

# Columbia Chamber of Commerce

March 2, 2021

Molly M. Spearman

State Superintendent of Education



# Methods of Instruction (All Students)

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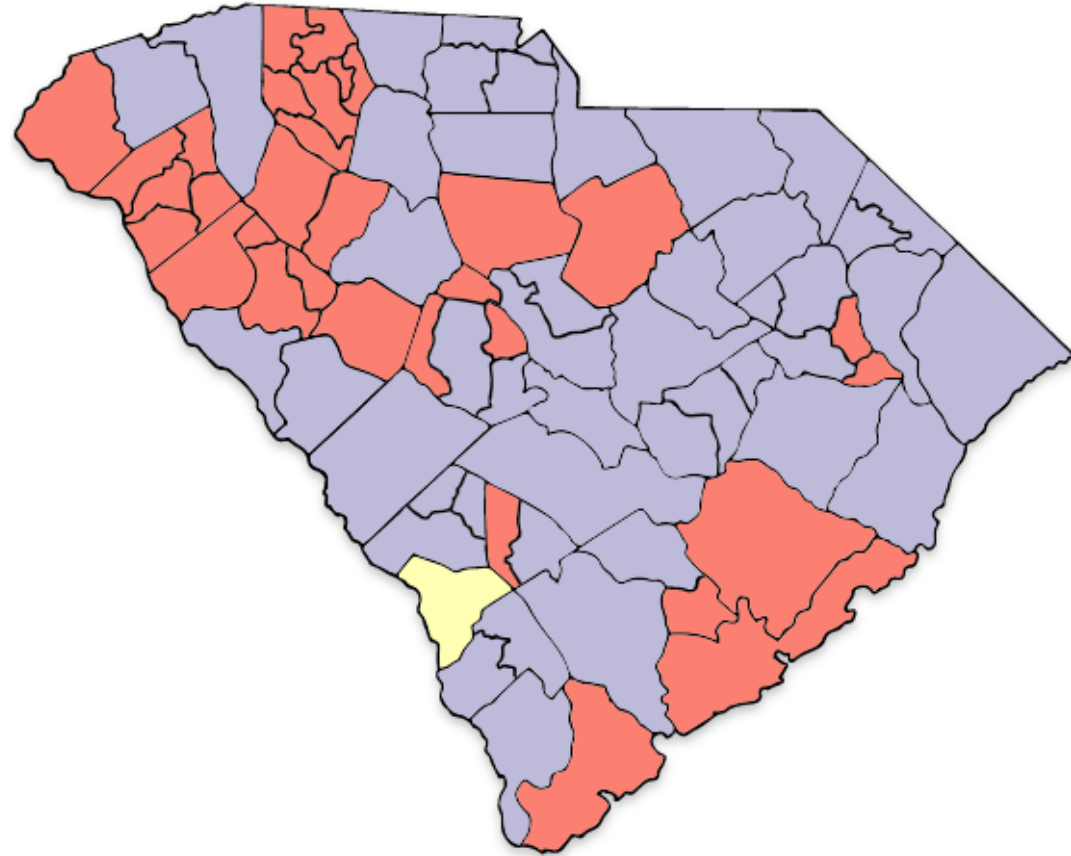
Delivery Model	Number of Schools
Full Face to Face	773
Hybrid (2-4 days)	476
Virtual	12*

\* Does not include 5 always virtual online charter schools



# Methods of Instruction (All Students)

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Map Key

Full Remote Learning

Hybrid

Full Face to Face

Unknown



# COVID-19 Cases in K-12 Schools

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- DHEC began reporting positive COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools on September 4, 2020. Since then, there have been 13,670 [positive cases among K-12 students and staff](#) who attended school face to face during their infectious period.
- From (9/4/2020 to 2/28/2021) DHEC has reported 444,991 [positive cases among all South Carolinians](#).
- Positive cases among K-12 students and staff who attended school account for 3.1% of South Carolina's total since K-12 positive case reporting began.
- Public and private K-12 students and staff make up approximately one fifth of South Carolina's total population.



## Data on COVID in Charleston County schools stuns doctor who crunched the numbers

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[Helen Adams](#) | January 19, 2021

Allison Eckard, an infectious disease pediatrician at MUSC Children’s Health who is working with the school district on pandemic prevention measures, was shocked. “I really was just not in favor of this initially. And now I am a believer. Kids need to be in school, and it’s safe.”

“It’s so compelling that the schools are safe if you put all the mitigation strategies in place, and the risk to the students is so much higher if they’re not in school,” Eckard said.

- A study in 11 North Carolina schools districts, with more than 90,000 students and staff, found within-school virus transmissions to be “very rare”— just 32 infections acquired in school vs. 773 acquired in the community. The study found no cases of student-to-staff transmission.
- CDC studies find “little evidence that schools have contributed meaningfully to increased community transmission”

# COVID-19 Federal Funding for K-12 Schools

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- Summer 2020 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds - \$194,680,042
- Winter 2020 CARES Act Funds - \$84,264,890
- Spring 2021 ESSER II Funds - \$846,378,704
  - Re-opening and continuity of operations
  - Personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies
  - Addressing learning loss among students
  - Facility repairs and improvements to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure
  - Improvement of indoor air quality in school facilities
- Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools - \$39,781,327



# COVID-19 Vaccine

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- Currently in Phase 1A - healthcare workers, 65+, long term care facilities
- Educators and support staff currently in Phase 1B
  - 122,876 educators and staff eligible in SC public schools
  - 70,973 (58%) indicate they will take COVID-19 vaccine when offered to them
  - SCDE has worked to match each district with an approved vaccine provider
- Joint Resolution being debated in the House and Senate that would prioritize vaccination of educators and staff and require every district to offer a full face to face option



# Academic Impact of COVID-19

- Interim assessments given at start of school year and end of first semester
  - Fall learning loss was especially pronounced for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in ELA and for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Math
  - For math, K and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are now performing as would be expected pre-COVID
  - For ELA, 5-9<sup>th</sup> grade students are now performing as would be expected pre-COVID
- Students learning face to face making larger gains than those learning remotely

		Full sample	In school only	Remote only	Remote to in school
		28 Districts	23 Districts	19 Districts	6 Districts
		124,285 Students	49,973 Students	25,493 Students	8,861 Students
Math	K	54	50	88	48
	1	44	40	54	38
	2	41	38	47	41
	3	40	40	37	40
	4	42	43	35	41
	5	42	46	34	42
	6	42	42	37	51
	7	43	45	41	50
	8	48	47	49	55
	9	60	57	58	63
ELA	K	54	47	94	54
	1	42	39	57	45
	2	41	36	47	41
	3	47	48	44	47
	4	47	49	42	47
	5	47	52	37	47
	6	50	50	42	55
	7	49	51	42	56
	8	49	51	44	57
	9	58	56	52	62





# 2021 Legislative Priorities

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1. ENSURE THE SAFETY & WELLNESS OF SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS
2. RECRUIT & RETAIN TEACHERS
3. GUARANTEE EVERY SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENT HAS ACCESS TO ROBUST COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS OPPORTUNITIES
4. EXPAND EARLY LEARNING & LITERACY
5. MAXIMIZE DISTRICT EFFICIENCY & ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2021 Legislative Priorities document can be found [here](#).



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# Questions?

