

FLORENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3

A PREMIER DISTRICT OF CHOICE



*Ensuring Our Students Are College and/or Career Ready and
Are Productive and Responsible Members of Society*

Enrollment Update 2026-2027

Schools	45 - Enrollment	Current Enrollment
LCECC	329	329
MSE	252	251
JCLES	388	388
SES	352	355
OMS	146	149
REMJB	201	200
JPT	337	336
LCHS	449	448
District Total	2454	2456

2025-2026 135th day report = 2602

Policy – ADF Revision

DISTRICT/SCHOOL WELLNESS

Added:

- **Food and Beverage Availability**
- The district is committed to serving healthy meals to students, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and **whole, reduced-fat (2%), fat-free, lactose-free fluid milk**, low-fat milk (**1%**), and **nondairy beverages** that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, **limited in added sugars**, and have zero grams trans fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification). **The district is also committed** ~~and~~ to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns, and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

Policy – ADF Revision
DISTRICT/SCHOOL WELLNESS

Competitive foods and beverages

The district is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on school campuses during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold outside of the school meal programs (e.g., “competitive” foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. **The district will establish standards for foods made available, but not sold, during the school say on school campuses.**

Policy – ADF Revision

DISTRICT/SCHOOL WELLNESS

All foods that meet the competitive food standards may be sold at fundraisers on the school campus during school hours. The number of fundraisers exempt from the nutrition requirements is approved by the South Carolina State Board of Education (SCDE). **The number of fundraisers exempt from the nutrition requirements is up to 30 fundraisers each, which last one day in length.**

~~Beginning with SY 2017-18 and thereafter, the days per exemption is 1 day (up to 30 of 1 day each).~~ SCDE considers applications for additional exemptions above this limit on a case-by-case basis and subject to district policy.

Policy – ADF Revision

DISTRICT/SCHOOL WELLNESS

Nutrition education

The district will teach, model, encourage, and support healthy eating by all students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that fulfills the following criteria:

- fosters the adoption and maintenance of healthy eating behaviors such as acquiring skills for reading food labels and menu planning
- is part of a sequential comprehensive standards-based health education program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health
- promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, and healthy food preparation methods
- **emphasizes reducing foods with added sugars**
- **emphasizes** caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise)
- links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, and other school foods and nutrition-related community services
- teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing **and its negative effects on physical, mental, and social well-being.**
- includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff

Policy – ADF Revision

DISTRICT/SCHOOL WELLNESS

Physical Activity

Children and adolescents should participate in **in physical activity each day.** ~~at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day.~~ A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program, which includes quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during and after school; staff involvement; and family and community engagement.

Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, students in grades K through five will receive at least 150 minutes per week of physical education and physical activity, with the majority of this time provided through physical education. Students in grades six through eight will receive at least 60 hours of physical activity and physical education during the school year, with the majority of this time provided through physical education.

Schools may promote opportunities **for unstructured play (i.e., brain or screen breaks, independent play, play clubs, etc.) to support physical, social, and academic development and outcomes, and emphasize the importance of digital wellness (i.e., limited screen time and healthy screen habits), which could increase physical activity.** **Schools may promote opportunities for** physical activity via in school announcements, newsletters, posters, etc. The district is committed to providing these opportunities, and schools will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education.

Policy – ADF Revision

DISTRICT/SCHOOL WELLNESS

Recess

Schools will provide students in grades K through five with minimum of 20 minutes of unstructured outdoor recess daily in addition to the physical education curriculum requirements. In the event of inclement weather, recess periods may be held indoors. Short term interruptions to daily recess time due to facility and staffing availability will not exceed three consecutive days.

Recess is separate from physical education and may not be used to fulfill any curriculum or physical education requirement.

Other activities that promote student wellness

The district will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, other food and beverage venues, and physical activity facilities. The district will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition, and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development, and strong educational outcomes. Schools in the district will coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics, with consultation provided by either the school or the district's curriculum specialists.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state, or association recognition for efforts or grants/funding opportunities for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary to the wellness policy, including, but not limited to , ensuring the involvement of the district wellness committee.

All school-sponsored events will adhere to the wellness policy guidelines. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity and healthy eating opportunities when appropriate.

Policy – ADF Revision

DISTRICT/SCHOOL WELLNESS

Recordkeeping

The district will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. Documentation maintained by the district will include but will not be limited to:

- the written wellness policy
- documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public
- documentation of efforts to review and update the policy, including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the
- district wellness committee (e.g., copy of meeting notice posted on the district website)
- documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements
- the most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy
- documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the wellness policy has been made available to the public
- documentation demonstrating the number of minutes of physical education and physical activity students receive daily, including the weekly total by individual class and grade level

Policy – GCCAC/GDCC Revision

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Birth

An eligible staff member who gives birth or has a stillbirth is entitled to receive six weeks of PPL. An eligible staff member who did not give birth but is a parent or coparent is entitled to receive four weeks of PPL. The six or four weeks of PPL must be taken consecutively. Once PPL commences, the staff member must continue leave until the leave is exhausted or the staff member chooses to return to work.

If both parents are eligible staff members, PPL may be taken concurrently, consecutively, or at different times. The district may, in its discretion, deny concurrent paid parental leave if the simultaneous absence of both staff members will disrupt or result in an undue hardship on the educational mission or operations of the district.

