



Newsletter

April | 2025

Assessment & Data

Test Development

Virtual PD Sessions for ELA

The ELA Assessment Development team is offering two, one-hour virtual PD sessions for ELA 3-5 and two, one-hour virtual PD sessions for ELA 6- English 2. Click on the link to [learn more about the sessions and register](#). Registration will close on **Thursday, March 6th**.

Contact Information: Deema Abu Abdo, drabuabdo@ed.sc.gov, Rebecca Rundlett, rrundlett@ed.sc.gov

Standard Setting Committee Application

The Office of Assessment and Standards (OAS) is searching for a group of educators representing our state to participate in standard setting meetings this summer. Standard setting is a process used to define performance standards and their corresponding cut scores. Standard setting meetings will be held for the following programs:

- SC-Alt English 2 (June 3-5)

- SC-Alt ELA 3-8 (June 3-5)
- SC-Alt Science 4 & 6 (June 3-4)
- EOCEP English 2 (June 9-10)
- SC READY ELA 3-8 (June 9-12)
- SC READY Science 4 & 6 (June 9-10)

Teachers interested in participating in a standard setting meeting are encouraged to complete the **standard setting committee application** by **March 18, 2025**.

Contact Information: Daniel Cammisa, dcammisa@ed.sc.gov

Test Programs

All Assessment Programs

Districts and schools should be cognizant of the emerging availability and popularity of wearable/smart technology which includes, but is not limited to, smart watches and smart glasses. It is not permissible for students to have these types of wearable/smart technology devices on their person during the administration of statewide assessments. Smart glasses can be used to make calls, receive and respond to messages, take photos and videos, listen to music, interact with apps, and other uses that will result in test security violations. Districts and schools are advised to take steps to educate staff on how to identify smart/wearable technology and take steps to ensure that Test Administrators & Monitors are aware of this policy and how to enforce it.

SC-Alt

The SC-Alt Assessment window is open **March 3, 2025** through **April 18, 2025**.

Contact Information: Roberta Turner-Ford, returner@ed.sc.gov

SC READY

The OAS has received inquiries regarding the change to the three-day administration of the ELA SC READY assessment. A memo distributed in August 2024 explained the reasons for this change and indicated that Reading Part A and Reading Part B must be administered on consecutive days. The ELA Writing assessment may be administered before or after the Reading assessment but there must be at least one day of separation between the administration of reading and writing or reading and the other subjects. The reading tests are demanding this year, and the OAS implemented this temporary change in format to minimize student fatigue and lessen or prevent any negative impact on student achievement during the subsequent SC READY test administrations given during the test window.

As a reminder, other than Reading Parts A and B, there is no set order for the administration of SC READY tests with the exception that 3rd grade ELA Reading must be administered during the first week of the district's test window.

Contact Information: Crystal Huckabee, chuckabee@ed.sc.gov

Standards & Instruction

English Language Arts

Professional Learning Modules

The OAS ELA Standards Team is offering asynchronous professional learning modules to support the understanding and implementation of the *2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready ELA Standards*. Participants can earn recertification credit for each module completed.

A comprehensive list of module offerings with descriptions, as well as registration for modules, can be found on the [Professional Learning Modules site](#). Additional professional learning modules will be added quarterly.

April Office Hours

Registration for **April 24, 2025** ELA Standards Office Hours is open. Registration links can be accessed below.

- 3:00pm-3:45pm (K-5): [Register Here](#)
- 3:45pm-4:30pm (6-8): [Register Here](#)
- 4:30pm-5:15pm (E1-E4): [Register Here](#)

Spring Webinar Series

The OAS ELA Standards team offers a variety of professional learning opportunities to support districts and schools to understand and teach the *2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready ELA Standards*. This training is offered virtually on Teams. Recertification credit is offered to participants who attend the webinar live, remain in attendance for the duration of the webinar, and complete a feedback form at the webinar's conclusion. A comprehensive list of offerings with descriptions can be found [here](#). The registration link can be accessed [here](#).

Contact Information: Brenna McCormick, Education Associate for Middle-Level English Language Arts Standards, bkmccormick@ed.sc.gov

Health and Physical Education

April Virtual Office Hours

Virtual office hours are offered on the fourth Tuesday of each month (April 22) from 3:45 PM to 4:30 PM for educators who wish to ask questions and attend a brief information session with the Education Associate for Health and Physical Education. This month, the topic is the Students' Health and Fitness Act Compliance Survey.

You can register for the April Office Hours [here](#).

Students' Health and Fitness Act Survey

This year's survey for K-5 schools will be released soon. Stay tuned for more information in the near future. Please note that submissions are due no later than June 15, 2025.

Contact Information: Ben Miedema, Education Associate for Health and Physical Education, bjmiedema@ed.sc.gov

Math

Spring 2025 Math Regional Standards Professional Development Registration - School Level

Registration for the Spring 2025 Math Regional Standards Professional Development Registration continues. Please see the [**memo for the Spring 2025 PD for 2025 SC CCR Mathematics Standards**](#) for dates, locations, and registration.

Spring and Summer 2025 Professional Learning Opportunities

The Standards Math Team is excited to offer Office Hours and Webinars for Spring 2025 and face-to-face professional learning opportunities for Spring and Summer 2025.

