



Williamsburg County School District



2021-2022 Recertification/ Renewal Guide

Employed in a South Carolina Public School District

All certificates of completion and official transcripts concerning renewal credit should be submitted to the Dr, Latetia Staggers, District Renewal Coordinator at your district office. The District Renewal Coordinator has access to their employees' Professional certificate records and may renew a certificate directly. Renewal requests submitted by South Carolina public school district employees directly to the Office of Educator Services will be denied.

Renewal Credit

The following options are available to all educators for earning renewal credit:

- South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) pre-approved renewal coursework
- Credit-bearing coursework through a regionally accredited college/university

Additional options are available for Speech-Language Pathologists and School Psychologists.

Educators employed in a South Carolina public school district or renewal entity may be eligible for additional options at the approval of their employer.

Pre-Approved Renewal Coursework

The SCDE has established partnerships with various educational entities which provide professional development coursework and graduate coursework opportunities for Professional certification renewal. All courses offered by these providers are pre-approved for

earning renewal credits. For information on course enrollment, scheduling, costs, content, or credit type, please contact the coursework provider:

- [VirtualSC Professional Development](#)
- [SCETV Professional Development](#)
- [TeacherStep Professional Development](#)

In addition to coursework offered through SCDE pre-approved providers, all coursework pre-approved for meeting endorsement requirements are also pre-approved for earning renewal credits.

- [Pre-Approved R2S Endorsement Coursework](#)

College or University Credit

Educators may complete academic credit-bearing coursework through a [Regionally Accredited Institute of Higher Education](#) for renewal credit.

- 1 semester hour = 20 renewal credits
- 1 quarter hour = 13 renewal credits
- 1 Continuing Education Unit (CEU) = 10 hours = 10 renewal credits

Eligible coursework must be presented on an [Official Transcript](#) and must:

- Relate to the educator's current field(s) of certification;
- Meet requirements for adding another field to the educator's certificate; or
- Relate to the topics of technology, curriculum design, or instructional practices.

Requesting Pre-Approval of College or University Credit

Educators are encouraged to seek pre-approval for any coursework or programs they seek to complete for renewal purposes. For renewal credit approval, please submit a detailed course description along with a [Request for Change/Action Form](#). The Office of Educator Services does not offer course approvals via phone call or email.

School Psychologist and Speech-Language Pathologist Credits

SCDE certified support specialists in the field of Speech-Language Pathology are eligible to receive 1 renewal credit per 0.1 continuing education unit (CEU) issued by the [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#) (ASHA) or 120 renewal credits for presenting a valid South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (SC LLR) license for Speech-Language Pathologists during the school year in which their SCDE certificate will expire.

SCDE certified support specialists in the field of School Psychology are eligible to receive renewal credit for Category A activities they complete toward renewal of their [Board of Examiners of Psychology](#) issued certificate.

South Carolina Public School and Renewal Entity Employees

An educator employed in a South Carolina public school district or renewal entity may be eligible to utilize additional options of the Renewal Matrix at the approval of their employer's Renewal Coordinator. Each South Carolina public school district's Human Resources Office has a Renewal Coordinator that evaluates and processes renewal credits for their employees.

If you completed activities while previously employed in a South Carolina public school district or renewal entity and did not have them reported, please contact the employer's Renewal Coordinator for renewal credit approval and processing.

Educators must earn a minimum of 120 renewal credits within a set time frame to meet renewal requirements.

- Valid certificates must meet requirements within their current certificate's validity.

- Expired Professional certificates must meet all renewal requirements within the five year period prior to their formal request for renewal.
- Example: If a Professional certificate was valid from 2013-18 and the educator requests renewal during the spring semester of 2019, their time frame for eligible renewal credits is spring semester 2014 to spring semester 2019.

Read to Succeed (R2S) Endorsement Requirement

Educators holding Professional certificate that expires in 2020 or beyond must earn the appropriate R2S endorsement to remain eligible for certification renewal. Each course that is accepted for meeting R2S endorsement requirements is also pre-approved for earning 60 renewal credits. It is highly recommended that educators complete R2S coursework as part of their 120 renewal credits, rather than in addition to these requirements. For more information click on the following link <https://ed.sc.gov/educators/certification/r2s/>.

