) Guidelines set September 15 as the deadline to complete the one-on-one principal evaluation orientation conferences for the new school year. These one-on-one orientation conferences are vital to the evaluation process and provide the foundation for principals by establishing a trusting relationship between the evaluator and principal, expectations for professional performance in a traditional, virtual, or hybrid setting, and professional goals for the school year.

Many districts are beginning the school year later than usual, and the orientation conference should be a meaningful conversation between principals and evaluators. **The Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership Development is extending the deadline for the 2020–21 PADEPP orientation conference to October 15, 2020.**

[COVID-19 Principal Evaluation Orientation Date Extension - Memo](#) PDF (141 KB)

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Division of College and Career Readiness Fall 2020 Professional Learning Opportunities (PLOs)

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, School Principals

CONTACT: Angel Malone (CTE), amalone@ed.sc.gov, Quincie Moore (ELL), qmoore@ed.sc.gov, Stephanie DiStasio (OPL), sdistasio@ed.sc.gov, Anne Pressley (OSL), apressley@ed.sc.gov, Bradley Mitchell (VirtualSC), bmitchell@ed.sc.gov

As districts determine priorities for a demanding school year, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is offering Professional Learning Opportunities (PLOs) that can assist in reaching district and school goals. Understandably, considerations should be given to the topic, delivery platform, and schedule of when PLOs are offered during an unprecedented year.

[Division of College and Career Readiness Fall 2020 Professional Learning Opportunities \(PLOs\) - Memo](#) PDF (47 KB)

[Office of Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Fall PLOs - Attachment](#) PDF (179 KB)

[Division of College and Career Readiness Fall 2020 Professional Learning Opportunities \(PLOs\) - Attachment](#) PDF (191 KB)

[Office of Personalized Learning \(OPL\) Fall PLOs - Attachment](#) PDF (127 KB)

[Office of Standards and Learning \(OSL\) Fall PLOs - Attachment](#) PDF (98 KB)

[Office of Virtual Education Fall PLOs - Attachment](#) PDF (83 KB)

K-12 Priority and Support Learning Standards Professional Learning Opportunity

AUDIENCE: District Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Lindsey Lyles, llyles@ed.sc.gov, Dawn Hawkins, dhawkins@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Standards and Learning will offer a free, ongoing, virtual professional learning opportunity to support English Language Arts and Mathematics K-12 educators, instructional coaches, administrators, and district leaders. This professional learning opportunity is designed to explore and understand how priority and support learning standards inform instruction. Participants will engage in research-based, effective virtual/hybrid instruction to apply in their classrooms.

[K-12 Priority and Support Learning Standards Professional Learning Opportunity - Memo](#) PDF (233 KB)

[SCDE ELA Priority and Support Learning Standards - Attachment](#) PDF (798 KB)

[SCDE Mathematics Priority and Support Learning Standards - Attachment](#) PDF (889 KB)

SAFETY SIGNAGE MATERIALS

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Public Information Officers, Principals

CONTACT: Ryan Brown, rybrown@ed.sc.gov

The SCDE has developed a series of school safety signage to help reinforce students and staff wearing face coverings, washing their hands, avoiding touching their face, and social distancing while within the school building. These materials are now available in both English and Spanish.

The SCDE has worked with an industrial printing company, Spectra, on the creation of an online portal where districts can place orders for any signage needed. Spectra will print the requested materials and ship directly to the district from their headquarters in Columbia. Payment is the responsibility of the entity placing the order.

[School Safety Signage Materials](#)

[Spectra Ordering Portal](#)

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

District Invitation for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Screener Showcase

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, Special Education Contacts

CONTACT: Kim Spigener, kspigener@ed.sc.gov

Screening is a core component of a solid Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) school and district process. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is assisting districts who are seeking to incorporate social-emotional screenings into their MTSS processes. The SCDE reviewed available SEL screening tools and has compiled a list of screeners that districts may want to adopt as part of their MTSS process.

The Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) will host a virtual showcase of these selected social emotional screeners on **September 22, 2020 from 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.** The purpose of the showcase to give the district representatives the opportunity to participate in a presentation and review materials from each provider.

[District Invitation for Social Emotional Learning \(SEL\) Screener Showcase - Memo](#) PDF (164 KB)

TECHNOLOGY

ORS Hotspot Exchange Process and Reporting Reminder

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Information Technology Leaders

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The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) have been hearing from districts and special schools that either have extra hotspots, or are in need of extra hotspots. The two agencies have developed a process

for exchanging hotspots among districts and special schools.

Your district's first report to the ORS related to the hotspot and internet program is due Tuesday, September 8.

[ORS Hotspot Exchange Process and Reporting Reminder - Memo](#) PDF (158 KB)

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Hotspots and Internet

SCDE has worked with the S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to compile a list of Frequently Asked Questions addressing concerns about Hotspots and Internet. Please take a moment to review this important information.

[Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Hotspots and Internet - Attachment](#) PDF (82 KB)

