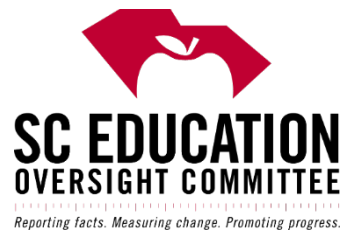


# SC Education Oversight Full Committee Meeting

June 9, 2025



# Welcome and Introductions

## Approval of April 14, 2025 Full Committee Minutes

*Barbara Hairfield*

# Academic Standards & Assessments (ASA) Subcommittee Reports

*Barbara Hairfield*



**SC EDUCATION  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
Reporting facts. Measuring change. Promoting progress.

Action Item:

## SC Tiered Credential System



*Dana Yow, EOC Executive Director*

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1. Move away from an equal-weight credential system to a new three-tiered system.
2. Allow time for districts and schools to transition to the tiered credential system in School Year 2025-26.
3. Employ strategies to engage business and industry partners in credential validation and pathway strengthening.

Focus on "credential currency" – real employment value  
& aligning credentials with labor market demands and  
workforce priorities

# Tier Descriptors

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Introductory	Intermediate	Career Ready
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Foundational Skills:</b> Validates basic competencies for further education or training.</li><li>• <b>Regionally Recognized:</b> Accepted by local industries but not a statewide hiring requirement.</li><li>• <b>Early Career Pathway:</b> Earned in the first stages of a CTE program, leading to higher-level credentials.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Industry-Aligned:</b> Valued by employers but not always required for hiring.</li><li>• <b>Supports Career Pathways:</b> Provides an employment advantage and job readiness.</li><li>• <b>Enhances Workforce Participation:</b> Increases employability, but additional training may be needed for advancement.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>High-Demand Careers:</b> Required for employment in priority, high-wage occupations.</li><li>• <b>Clear Economic Benefits:</b> Leads to significant wage gains, promotions, or job retention.</li><li>• <b>Career Advancement:</b> Recognized entry point into further education, training, and certifications.</li></ul>

# CTE Career-Ready Status

- Beginning with students entering high school in the 2024-2025 school year, career-ready status for CTE completers will be determined by earning a **minimum of three points** within this system.
- Students entering high school prior to the 2024-2025 school year will meet career-ready status under the current system.



8. Under the new tiered credential system, students must earn at least three points through one of the following combinations:

- Under the new tiered credential system, students must earn at least three points through one of the following combinations:
- One Tier 3 credential aligned with their career cluster.
- A combination of one Tier 2 and one Tier 1 credential within the same career pathway.
- A Universal Credential (e.g., OSHA 10) paired with a Tier 2 or higher credential within the student's career cluster.



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- A bundle of Tier 1 credentials will not be considered career-ready.
- Only credentials from the state's approved list will count toward career-ready status in the accountability system.
- To be considered career-ready, a student's earned credentials must align with their designated program of study and career cluster. Credentials earned outside of the student's career cluster or program of study will not count toward career-ready status.

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1. Application Submission – School districts and CTE centers submit applications to the SC Department of Education (SCDE) with employer documentation verifying the credential's employment value.
2. Three-Step Evaluation Process:
  - **SCDE Screening:** Ensures alignment with academic, technical, and workplace standards, plus links to postsecondary programs or apprenticeships.
  - **SC Department of Employment & Workforce (SCDEW) Review:** Confirms industry relevance and assesses if the credential leads to stable, living-wage employment.
  - **Industry Review:** Employers verify hiring advantages, career progression potential, and recommend tier placement, especially for stackable credentials.

# EOC 11 - 1/4 - 1/2 - 3/4 - Full

## Annual EOC Submission and Final Review

### October 1

Credential submission window closes. All tier placements and TAC recommendations must be finalized.

