



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



February 22, 2022

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

As of February 16, 2022, DHEC has reported the following student and staff quarantines and isolations since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

- 427,448 student quarantines
- 124,247 student isolations
- 15,611 staff quarantines
- 22,149 staff isolations

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 2/16/2022)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 2/20/2022)

UPDATED K-12 COVID-19 GUIDANCE

DHEC has modified its COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools and Childcare Centers. It has also made revisions to its School and Childcare Exclusion List. These updates will assist in the transition from Test to Stay and quarantine to learning, working, and living with COVID-19 with minimal disruptions. You can access the latest documents by clicking the links below.

The guidance is similar, but not identical, to DHEC pre-COVID-19 guidance for influenza. As part of DHEC transition planning efforts, DHEC overarching School and Childcare Exclusion List now reflects this guidance update. Below are guidance highlights:

- The guidance applies to individual schools, not entire school districts and childcare centers.
- Schools and childcare centers may suspend Test to Stay or quarantine once they have had two consecutive weeks with less than 10 percent of all students and staff having COVID-19.
 - When Test to Stay or quarantine has stopped, contact tracing and testing and masking of close contacts without symptoms is no longer required.

- The first two-week period ends Feb. 28, 2022
 - Based on week-one data (week of Feb. 21) and if the trend of low cases continues, DHEC anticipates that most schools and childcare centers will have the option to suspend Test to Stay or quarantine on March 1, 2022.
- Schools will continue to report the number of cases to DHEC on a weekly basis.
 - If a school or childcare center that has suspended Test to Stay or quarantine and has two consecutive weeks with 10 percent or more of all students and staff having COVID-19, either Test to Stay or Quarantine will need to be reinstated.
- Isolation requirements for those who have COVID-19 will remain unchanged.

[COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) (as of 2/22/2022)

[COVID-19 Guidance for Childcare Centers](#) (as of 2/22/2022)

[School and Childcare Exclusion List](#) (as of 2/22/2022)

[DHEC Issues Updated Schools and Childcare Centers Guidance for Managing COVID-19 as an Endemic](#)

COLLEGE & CAREER

South Carolina College and Career Decision Day Rally

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, High School Principals, High School Counselors

CONTACT: Gerrick Hampton, ghampton@che.sc.gov

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is always thankful for the opportunity to serve students and support them in their college and career endeavors. After a busy year, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is excited to announce our first ever annual South Carolina College and Career Decision Day Rally! Mirrored after National Signing Day, this event will recognize and applaud students deciding to attend any college, university, community college, vocational or training program, join the military, or enter the workforce. College and university representatives, representatives from the business community, representatives from the armed forces, state legislator, and local celebrities will be present to witness and support students as they take charge of their futures. A true celebration, SC College and Career Decision Day will show our students that we are proud of their achievements, invested in their futures, and excited to see what they do next.

[South Carolina College and Career Decision Day Rally - Memo](#) PDF (136 KB)

MONTESSORI

Montessori School Survey

AUDIENCE: Chief Academic Officers, Montessori Programs Coordinator

CONTACT: Kristen Logan, klogan@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Office of Personalized Learning is excited to highlight the Montessori opportunities offered across the state. South Carolina is one of the nation's leading states in Montessori programming. If you are a Chief Academic Officer who has Montessori programs, or are a Principal who has a Montessori program, please complete this [form](#) so that we can ensure we have accurate information for each respective Montessori program.

PUBLIC REVIEW

Virtual Public Review for Instructional Materials

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, State Board of Education, District Instructional Materials Coordinators

CONTACT: Kriss Stewart, kstewart@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is announcing the virtual public review of Review Panel recommended instructional materials for Physical Education 9–12 and Advanced Placement Macroeconomics. From February 22 through March 22, 2022, the student editions of each of the recommended programs will be available virtually using publisher-provided links. A report of the Review Panel recommendations with citizen comments from the public review will be submitted to the State Board of Education on April 12, 2022. Upon approval of the panel recommendations, districts and schools will receive notification of the newly-adopted materials.

[Virtual Public Review for Instructional Materials - Memo](#) PDF (134 KB)

[Virtual Public Review for Instructional Materials - Attachment](#) PDF (97 KB)

STUDENT WRITING CONTEST

Dominion Energy and S.C. Department of Education Invite High School Students to Enter Second Annual Writing Contest to Celebrate Notable African Americans

AUDIENCE: High School Principals

Dominion Energy and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) encourage high school juniors and seniors to enter the second annual Strong Men & Women in S.C. History student essay contest. The program builds on SCDE's longstanding South Carolina African American History Calendar that honors prominent African Americans in the state who have made noteworthy contributions.

All South Carolina high school juniors and seniors are invited to submit a 500-word essay for a chance to receive an Apple MacBook Air and \$1,000 for their school. Winning students will be invited to participate in the unveiling ceremony of the 2023 African American History Calendar, and their essays will be showcased on the Dominion Energy and SCDE websites.

Deadline for entries is March 1, 2022.

[Student Writing Contest Website](#)

[Student Writing Contest Flyer](#)