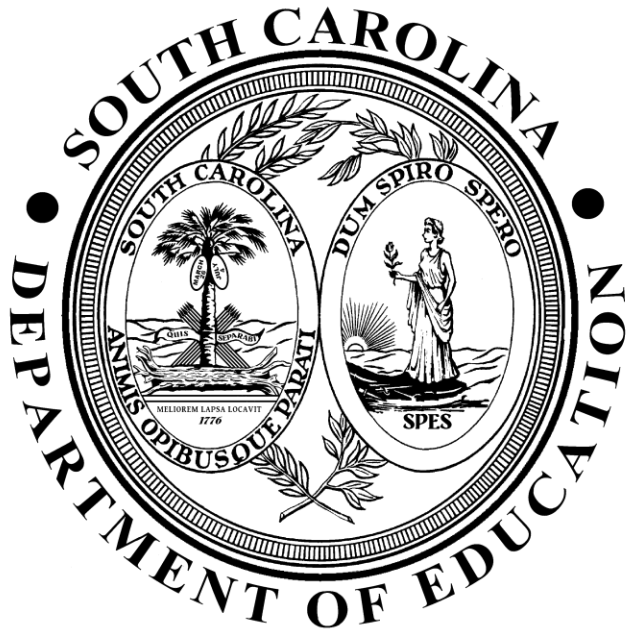


STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ELLEN E. WEAVER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



Competency-Based Education Application Report

Pursuant to Proviso 1.116

June 15, 2023

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Proviso 1.116

1.116. (SDE: Competency-Based Education):

(A) In the current fiscal year, districts seeking to implement competency-based education may submit a waiver application to the State Board of Education in a format developed by the State Department of Education. For purposes of this proviso, competency-based education refers to a comprehensive learning approach for a student to master competencies and related standards along a personalized, self-paced, and flexible pathway. As part of the waiver application, districts may include in-person instruction, virtual instruction, self-guided learning, and experiential learning through approved off-campus educational opportunities in calculating instructional hours and may offer the required instructional days at any time during the school year, consistent with the law.

(B) Of the funds appropriated to the Department, the State Department of Education shall create evaluation criteria and guidelines for schools that are operating under a waiver pursuant to this proviso. A participating school shall submit required data for a biennial cyclical review on a form developed by the department. A report summarizing the reviews including the waivers requested and how they hindered implementation must be distributed to the Governor and members of the General Assembly no later than June 30, 2023.

Competency-Based Application Timeline

July 2022: The Office of Personalized Learning drafted a Competency-Based Education District Application and an internal process flow for district applications to be reviewed by a cross-agency team.

August 2022: A Competency-Based Education Application Overview was held for interested districts.

September 2022: Two working-session, virtual meetings were held for districts in which they began to (1) imagine what they envisioned for their districts and (2) think through what flexibilities might be necessary to realize that vision. In September of 2022, there were 38 districts engaged in this work.

October 2022: Districts attended the October workshop with their CBE teams and started to draft the required components of the application.

November- December 2022: The Office of Personalized Learning held office hours for interested districts to receive one-on-one support.

January- April 2023: The Office of Personalized Learning continued to work one-on-one and in small groups with districts. At this point in the process, the Office of Personalized Learning brought draft applications to the cross-agency team, shared feedback with districts, and served as a support to districts as they made revisions.

April 2023: The Office of Personalized Learning presented the York County School District 1 and Lexington County School District 3 Applications to the Policy and Legislative Committee; both were approved. The Policy and Legislative Committee brought both applications to the State Board of Education where both were approved by the full Board.

June 2023: The Office of Personalized Learning presented the Greenwood County School District 52 and Pickens County School District Applications to the Policy and Legislative Committee; both were approved. The Policy and Legislative Committee brought both applications to the State Board of Education where both were approved by the full Board.

Waivers Requested and Approved

Waivers by District

Greenwood County School District 52

- §59-1-425 (E), R. 43-231 (II), R. 43-231 (II)(A), R.43-232 (I), R. 43-232 (I)(A), R. 43-234 (II)(B), 43-234 (VI)(C)(I)- Exemption from seat time requirement (elementary and middle school: 1800 minutes or 30 hours weekly including lunch; high school: 120 hours per credit and six hours per day) allows the implementation of a competency-based education system in which students can earn credit by demonstrated proficiency of course content. The exemption applies to elementary, middle, and high school.
- R.43-50, R.43-63- Exemption from these requirements allows the district to hire non-certified staff (no more than 25% to teach across the district). In this way, the district can utilize content area or field experience experts to fill limited instructional needs, increase career and technical education opportunities, and expand students' access to authentic learning experiences in the field with community partners; exemption applies across the district.