All Professional certificate holders are expected to earn an appropriate R2S endorsement, depending on their certification field(s). Coursework and timelines required differ based on certification fields held and current certification validity.

All certified educators are expected to earn one or more of the following R2S Endorsements, depending on their certified field(s), as part of their regular certificate renewal cycles:

R2S Literacy Teacher Endorsement

Educators holding Professional certification in the fields of Early Childhood, Elementary, ESOL, Special Education, or Montessori Education must earn the R2S Literacy Teacher endorsement.

R2S Literacy Requirement Endorsement

Educators holding Professional certification in the fields of Middle School (all content areas), High School (all content areas), PreK-12 (except for Special Education), Career and Technology, Library Media Specialist, Leadership and Administrative, School Guidance Counselor, School Psychologist, or Speech-Language Pathologist must earn the R2S Literacy Requirement endorsement.

Requirements for Educators Holding Multiple Certification Fields

An educator certified in multiple fields with differing R2S Endorsement requirements must earn the endorsement designated for the certificate field most applicable to the educator's current placement. If the educator's position does not require a specific certificate field, the educator must at minimum earn the R2S Literacy Requirement endorsement. Please see the [R2S Decision Rules](#) for additional information.

To earn the R2S Literacy Teacher endorsement, educators must submit evidence of completion of four approved courses taken as college coursework (3 semester credit hours per course) or professional development (60 credits per course):

- Foundations in Reading
- Instructional Practices
- Assessment of Reading
- Content Area Reading and Writing

Timeline

The R2S legislation indicates that educators required to earn the R2S Literacy Teacher Endorsement must do so within ten years; it is suggested that educators complete two of the four courses within each five-year renewal cycle. Renewal will not be impacted until the end of the second renewal cycle. For professional certificates that are issued for fewer than five years, the certificate's expiration determines the end of a renewal cycle.

| Certificate renews | End of First Cycle | End of Second Cycle |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| July 1, 2015 | June 30, 2020 | June 30, 2025 |
| July 1, 2016 | June 30, 2021 | June 30, 2026 |
| July 1, 2017 | June 30, 2022 | June 30, 2027 |
| July 1, 2018 | June 30, 2023 | June 30, 2028 |
| July 1, 2019 | June 30, 2024 | June 30, 2029 |

Please review the [Read to Succeed Requirements](#) page for guidance on required coursework and timelines.

Jason Flatt Training Requirement

Educators working in a South Carolina public middle or high school setting must satisfy the Jason Flatt Act suicide awareness training requirements before their Professional certificate can be renewed. Educators may complete this requirement through:

- Their employing South Carolina public school district's approved suicide awareness trainings; or
- The South Carolina Department of Mental Health's [Signs Matter: Early Detection](#) training; or
- The Jason Foundation's [Mental Health Issues Surrounding Suicidal Ideation \(Module 2\)](#) training.

Please see below the link to the Jason Foundation site for access to the 2 hour training modules.

<http://jasonfoundation.com/get-involved/educator-youth-worker-coach/professional-development-series/south-carolina/>

At the bottom of the page, click 'VIEW COURSES'. Upon entering the training modules site, you will find seven (7) modules. **Module 2 (Mental Health Issues Surrounding Suicidal Ideation)** is the mandatory one and will by itself meet the state's requirement for two hours of training. Once you complete the module, you will receive a notice similar to the one below:

"Your name"

Completed: Mental Health Issues Surrounding Suicidal Ideation (Module 2)

2 credit hours

September 13, 2016, 4:45 am GMT

Print your certificate now at: [\(link will be provided\)](#).

- Please remember to use the link to **print your certificate** and then forward the certificate to me, Dr. Latetia Staggers and Mrs. Claire Murdoch, here in HR (preferably by pdf. file). I then am authorized to submit verification to the SC Dept. of Ed. on your behalf.

Elimination of the Graduate Course Requirement

Effective beginning June 26, 2020, Regulation 43-55 will be amended to remove the requirement of a graduate course for certificate renewal for educators who do not hold a master's degree.

- Educators employed in a South Carolina public school are encouraged to contact their employing school district regarding their updated renewal eligibility and to request renewal processing.
- Educators not employed in a South Carolina public school district and who have completed all other renewal requirements may submit a [Request for Change/Action Form](#) to be re-evaluated for certification renewal eligibility.