- List comes to EOC from the SCDE.
- ASA Subcommittee to review and vote on the list and send on to full EOC for final approval.
- All updates need to be integrated into PowerSchool by March 1

ASA Subcommittee  
*November*

Full EOC  
*December*

# Action Item: Evaluation of Biology I, Spring 2024 End-Of-Course Exam

*Dr. Matthew Lavery, EOC Deputy Director*

# About the Biology 1 EOC

- 50 computer-scored test items (plus 10 pilot items)
- Mostly **selected-response**, including some **multi-select** and **evidence-based selected response**
- May include **technology-enhanced** items such as **drag-and-drop**, **hot spot**, **highlighting**, **matching table**
- May also include **technology-enhanced constructed response** items in which students **construct a bar graph**, give a **numerical answer**, or **complete a table**.

# Legislative Mandate

- **§59-18-320.(A):** After the first statewide field test of the assessment program in each of the four academic areas, and after the field tests of the end of course assessments of high school credit courses, the Education Oversight Committee, established in Section 59-6-10, will review the state assessment program and the course assessments for alignment with the state standards, level of difficulty and validity, and for the ability to differentiate levels of achievement, and will make recommendations for needed changes, if any.
- **§59-18-355.(A)(1):** A revision to an assessment recommended pursuant to Section 59-18-350(A), as well as a new assessment or a change in a current assessment that the State Board of Education otherwise considers for approval as an accountability measure, may not be adopted and implemented without the advice and consent of the Education Oversight Committee.

# South Carolina End-of-Course Examination Program

Evaluation of Biology 1  
Spring 2024 Test Data



# Review & Evaluation Process

- Conducted by K-12 Assessments Solutions at the University of Georgia in collaboration with South Carolina Department of Education (SCDOE) and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC).
- Review based on Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (AERA/APA/NCME).
- Review included blueprint analysis, content alignment, DOK review, psychometric evaluation, and performance classification analysis.
- Subject Matter Experts reviewed all items for standard alignment and cognitive rigor.
- Psychometric evaluation included a review of Classical Test Theory (CTT), Rasch, dimensionality, reliability, and differential item functioning (DIF).
- Recommendations support improved alignment, rigor, and classification reliability.



# Test Blueprint

- The EOCEP Biology 1 test blueprint reflects a subset of 2021 SC standards with generally balanced coverage.
- The test is appropriately more weighted at DOK Level 2, emphasizing conceptual understanding and problem-solving.
- Terminology and categorization slightly differ between the blueprint and curriculum and could be refined for clarity.
- Recommendations:
  - Add standards (e.g., B-LS2-2, B-LS2-3, B-LS2-4) to further improve balance across all reporting categories.
  - Increase DOK Level 3 items to improve assessment of higher-order skills.

# Item Validity and Alignment

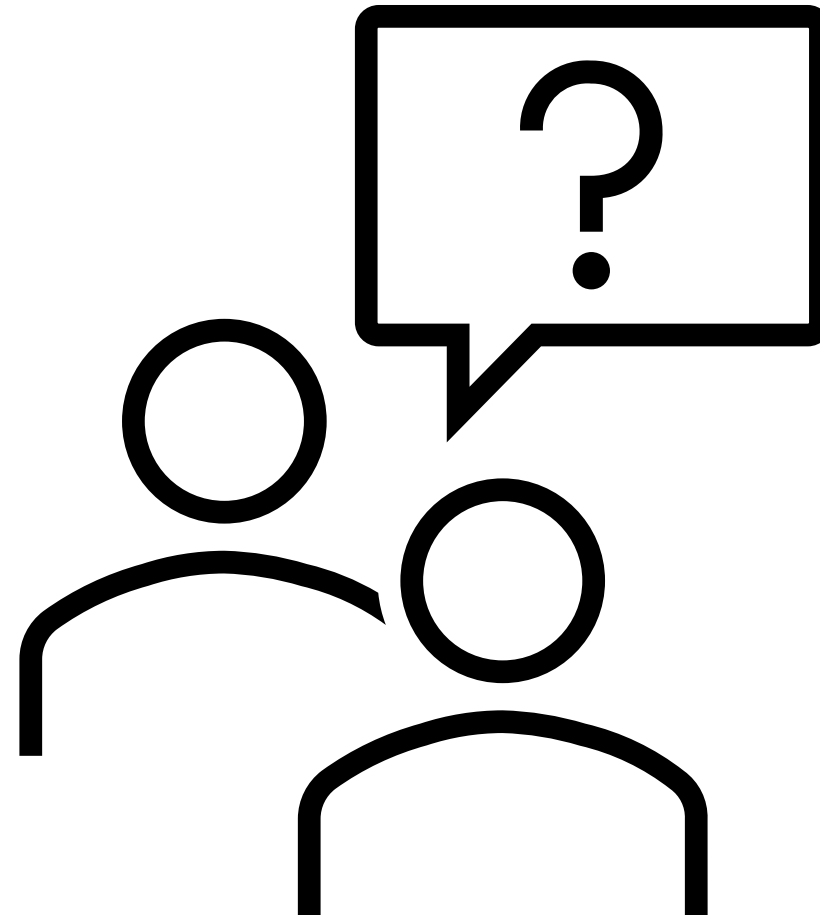
- Most items align with the standards and intended DOK.
- 4 items flagged for aligning to standards not included in the test blueprint or Printable Biology 1 Standards.
- 2 items flagged for content alignment (aligned to the DCI but not the SEP) and 4 items flagged for DOK classification.
- Recommendation:
  - Revise or reclassify flagged items and consider updating blueprint to reflect the full standard set.