Lexington County School District 3

- §59-1-425 (E), R.43-232 (I), R. 43-234 (II)(B) - Exemption from the 120-hour seat time requirement allows the implementation of a competency-based education system in which students can earn credit by demonstrated proficiency of course content. The exemption applies to middle and high school.
- R.43-50, R.43-63- Exemption from these requirements allows the district to hire non-certified staff (no more than 25% to teach for CTE). In this way, the district can utilize content area or field experience experts to fill limited instructional needs, increase career and technical education opportunities, and expand students' access to authentic learning experiences in the field with community partners; exemption applies to CTE.

- §59-155-160 (C)(1) – Exemption from the summer-bound requirement of reading camp instruction allows for enrichment and acceleration opportunities embedded throughout the school year in addition to an extended summer experience; exemption applies to elementary school.

Pickens County School District

- §59-1-425 (E), R. 43-234 (II)(B), 43-234 (VI)(C)(I)- Exemption from seat time requirement for secondary students (minimum of six hours a day or its equivalent weekly, excluding lunch; minimum of 120 hours of instruction per earned credit) allows the implementation of a competency-based education system in which students can earn credit by demonstrated proficiency of course content. The exemption applies to high school.
- R. 43-51 (III)(A), R. 43-51 (III)(B)-Exemption from these requirements allows the district to hire teachers who hold certifications from other states and countries where school systems are accredited by recognized entities such as Cognia and SACS; exemption applies across the district.
- R. 43-205, R. 43-231, R. 43-232, and R. 43-234- Exemption from the mandated student to teacher ratios, maximum teacher load daily, maximum class loads, and maximum course preparations as defined by the Defined Program Regulations and the Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties, and Workloads allows teachers to maximize their ability to meet the needs of learners by leveraging digital tools and small group instruction in virtual, blended, and project-based learning environments; exemption applies across the district.
- §59-155- 160 (C)(1)- Exemption from the summer-bound requirement of reading camp instruction allows for enrichment and acceleration opportunities to begin in the spring, after spring assessments are conducted; exemption applies to elementary school.

York County School District 1

- §59-1-425 (E), R.43-232 (I), R. 43-234 (II)(B) - Exemption from the 120-hour seat time requirement allows the implementation of a competency-based education system in which the district can award credit upon demonstrated proficiency of course content. The exemption applies to middle and high school.
- R.43-50, R. 43-62, R.43-63- Exemption from these requirements allows the district to hire non-certified staff in the CTE program (no more than 25% of those teaching in the CTE program would be non-certified). In this way, the district can utilize content area or field experience experts to fill limited instructional needs, increase career and technical education opportunities, and expand students’ access to authentic learning experiences in the field with community partners; exemption applies to CTE.
- §59-155-160 (C)(1) – Exemption from the requirement of reading camp instruction hours being completed during summer allows for enrichment and acceleration opportunities

embedded throughout the school year for students currently working below grade level. These experiences will be provided in addition to an extended summer experience; exemption applies to elementary school.

Waivers by Flexibility

Seat Time

- Greenwood County School District 52
- Lexington County School District 3
- Pickens County School District
- York County School District 1

Teacher Certification

- Greenwood County School District 52
- Lexington County School District 3 (CTE only)
- Pickens County School District
- York County School District 1 (CTE only)

Maximum Student to Teacher Ratio, Teacher Load, Class Load, Course Preparation

- Pickens County School District

Summer Reading Camp Instructional Hours

- Lexington County School District 3
- Pickens County School District
- York County School District 1

Hindrances to Implementation

As stated in the proviso, “a participating school shall submit required data for a biennial cyclical review on a form developed by the department. A report summarizing the reviews including the waivers requested and how they hindered implementation must be distributed to the Governor and members of the General Assembly no later than June 30, 2023.”

Districts applied for flexibility, and applications were presented to and approved by the State Board of Education for the first time in the year 2022-2023. The districts named above will begin their shift to competency-based education in the year 2023-2024. Therefore, the first biennial reviews will be submitted by districts in the academic year 2024-2025. A report summarizing the reviews, including the waivers requested and any hindrances to implementation, will be provided to the members of the General Assembly no later than June 30, 2025.