



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
High School Principals
Public Information Officers

FROM: Sabrina B. Moore, PhD
Director, Office of Student Intervention Services

DATE: March 25, 2019

RE: 12-Year Perfect Attendance Recognition for 2018–19

Each year, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) honors graduating seniors who have 12 years of perfect attendance. Students who have not accumulated any absences—**excused or unexcused**—since being enrolled in a public school as a first-grade student will receive a special certificate and personal letter signed by the State Superintendent of Education.

Because the definition of “present” changed in 2017–18 as a result of the U. S. Office of Civil Rights’ emphasis on chronic absenteeism, students who did not attend school for over fifty percent of the instructional day are to be considered absent. Of course, district-level attendance policies and practices that were in place before 2017–18 should be used to determine the attendance status of all students prior to 2018–19. However, because this change could negatively impact current seniors who have had perfect attendance for the previous 11 years—based on existing district-level attendance policies and practices—districts may use those same policies and practices in determining whether or not to recognize seniors with 11 previous years of perfect attendance.

To ensure that each deserving student is recognized this year, high school principals (or their designees) should complete the 12-Year Perfect Attendance online application for all graduating seniors who have had perfect attendance from first grade through April 26, 2019. The [12-Year Perfect Attendance Application](#) should be submitted by **Friday, May 3, 2019**, for every high school, even if there are no eligible students to be honored.

March 25, 2019

So that students may be honored before or during the graduation ceremony, principals will receive perfect attendance certificates no later than Friday, May 17, 2019. Therefore, it is important that the [12-Year Perfect Attendance Application](#) be submitted by Friday, May 3. Perfect attendance letters signed by the State Superintendent will be mailed directly to the students' homes. NOTE: If a student for whom a certificate has been printed becomes ineligible to receive the recognition (an absence occurs after April 26), the principal is asked to return the certificate to Tiffany Robinson, Office of Student Intervention Services, SCDE, 1429 Senate Street, Suite 805, Columbia, SC 29201.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Robinson at 803-734-8279 or tarobins@ed.sc.gov.