# Psychometric Quality & Fairness

- CTT and Rasch analyses indicate high-quality items and appropriate difficulty.
- Cronbach's alpha: 0.92 (fall and spring) – indicates strong reliability.
- PCA supports unidimensionality; item fit statistics are generally strong.
- DIF analysis: 98% of item comparisons show no/negligible bias.
- Recommendations:
  - Continue monitoring fairness.
  - Consider more flexible IRT models.
  - Consider CFA for internal structure validation.

# Performance Level Classification

- 4 performance levels set via standard setting; align with A–F letter grades.
- Wide SEMs around cut scores limit reliability of fine-grained classification.
- Two-level decisions (e.g., pass/fail) more defensible than four-level distinctions.
- Recommendations:
  - Add items near cut scores.
  - Explore classification-supportive models (e.g., cognitive diagnosis models).



# Action Item: SCDE Response to Biology I Evaluation

*Dr. Matthew Ferguson, SCDE Deputy  
Superintendent & Chief Academic Officer*

# Action Item: Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Report

*Dr. Jenny May, EOC* Director of Qualitative Research  
and Stakeholder Engagement



Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC)  
Program Report  
June 9, 2025



# Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Program Report

- Report written in requirement of Act 247, Section (E)(6)
- Seeks to provide:
  1. Information about the approval process, participation, and compliance for ECENC schools
  2. Information about the process for collecting assessment results used to document the impact of the ECENC program
  3. Recommendations

# Eligible Schools and Timeline

- Approved by EOC after meeting 8 criteria in Act 247
- Timeline for approval:
  - January 2, 2024 Manual and application to participate available and schools in good standing notified via email; applications published on EOC website for 2022-23
  - February 28, 2024 Application and Statement of services received by 2/28/21 to be approved for FY 2022-23
  - June 30, 2024 Grants Received are completed, signed and returned to EOC with enrollment information but no personally identifiable info.

# Eligible Schools and Timeline

- September 1, 2024 School Level Assessment Results, and name of assessment administered provided to EOC but no personally identifiable info; Staff responsible for submission of school-level assessment results must sign and complete submission
- November 15, 2024 Compliance audit of school's financial statement relating to grants submitted by CPA firm.

# Amendment to Act 247 in May 2021

The requirement to submit individual ECENC Grant recipient assessment results was eliminated from the requirements of Act 247.

