



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



March 29, 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

Reporting of Negative Test Results:

On March 8, 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HSS) updated its COVID-19 Laboratory Data Reporting Guidance. Based on this guidance, DHEC has updated the South Carolina reporting requirements that will go into effect shortly. A Health Alert Network (HAN) is expected to be released in the near future. This is a courtesy advanced announcement notifying you of the expected changes.

There will be a change in reporting requirements for schools that are performing their own COVID-19 testing under a CLIA waiver for low-complexity tests. This will apply to those districts and schools with school nurses or athletic trainers who are performing either Abbott BinaxNOW and/or CUE tests. Upon release of the HAN, districts and schools will no longer be required to report negative test results. Positive results are still required to be reported to DHEC within 24 hours of test collection. There will be no change to the requirements for CLIA certified facilities like labs, so vendors servicing school districts and schools will continue to report all positive and negative results to DHEC. Please direct any questions you may have to Kendra Neely at COVID19SCSchools@dhec.sc.gov

Isolation and Quarantine Reporting:

DHEC is glad to know that most schools are currently able to suspend quarantine, TTS, and contact tracing due to low numbers of positive staff and students. It is important that schools continue to report on the weekly Isolation and Quarantine data survey. This survey is now distributed each Thursday at noon and closes the following Monday at 5 p.m. Those schools that are not currently requiring quarantine should enter 0 for the current number of staff and students quarantined and should carry over their total for the total numbers of staff and students quarantined since the start of the school year. Please continue to report current numbers of staff and students isolated each week and please update the total number of staff and students isolated since the start of the school year. DHEC appreciates your continued partnership and assistance with this.

ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDS

End of Course Examination Program Standard Setting

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Christina Melton, csmelton@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Assessment and Standards is in search of a group of educators that are representative of our state to participate in two standard settings this summer. Standard setting is a process used to define performance standards and the cut scores that correspond to those levels. Cut scores will be determined for the End of Course Examination Program (EOCEP) for U.S. History and the Constitution and for the Alternate Assessment (SC-ALT) for U.S. History and the Constitution.

The EOCEP standard setting is scheduled for **June 15–16** at the Doubletree by Hilton in Columbia and the SC-ALT standard setting is scheduled for **June 22–24** at the Marriot Hotel in Columbia.

[End of Course Examination Program Standard Setting - Memo](#) PDF (140 KB)

DATA

Climate Surveys for Accountability Ratings

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Report Card/Accountability Coordinators, Technology Coordinators, PowerSchool Coordinators

CONTACT: eCollect Portal, PowerSchool@ed.sc.gov, Matt Lavery (Accountability), mlavery@eoc.sc.gov, Dan Ralyea (Survey Administration), dralyea@ed.sc.gov

The Student and Teacher Climate Surveys are being included in the school accountability system as a rated metric. This required a change in the delivery method. The student and teacher climate surveys will be issued and collected through the PowerSchool eCollect system. Participation in the survey can impact the rating values your schools receive. Both the teacher survey and the student survey are controlled for continuous employment or enrollment respectively. The participation target is 80 percent of the identified populations. The eligibility criterion are listed in the [accountability manual](#). An updated list of teachers expected to be surveyed has been loaded in the accountability folder in ADT. This list was refreshed and expanded to include counselors and media specialists on March 25, 2022.

[Climate Surveys for Accountability Ratings - Memo](#) PDF (155 KB)

GRANTS

Arts Curricular Innovation Grants - Equitable Arts Advancement Program Grant Opportunity

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Public Information Officers

CONTACT: Roger Simpson, rsimpson@ed.sc.gov, Monique Curry, lmcurry@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2022–23 Request for Proposals for the Arts Curricular Innovation Grants (ACIG)—**Equitable Arts Advancement Program** grant is now available online. Approximately \$396,000 in funding will be distributed on a competitive basis and the deadline to apply is **May 23, 2022**.

For this funding round, the SCDE will fund [South Carolina Title I schools](#) and/or [South Carolina Priority schools](#) to support the advancement of school arts programs, including dance, music, theatre, and/or visual art to provide equitable access, resources, and arts opportunities to all students. Applications may include any and all arts areas.

[Arts Curricular Innovation Grants - Equitable Arts Advancement Program Grant](#)

STUDENT INTERVENTION SERVICES

Supporting Students' Academic and Behavioral Health: A Series of Webinars

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Professional Development Coordinators, School Counseling Personnel Coordinators

CONTACT: Sabrina Moore, smoore@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Student Intervention Services will host a series of webinars designed to help administrators, educators, and other school staff support students' academic and behavioral success.

[Supporting Students' Academic and Behavioral Health: A Series of Webinars - Memo](#)
PDF (213 KB)