Please see the memo for [**Spring and Summer 2025 Professional Learning Opportunities**](#) for more information.

Contact Information: Sandra Ammons, Team Lead for the Liberal Arts Team, sammons@ed.sc.gov or Dawn Hood, Middle-Level Mathematics Education Associate, dbhood@ed.sc.gov

Personalized Learning

Professional Learning Opportunities

1. Inquiry Labs

- Inquiry Labs are in-person visiting opportunities that allow educators to experience personalized, competency-based learning practices firsthand and explore a specific focus area in-depth. These Inquiry Labs will provide an environment where educators can ask questions, share ideas, and investigate strategies that can be applied in their schools or districts. After engaging in classroom visits, participants will have intentional time with teachers and students in a Q&A format to gain further insight into the school's journey toward implementation and impact.
- Join us at Floyd D. Johnson Tech Center in York 1 on April 10, 2025. Use this [**link**](#) to register.

*All opportunities offer renewal credits.

Celebrations!

1. **Berkeley County "Future Forward" course:** Seventeen coaches and teachers throughout the district completed a six-week course with the goal of shifting the ownership of learning to students while embedding AI and student-led practices. The Berkeley Innovation Team Leadership has strategically planned this initiative to build capacity, as these educators are now tasked with sharing their knowledge within their respective learning communities. Way to go, BCSD!
2. **Coaching and Leading Design Workshop:** We concluded this series this month by focusing on how to engage students in the assessment process. Participant feedback highlighted new understandings of seeing assessment as a way to not only shift the ownership by having students self-assess and offer more transparency, but also as a way to give teachers time back with their students for meaningful feedback.

Thank you to those who participated in this PD!

For more information, please visit our [professional development page](#) or email personalizedlearning@ed.sc.gov.

Science

Office Hours

The Science Team will be offering Office Hours for Spring 2025. These sessions are designed for teachers of science. Each session will kick off with 15 minutes of facilitated learning centered around a science instructional practice, resource, or planning strategy.

Please refer to the **Science Standards Team Office Hours Spring 2025 memo** for registration for April and May Office Hours.

Contact Information: Brent White, Elementary Science Education Associate, bcwhite@ed.sc.gov or Lark Widener, Secondary Science Education Associate, clwidener@ed.sc.gov

Social Studies

Office Hours

The Social Studies Team is excited to announce Office Hours for April and May.

April Elementary Office Hours:

- April 15 from 3:30 to 4:30
- Topic: Introduction to Opportunities for Geography Connections
- **Register Here**

April Secondary Office Hours:

- April 16 from 3:00 to 4:00
- Topic: Introduction to Opportunities for Geography Connections

- [Register Here](#)

May Elementary Office Hours:

- May 6 from 3:30 to 4:30
- Topic: Introduction to Uncovering Civics in Social Studies
- [Register Here](#)

May Secondary Office Hours:

- May 7 from 3:00 to 4:00
- Topic: Introduction to Uncovering Civics in Social Studies
- [Register Here](#)

Contact Information: *Reece Spradley, Education Associate for Elementary Social Studies, rcspradley@ed.sc.gov or John Katorkas, Education Associate for Secondary Social Studies, jckatorkas@ed.sc.gov*

Visual and Performing Arts

Arts Curricular Innovation Grants

Proposals are currently being accepted for 2025-2026 Distinguished Arts Program and **Arts Enhancement Program** grants. The deadline for **Distinguished Arts Program** submissions is **April 28, 2025**. The deadline for Arts Enhancement Program submissions is **April 21, 2025**.

Professional Development

Now is a great time to consider professional development for Visual and Performing Arts teachers ahead of the back-to-school season. You can request PD using the **SCDE Visual and Performing Arts PD Request Survey**.

Virtual Office Hours for ACIG Grant Managers

ACIG Grant Managers are invited to attend a virtual meeting on Thursday, April 17, from 3:30 to 4:30. You will need to **register** to receive the meeting link. During this meeting, we will discuss final reporting information.

Contact Information: *Roger Simpson, Education Associate for the Visual and Performing Arts, rsimpson@ed.sc.gov*

World Languages

Virtual Office Hours for Seal of Biliteracy and World Languages

This virtual time is reserved for anyone who has questions or seeks guidance about the SC Seal of Biliteracy or World Language content. The setting will be informal, with no presentations or new information shared.

Office Hours are 3:30-4:30 p.m. on April 9 and April 23. Register **here**.

Professional Learning Opportunities

If your school or district is seeking Professional Learning Opportunities for World Languages, please complete the **SCDE OAS Humanities Professional Development Interest Form**.

For Immersion PD, teachers can register for the **All Things Immersion Webinar Series**.

For World Language PD, teachers can register for the **All Things World Languages Webinar Series**.

Webinar Participants will receive a Certificate of Participation for Renewal Credit from the South Carolina Department of Education.

Contact Information: Rocio Zalba, World Languages Education Associate, rzalba@ed.sc.gov

General Information



School District Memo Archive

The SCDE releases a memo each Tuesday including pertinent information for educators. The memo archive can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[School District Memoranda Archive](#)



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