# Findings and Recommendations

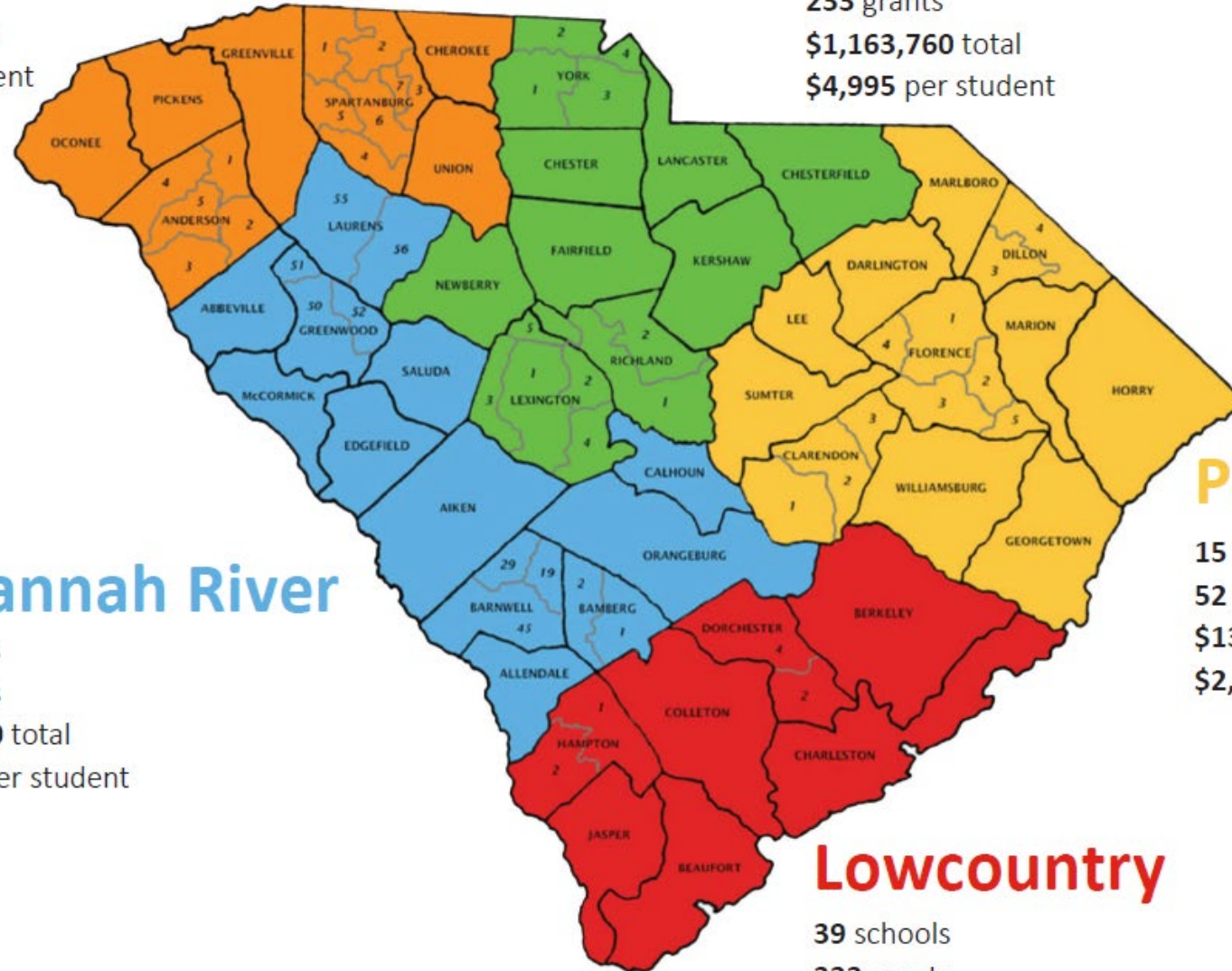


## Upstate

34 schools  
643 grants  
\$3,024,928 total  
\$4,704 per student

## Midlands

19 schools  
233 grants  
\$1,163,760 total  
\$4,995 per student



## Savannah River

9 schools  
69 grants  
\$240,300 total  
\$3,482 per student

## Pee Dee

15 schools  
52 grants  
\$131,600 total  
\$2,531 per student

## Lowcountry

39 schools  
333 grants  
\$1,273,137 total  
\$3,823 per student



# ECENC Funding and Grants 2023-24 through 2024-25:

Region	Approved Schools		Grants		Total Amount Funded		Average Amount per Student	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Region 1 Upstate</b>	33	34	670	643	\$1,701,815	\$3,024,928	\$2,540	\$4,704
<b>Region 2 Savannah River Basin</b>	6	9	86	69	\$152,400	\$240,300	\$2,628	\$3,482
<b>Region 3 Midlands</b>	21	19	265	233	\$663,400	\$1,163,760	\$4,222	\$4,995
<b>Region 4 Pee Dee</b>	15	15	51	52	\$78,200	\$131,600	\$2,434	\$2,531
<b>Region 5 Lowcountry</b>	41	39	351	333	\$644,900	\$1,273,137	\$3,081	\$3,823
<b>State Total</b>	116	116	1,423	1,330	\$3,240,715	\$5,833,725	\$3,664	\$4,386

# Accreditation Findings:

- South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)
  - 67 ECENC schools
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
  - 62 ECENC schools
- South Carolina Association of Christian Schools (SCACS)
  - 18 ECENC schools
- Palmetto Association of Independent School Accreditation (PAIS)
  - 16 ECENC schools

