



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



October 27, 2020

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

Updated DHEC Guidance Documents

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) continues to update their school based guidance documents with the latest public health information related to COVID-19. Please take a moment to review this important information.

[School & Childcare Centers \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Recent Disease Activity by County Report](#) (as of 10/22/2020)

[COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff & Students](#) (as of 10/27/2020)

ASSESSMENTS

Waiver Requests for SC READY and SCPASS

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: waivers@ed.sc.gov

As outlined in the [memorandum](#) dated July 14, 2020, from the State Superintendent of Education, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is seeking a waiver from all federally-required accountability assessments and concomitant accountability requirements for the 2020–21 school year. However, until such time that the United States Department of Education approves the waiver, the SCDE is proceeding with plans to administer assessments.

Information and procedures to apply for a waiver for paper testing and/or to extend the testing window for SC READY and/or SCPASS during the 2020–21 school year are provided below and in the attached document.

[Waiver Requests for SC READY and SCPASS - Memo](#) PDF (138 KB)

Grading for End-of-Course Examination

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Kirsten Hural, khural@ed.sc.gov

State Board of Education Regulation 43-262 requires statewide End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) assessments in Algebra 1, Biology, English 1 and 2, and United States History and the Constitution to count 20 percent of students' final grade. However, as outlined in the [memorandum](#) dated July 14, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education is seeking a waiver from all federally-required accountability assessments and concomitant accountability requirements for the 2020–21 school year.

In the event that a waiver is not granted, and as a result of the historic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Superintendent Spearman is utilizing the authority given to the State Superintendent under Act 135 to waive the 20 percent requirement for all EOCEP assessments taken in the 2020–21 school year (fall 2020, spring 2021, and summer 2021).

[Grading for End-of-Course Examination - Memo](#) PDF (134 KB)

ATTENDANCE

ENGAGE South Carolina Attendance Recovery Program

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Attendance Supervisors, Dropout Prevention Contacts, School Counseling Personnel, Student Services Directors

CONTACT: engagesc@graduationalliance.com

As we progress through the 2020-21 school year, it is imperative that 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 created a new program aimed at helping re-engage K-12 students. In partnership with Graduation Alliance, **ENGAGE South Carolina** will assist those students and families who may be struggling to adapt to new learning schedules and environments brought on by the pandemic.

[ENGAGE South Carolina Attendance Recovery Program - Memo](#) PDF (185 KB)

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

2020 Making Schools Work (High Schools That Work)

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Career and Technical Education Administrators

CONTACT: Dr. Eleanor Glover Gladney, eglover@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) are working together to ensure that our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs prepare every child to graduate from school ready for college and careers. The South Carolina legislature has allocated High Schools That Work (HSTW)/Making Schools Work (MSW) funds to support high schools, middle schools and Technology Centers in a new format that began in 2017–18 and will continue for 2020–21 with oversight by the OCTE. The state Education Improvement Act (EIA) funding for HSTW/MSW is combined with CTE

equipment and Work-Based Learning (WBL). These funds are now one allocation and will be disbursed to your district per EIA funds. Therefore, when you build your local application you will be able to use the funds for the SREB initiative, equipment, and/or WBL.

[2020 Making Schools Work \(High Schools That Work\) - Memo](#) PDF (178 KB)

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

South Carolina Teacher of the Year Virtual Gala

The South Carolina Teacher of the Year Gala will be celebrated virtually on **Thursday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m.** The event will stream live on the agency's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

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