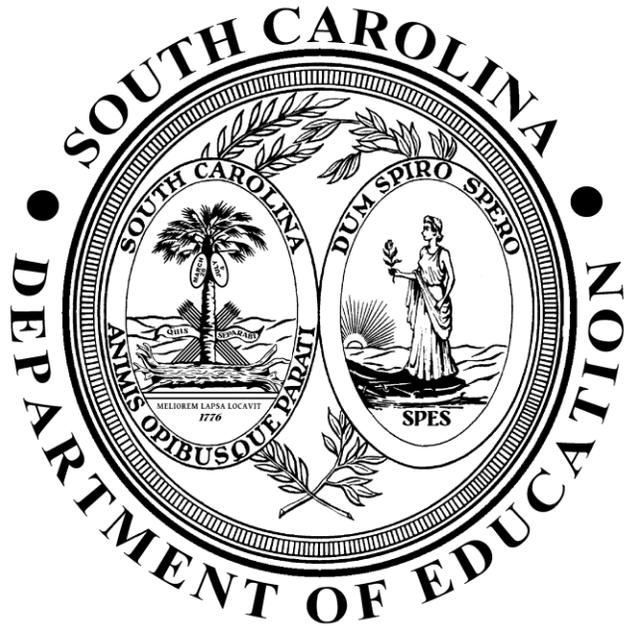


STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



# Employability Credential Report

Pursuant to S.C. Code of Laws §59-39-100

September 1, 2023

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Section 59-39-100(2)(D) of the South Carolina Code of Laws provides that: “The department shall monitor the number of diplomas and employability credentials earned by students and shall report to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly biannually by February 15, beginning in 2020.”

South Carolina has roughly 112,000 students with disabilities who receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), of which the majority are able to earn a state high school diploma.

Given the varying levels of student achievement, as well as the inability of some students to complete required high school coursework, there is an alternative course of study (Employability Credential) for students with disabilities to demonstrate their ability to transition into the work community. The uniform state-recognized Employability Credential is aligned to a career ready course of study for students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team determines this course of study is appropriate for the student. 2022 was the first class of graduates earning the Employability Credential.

Because the first class of students earned the Employability Credential in 2022, the agency began submitting reports on the number of diplomas and Employability Credentials earned by students with disabilities in accordance with Section 59-39-100(2)(D) in 2022. Below is a table displaying state-wide numbers of students with disabilities who have graduated with a diploma or Employability Credential from 2019–23.

**Table 1.** *State-wide Numbers of Students Graduating with Diploma or Employability Credential*

School Year	Number of Diplomas	Number of Employability Credentials
2019	3186	0
2020	3249	0
2021	3099	0
2022	*3,168	348
2023	**	485

The Office of Research and Data Analysis disseminated 485 Employability Credentials in 2023.

\*Table 1 Exiting Data for students with disabilities earning a diploma for 2022 did not include Hampton County School District and Palmetto Unified School District as their data was unreported during the applicable time period.

\*\*Table 1 Exiting Data for students with disabilities earning a diploma is not yet available and will be included in the next employability credential report. Table 1 Data is the number of youth with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) graduating from high school with a regular high school diploma. (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A)).

## References

S.C. Code of Laws §59-39-100 (2017)