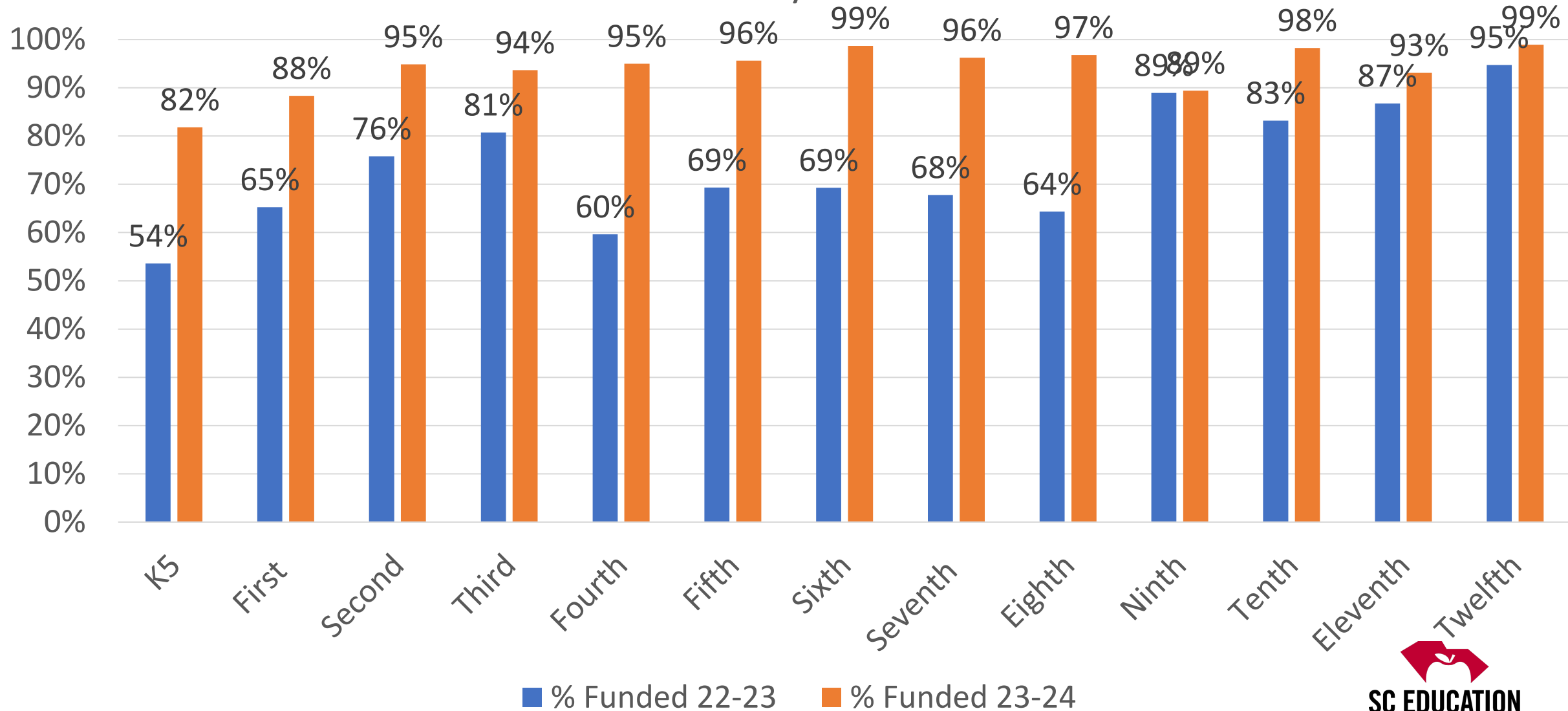


# ECENC Applicants and Funded Students by Grade

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2023-24		
Grade	Applied	Funded
K5	44	36
First	60	53
Second	78	74
Third	110	103
Fourth	139	132
Fifth	137	131
Sixth	152	150
Seventh	160	154
Eighth	124	120
Ninth	104	93
Tenth	114	112
Eleventh	87	81
Twelfth	92	91

Percent of Students Funded by Grade 2022-23 and 2023-24:



## Assessment in Schools with 51% or More Students ECENC Funded:

School	Accrediting Body	CERRA Region	Percentage of Students Funded through ECENC	Total Amount	Assessment
Camperdown Academy	SCISA	1	77%	\$989,600.00	GMADE
Einstein Academy	SCISA	1	55%	\$16,200.00	MAP
Glenforest School	SCISA	3	58%	\$212,500.00	Fast Bridge, PSAT, ACT, SAT, SRA Mastery
Hidden Treasure Christian School	SCACS	1	67%	\$224,200.00	Woodcock-Johnson IV
HOPE Academy	SCISA	1	59%	\$131,200.00	MAP

## Assessment in Schools with 51% or More Students ECENC Funded:

School	Accrediting Body	CERRA Region	Percentage of Students Funded through ECENC	Total Amount	Assessment
Hope Christian Academy	SCACS	3	64%	\$31,500.00	Woodcock-Johnson IV
Sandhills School	SCISA/PAIS	3	64%	\$498,800.00	Woodcock-Johnson IV, PACT
The Chandler School	SCISA	1	80%	\$296,900.00	Stanford 10, OLSAT,
Trident Academy	SCISA/SACS/P AIS	5	70%	\$357,800.00	Gates MacGinitie, WRAT

# Recommendations:

1. Reconvene the Advisory Committee for the purposes of:
  - Confirming processes for communication and collaboration on ECENC work
