



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



March 30, 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

DHEC began reporting positive COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools on September 4, 2020. Since that time, there have been **16,026** [positive cases among K-12 students and staff](#) who attended school face to face during their infectious period. During that same time period (9/4/2020 to 3/23/2021) DHEC has reported **422,446** [positive cases among all South Carolinians](#).

This means that positive cases among K-12 students and staff who attended school account for **3.8%** of South Carolina's total since K-12 positive case reporting began. Public and private K-12 students and staff make up approximately one fifth of South Carolina's total population.

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 3/28/2021)

[Recent Disease Activity, by County Report](#) (as of 3/24/2021)

COVID-19 VACCINE

Educator and Support Staff Vaccine Participation Survey

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) strives to keep policy makers, DHEC, and vaccine providers informed of the progress of COVID-19 vaccinations among educators and support staff. We ask that one person in each district complete this survey no later than Friday, April 9, 2021. This information will be collected separately for charter schools in the South Carolina Public Charter School District and the Charter Institute at Erskine.

We realize districts may not have precise figures on vaccinations among staff given the availability of vaccines at non-school based vaccination sites and retail pharmacies but ask you answer the questions in the survey linked below to the best of your knowledge.

ASSESSMENTS

Biden Administration Denies South Carolina Assessment Waiver Request, Grants Flexibility for Parents and Schools

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) released information yesterday concerning the Biden administration's [denial of South Carolina's assessment waiver request](#) and the [granting of flexibility in administering assessments and waiving federal accountability requirements](#) in light of COVID-19.

In light of the waiver denial and the testing and accountability flexibilities granted by the Biden administration, South Carolina College-and Career-Ready Assessments (SC READY) in English language arts and mathematics (grades 3-8), South Carolina Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) in science (grades 4 and 6), and End-of-Course examinations in Biology, Algebra, U.S. History and the Constitution, and English will be offered to all students. English Language Proficiency and alternate assessments will also be administered to students who meet the requisite criteria. The state assessment window will open on April 15 and all districts must offer the assessments within the last thirty days of the school year.

[Biden Administration Denies South Carolina Assessment Waiver Request, Grants Flexibility for Parents and Schools](#) (Press Release)

EARLY LEARNING & LITERACY

2020-21 Summer Reading Camps

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Instructional Leaders, Read to Succeed Liaisons, PowerSchool Coordinators

CONTACT: Marie Gibbons, mgibbons@ed.sc.gov

The Read to Succeed Team in the Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) at the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is making plans to support districts for the 2021 Read to Succeed Summer Reading Camps (SRC).

Section 59-155-130 of the Read to Succeed Act requires the SCDE to monitor and report annually to the State Board of Education (SBE) on SRC. As a result of the U. S. Department of Education's denial of South Carolina's assessment waiver request, districts are required to meet all usual requirements for SRC. SRC implementation and data requirements and best practices, along with more information on data collection, may be [found here](#).

Each district must complete pre- and post-camp reporting. Pre-camp surveys must be submitted by May 15, 2021. We understand that changes can occur after the pre-camp survey has been submitted and prior to the start of SRC; therefore, the OELL will send a second and final request for updates to the pre-camp surveys at the beginning of June. The pre-camp survey form can be accessed here:

<https://scde.formstack.com/forms/2021srcsurvey>.

[2020-21 Summer Reading Camps - Memo](#) PDF (206 KB)

GRANTS

2021-22 USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Subgrant Opportunity

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, Public Information Officers
CONTACT: Diane Gillie, dgillie@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2021–22 application for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program subgrant is now available online. Funding will be distributed to elementary schools with the highest percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals (at least 50 percent or higher). The deadline to apply is May 7, 2021.

Participating schools must offer fresh fruits and vegetables as a snack to students during the school day during times other than at breakfast, lunch, or in an afterschool program.

[2021-22 USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Subgrant Opportunity - Memo](#) PDF (131 KB)

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Student Engagement Opportunities Survey

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Attendance Supervisors
CONTACT: Katie Nilges, knilges@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memo is to collect information related to new or revised student engagement opportunities and strategies currently being provided by districts to students as a result of attendance and unfinished learning issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To assist the South Carolina Department of Education, one representative from each district must complete this [survey](#) no later than **Thursday, April 8th**.

[Student Engagement Opportunities Survey - Memo](#) PDF (135 KB)

STUDENT WRITING CONTEST

Dominion Energy & SCDE's Strong Men & Women in South Carolina History Student Writing Contest

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, High School Principals
CONTACT: Derek Phillips, dphillips@ed.sc.gov

South Carolina high school juniors and seniors are invited to honor outstanding South Carolina African Americans by participating in the Dominion Energy and the South Carolina Department of Education's Strong Men & Women in South Carolina History student writing contest. Five winning essays will be chosen and those students will receive their own Apple MacBook Air and their school will receive \$1,000!

The deadline to submit entries is **April 23, 2021**. For more information on the contest, please visit <https://scafricanamerican.com/student-writing-contest/>.



