



# SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

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August 31, 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

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 8/29/2021)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 8/29/2021)

[COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools Booklet](#) (as of 8/25/2021)

## 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.

[South Carolina Department of Education Notification of School or District Move to Temporary Virtual Instruction](#)

## ASSESSMENTS

### Designation of Test Coordinators for 2020-21

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents

**CONTACT:** Houston Andrade, [handrade@ed.sc.gov](mailto:handrade@ed.sc.gov)

State Board of Education [Regulation 43-100](#) addresses test security for statewide assessment programs. Section IV of the regulation requires district superintendents to designate one individual in the district who will be authorized to procure instruments administered as part of the statewide assessment system. The individual designated for each

program (i.e., District Test Coordinator or DTC) will receive secure test materials and test scores; will be the contact between your district, Office of Assessment staff, and the contractor for the administration of the assessment program; and manage data submissions.

[Designation of Test Coordinators for 2021-22 - Memo](#) PDF (155 KB)

[DTC Assessment Program Groups - Attachment](#) PDF (120 KB)

## ATTENDANCE

### ENGAGE South Carolina Attendance Recovery Program

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, Attendance Supervisors, School Counseling Personnel, Student Services Directors

**CONTACT:** [EngageSC@graduationalliance.com](mailto:EngageSC@graduationalliance.com)

As we begin the 2021-22 school year, it is imperative the needs of our students who may have fully or partially disengaged from their education due to the COVID-19 pandemic are addressed. To assist teachers, schools, and districts in these efforts, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has extended a program aimed at helping re-engage K-12 students. In partnership with Graduation Alliance, **ENGAGE South Carolina** will continue to assist students and families struggling to get back on track.

[ENGAGE South Carolina Attendance Recovery Program - Memo](#) PDF (187 KB)

## DIPLOMAS

### Diploma Pathways

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, Principals, Career and Technical Education Directors, School Counselors

**CONTACT:** Anna Duvall, [aduvall@ed.sc.gov](mailto:aduvall@ed.sc.gov)

On May 19, 2017, the South Carolina Governor signed [legislation](#) allowing for personalized pathways to a South Carolina high school diploma.

This personalized path to a high school diploma is referred to as Diploma Pathways. There are three key components of this legislation: Diploma Pathway Courses developed by a school district to meet the unique needs of students, Seals of Distinction, and the State Employability Credential.

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

[Diploma Pathways Seals of Distinction Overview - Attachment](#) PDF (288 KB)

## DUAL MODALITY

### Frequently Asked Questions - Dual Modality

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents

**CONTACT:** David Mathis, [dmathis@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dmathis@ed.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) previously provided districts with information related to [S. 704](#) in an [April 22, 2021, memorandum](#). Further clarification was

provided in an April 27, 2021, [Frequently Asked Questions](#). The purpose of this memo is to provide additional information related to the dual modality section of S. 704.

Per S. 704, school districts are prohibited from assigning a teacher to deliver instruction to students simultaneously in-person and virtually unless it is reasonable and necessary due to extreme and unavoidable circumstances in order to ensure that all students have access to highly qualified instructors. In the event that a school district determines it is necessary for a teacher to deliver simultaneously in-person and virtual instruction, the school district must provide additional compensation to the teacher.

[Frequently Asked Questions - Dual Modality - Memo](#) PDF (170 KB)

## EARLY LEARNING AND LITERACY

### Numeracy Screener Recommendations for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, MTSS Coordinators  
**CONTACT:** Quincie Moore, [qmoore@ed.sc.gov](mailto:qmoore@ed.sc.gov)

On May 18, 2018, Governor Henry McMaster signed into law Act 213, which directed districts to begin implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) during the 2019–20 school year. MTSS addresses the needs of the whole child – academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally – through a holistic and personalized system of learning that incorporates academics and social emotional into one framework.

Screening is a core component of a comprehensive MTSS school and district process. While Act 213 emphasizes the use of early literacy screening, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is assisting districts who are seeking to incorporate numeracy screenings into their MTSS process for early learners. The SCDE organized a team of district and university representatives to review available numeracy screening tools and has compiled a list of screeners that districts may want to adopt as part of their MTSS process.

[Numeracy Screener Recommendations for MTSS - Memo](#) PDF (164 KB)

## FACE COVERINGS

### Face Coverings on School Buses - *Updated August 27, 2021*

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, Transportation Directors

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) [announced on July 6, 2021](#), that it would no longer enforce the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) January 29, 2021, Order](#) that requires the use of face coverings by people on public transportation conveyances and hubs, which includes school buses. This decision was made at a time when COVID-19 transmission rates and case counts across South Carolina were very low.

Throughout the pandemic, the SCDE has updated its COVID-19 guidance as conditions have changed and as more information has become available. It has become apparent based on COVID-19 data being reported by schools along with increasing levels of the highly transmissible Delta variant in local communities, that more protective measures are needed to lower the risk of virus transmission and keep our school open and operating as safely as possible.

[Face Coverings on School Buses - Memo](#) PDF (221 KB)

