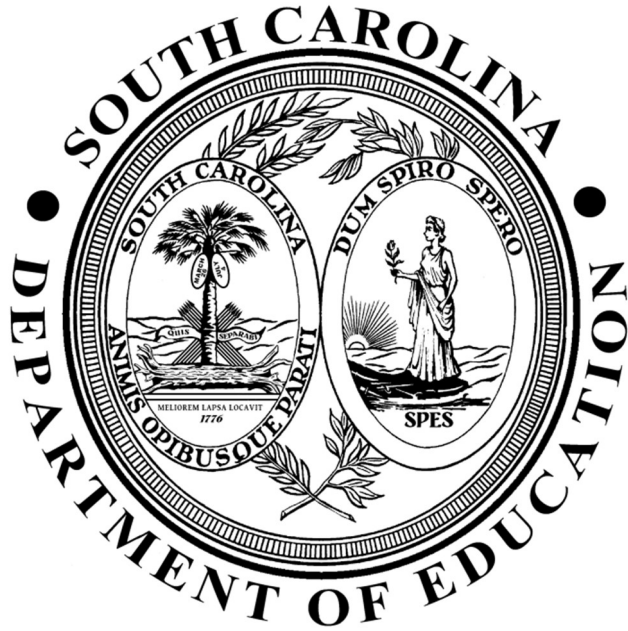


STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Employability Credential Report

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

February 21, 2024

Table of Contents

Employability Credential Report	2
References	3

Employability Credential Report

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.”

In the 2022–2023 school year, South Carolina had approximately 112,000 students with disabilities who received services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), of which the majority can 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. The 2022 graduates were the first graduates to earn 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	3,186	0
2020	3,249	0
2021	3,099	0
2022	3,360	348
2023	3,751	472

Exiting Data included in Table 1 displays the number of youth with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) graduating from high school with an Employability Credential or a regular high school diploma (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A)).

The September 1, 2023, Employability Credential Report included the number of Employability Credentials disseminated by the SCDE Office of Research and Data Analysis, which was 485 students. After further data analysis, it was determined that 13 students were coded as receiving an Employability Credential but did not complete the coursework in time to receive it. As a result, this report includes the adjusted number of Employability Credentials (472) verified using 2023 Table 4 Exiting Data collected pursuant to the IDEA.

References

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1416 (a)(3)(A))

S.C. Code of Laws §59-39-100 (2017)