



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Shelia Quinn, Ed.D.  
Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

**DATE:** December 15, 2015

**RE:** Reauthorization of ESEA and SC Educator Evaluation

The recent reauthorization of ESEA holds great promise for the state of South Carolina and its students. The *Every Student Succeeds Act* addresses educator evaluation and allows states the flexibility to work with local stakeholders to determine how educators should be evaluated and supported each year.

Until August 1, 2016, South Carolina will continue to implement the Expanded ADEPT/PADEPP Support and Evaluation system in a manner that complies with the current ESEA Flexibility Waiver and guided by the Expanded ADEPT and PADEPP Guidelines (approved by the SC BOE March, 2014). Principals should continue to presume proficiency when scoring student growth measures for the teachers who have been implementing student learning objectives this year.

Going forward, student growth measures will continue to be a measure within the evaluation of educators in South Carolina. However, the SCDE will work collaboratively with South Carolina educators to determine the right approach and a thoughtful implementation timeline.

Beginning in January 2016, Superintendent Spearman will

- Request an extension of two years from the State Board of Education (SBE) to train educators and implement student learning objectives, effective when the ESEA Flexibility Waiver expires in August.
- Ask the SBE to amend the ADEPT and PADEPP Guidelines effective for SY 2016-17 to remove the provision that ESEA-required test scores must be part of “student growth” measures.
- Authorize the implementation of focus groups with educators across the state to gain feedback related to SLOs and other components of Expanded ADEPT/PADEPP systems.
- Emphasize the use of formative assessments and local measures in the SLO process to drive instructional decisions regarding student growth.
- Embed student growth measures (SLOs) as an artifact in teacher evaluation instead of a stand-alone measure.

If you have any questions related the reauthorization of ESEA and its implications for Expanded ADEPT/PADEPP system development and implementation, contact Kris Joannes, Director of Educator Effectiveness [kjoannes@ed.sc.gov](mailto:kjoannes@ed.sc.gov) (803)734-0443.