



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



October 26, 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

As of October 20, 2021, DHEC has reported the following student and staff quarantines and isolations since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

- **222,634 student quarantines**
- **50,010 student isolations**
- **5,382 staff quarantines**
- **4,488 staff isolations**

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 10/20/2021)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 10/24/2021)

COVID-19 TESTING

The holidays are rapidly approaching and DHEC would like to encourage you to proactively consider COVID-19 testing for your staff and students. Last year, the state experienced increased disease transmission and an increased demand for testing due to holiday travel. If your district does not have a testing program in place, please remember that all K-12 public schools have access to vendor testing services at no cost to the district or school through DHEC and the ELC Reopening Schools Grant. The holiday season may be a great time to pilot a short-term program to provide additional prevention and mitigation. Districts may enroll at any time this school year. Please keep in mind that it takes 2-4 weeks to establish a vendor testing program. If you are interested, you may either contact Brandi Hagman directly at acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov or contact the vendor assigned to your region and copy acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov for awareness. The vendor and region information is below.

Upstate Region: Mako Medical, Nolan McBride (nmcbride@makomedical.com)

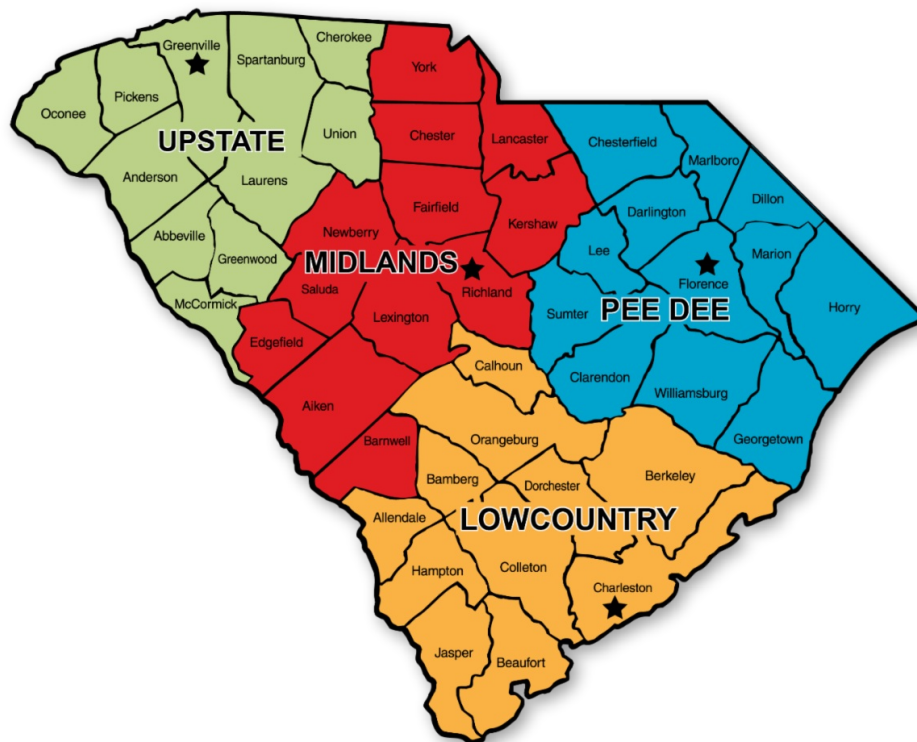
Midlands Region: Fisher Scientific, Mackenzie Varga and Melanie Fletcher

(mackenzie.varga@thermofisher.com, melanie.fletcher@thermofisher.com)

Pee Dee Region: Tempus, Nick Petit (nick.petit@tempus.com)

Lowcountry Region: Ambulnz- RRT, Cory Turner and Matt O'Leary (cturner1@ambulnz.com, moleary@ambulnz.com)

For districts and schools already using a testing vendor, we encourage you to communicate with your vendor and with your staff and students' families about any changes to the testing schedule to included changes in dates and times, holiday closures, and how closures might impact test result delivery. Vendors can continue to provide testing at school and district locations even while schools are dismissed for breaks. It is helpful to educate staff and student families on being testing early prior to any travel. Your vendors can help you with coordination and messaging. We hope this helps your districts enjoy a safer holiday season and a safer return to learning after breaks.



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

Spring 2022 Field Test and MetaMetrics Linking Study

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, District Test Coordinators
CONTACT: Susan Creighton (SC READY), screight@ed.sc.gov, Kirsten Hural (EOCEP), khural@ed.sc.gov

This memo provides districts with information about the stand-alone text-dependent analysis (TDA) field test and the research study conducted to provide Lexile® scores for the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) English 2 assessment.

[Spring 2022 Field Test and MetaMetrics Linking Study - Memo](#) PDF (164 KB)

GRANTS

Arts Curricular Innovation Grants - 2022 Arts Teacher Institutes Grant

AUDIENCE: Institutions of Higher Education, Nonprofit Organizations with an arts focus working in partnership with an IHE, South Carolina Governor's School for Arts and Humanities, South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics

CONTACT: Monique Curry, lmcurry@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2022 Request for Proposals for the Arts Curricular Innovation Grants (ACIG)—**Arts Teacher Institutes** grant is now available [online](#). Approximately \$515,000 in funding will be distributed on a competitive basis for twelve summer Arts Teacher Institutes. The deadline to apply is **December 17, 2021**.

For this competition, the SCDE will fund South Carolina public or private institutions of higher education (IHEs); nonprofit organizations with an arts focus working in partnership with a state, public, or private IHE; the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities; and the SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics. The purpose of the ACIG Arts Teacher Institutes program is to provide support to eligible organizations for administering summer arts institutes to provide professional development in arts content to South Carolina arts teachers, classroom teachers, and arts administrators. Grant awards are to provide Arts Teacher Institutes as tuition-free graduate courses or professional development that directly support quality arts education programs to significantly improve student achievement in the arts.

[Arts Curricular Innovation Grants--2022 Arts Teacher Institutes Grant - Memo](#) PDF (172 KB)

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Effectiveness and Leadership Micro-credential Academy

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Human Resources Directors, District Instructional Leaders

CONTACT: Libby Ortmann, oortmann@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership Development is eager to announce the 2022 Micro-credential Academy (MCA). This year teachers, administrators, and district leaders have sharpened their creativity and flexibility. Through their work to support all students, many educators have grown in awareness of the need for Social Emotional Learning (SEL). This year's Effectiveness and Leadership Micro-credential Academy gives educators a way to formally recognize their growth in supporting students and colleagues.

Participants in the Effectiveness and Leadership Micro-credential Academy will have the opportunity to earn micro-credentials with SEL connections in five key focus areas: Social

Emotional Learning, Collective Leadership, SC Teaching Standards (SCTS) 4.0 Rubric, Early Childhood, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Micro-credentials allow educators to select professional learning that is personalized, directly connected to their work, and competency based. When earning a micro-credential, an educator demonstrates a competency by gathering evidence of work with students or colleagues.

[Effectiveness and Leadership Micro-credential Academy - Memo](#) PDF (196 KB)

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