  - Advise EOC staff on a process to consider school approval when there is a special circumstance or a discrepancy about services offered
2. Offer Summative Assessments to ECENC Students in Public Schools
3. Consider Communication about the ECENC Program and Other Scholarships

# The Advisory Committee of the ECENC:

Act 247 requires that the EOC establishes an advisory committee and states that the advisory committee shall:

1. Consult with the EOC concerning requests for exemptions from the curriculum requirements
2. Provide recommendations on matters requested by the EOC

Member	Organization
Robbie Braciszewski	SCISA
Kimberly Tissot	Able SC
Amy Holbert	Family Connections SC
Patricia Parrish	SACSCOC
Ramsay Bokinsky	Sandhills School
Edward Earwood	SCACS
Matt Palyok	Parent



# Questions or Comments:



# Information Item: Educational Performance of Military-Connected Children in South Carolina, 2025 Report

*Dr. Patty Tate, ASA Subcommittee Chair*



# Information Item: EIA Budget Update

*Dr. Bob Couch, EIA subcommittee chair*

# Executive Director Update

*Dana Yow, EOC Executive Director*

# 2025 Retreat Update

- August 10-11, 2025
- Beaufort, SC
- Meeting Site: Beaufort Memorial Hospital
- Lodging: Best Western, Downtown Beaufort
- Reservation Deadline: June 30
- Dinner to be at the home of Rep. Shannon Erickson

# Action Item: Report from the Nomination Committee

*Dr. Bob Couch*

# Adjournment