An eligible staff member will receive no more than one occurrence of six or four weeks of PPL for any twelve-month period, even if more than one qualifying event occurs. ~~An eligible school district employee shall receive no more than one occurrence of six or two weeks of PPL for any twelve-month period, even if more than one qualifying event occurs. Regardless of the qualifying event (adoption, birth, or foster care placement), the entitlement to PPL expires at the end of the twelve-month period beginning on the date of the qualifying event.~~

Policy – GCCAC/GDCC Revision

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Foster care

An eligible staff member who fosters a child is entitled to receive four weeks of PPL for any twelve-month period, even if more than one qualifying event occurs. PPL may be taken consecutively or, upon request and approval, in nonconsecutive one-week periods until the leave is exhausted.

Adoption

An eligible staff member primarily responsible for furnishing the care and nurture of a child initially placed for legal adoption and under the age of 18 is entitled to six weeks of PPL. An eligible staff member who is not primarily responsible for furnishing the care and nurture of a child initially placed for legal adoption is entitled for four weeks of PPL. The six or four weeks of PPL must be taken consecutively. Once PPL commences, the staff member must continue leave until the leave is exhausted or the staff member chooses to return to work.

An eligible staff member will receive no more than one occurrence of size to four weeks of PPL for any twelve-month period, even if more than one qualifying events occurs.

If both parents are eligible staff members, PPL may be taken concurrently, consecutively, or at different times. The district may, in its discretion, deny concurrent paid parental leave if the simultaneous absence of both staff members will disrupt or result in an undue hardship on the educational mission or operations of the district.

Policy – GCCAC/GDCC Revision

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Eligible staff members are not entitled to and may not use PPL before the occurrence of a qualifying event. Other available leave benefits (e.g., sick leave, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave, PTO, or unpaid leave) must be used if that staff member requires leave before the occurrence of a qualifying event, such as for medical reasons related to pregnancy but prior to the birth of a child or legal obligations related to adoption or foster care placement.

If PPL is not used by the eligible school district staff member before the end of the 12-month period after the qualifying event, such leave expires and does not accumulate for subsequent use. PPL may not be donated. Any leave remaining at the end of the 12-month period or at separation of employment is forfeited.

Policy – GCCAC/GDCC Revision

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Paid Parental Leave and FMLA or Other Unpaid Leave

- PPL must run concurrently with leave taken pursuant to FMLA and any other unpaid leave to which the eligible staff member may be entitled as a result of the qualifying event. Eligible staff members do NOT have to exhaust all other forms of leave before eligible to take PPL. However, staff members shall be eligible for paid parental leave even if they have exhausted all other leave or if the staff member is not eligible for FMLA leave at the time of the qualifying event. If the employee becomes eligible for FMLA leave while on PPL, the staff member must use the FMLA leave, which will then run concurrent with the PPL.

Policy – GCCAC/GDCC Revision

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Paid Leave Payment and Other Leave Accrual

PPL is paid at 100 percent of the eligible staff member's base pay. Therefore, PPL does not include any additional pay, such as overtime, supplements, bonuses, longevity pay, temporary salary adjustments, shift differential pay, on call pay, call back pay, special assignment pay, or market or geographic differential pay. All additional pay which the staff member would receive during non-PPL paid leave (i.e., annual leave) should be ended for the period of PPL.

The hours of PPL are calculated based on the staff member's average workday. PPL for eligible part-time staff members is calculated on a prorated basis corresponding to the percentage of hours the part-time staff member is normally scheduled to work. Leave granted under the policy is with pay and is not annual or sick leave and therefore does not deduct from the eligible staff member's accrued leave balance. Eligible staff members shall accrue annual and sick leave at the normal rate and receive holiday pay while on PPL, if applicable.

Policy – GCCAC/GDCC Revision

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Requesting Paid Parental Leave

Eligible staff members requesting paid parental leave must submit a request to the Director of Personnel or his or her designee. Requests should be submitted not less than 30 days prior to the qualifying event. If 30 days' notice is not possible, the staff member is required to submit the request as soon as practicable, along with a reasonable explanation as to why earlier notice was not possible.

In order to receive PPL, eligible staff members must also submit satisfactory documentation of the qualifying event to the Director of Personnel or his/her designee as soon as practicable but not later than 30 days after the qualifying event occurs. The documentation must include the date of the qualifying event and verify that the eligible staff member is a legal parent or co-parent of the child. The staff member may provide any of the following forms of documentation based on the applicable qualifying event:

- For the birth of a child, a valid birth certificate, physician's statement, custody order, or certified DNA results.
- For the foster placement of a child, a court order or lawful foster care placement.
- For the adoption placement of a child, a court order or lawful adoption agreement.
- Any other valid and lawful certification, order, agreement, or other form of documentation confirming the qualifying event that is satisfactory to the district.

The district will endeavor to notify the staff member of his/her eligibility status within five business days after receiving the request and all required documentation. If the qualifying event occurs

Policy – GCCAC/GDCC Revision

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Adoption:

b. Eligible school district employees occupying all or part of an FTE position and who are not primarily responsible for furnishing the care and nurture of their child initially placed for legal adoption under the age of 18 on or after June 26, 2023, are entitled to ~~two~~ **four** weeks of PPL.

Birth:

b. Eligible school district employees occupying all or part of an FTE position and whose coparent gives birth to a biological newborn child are entitled to receive ~~two~~ **four** weeks of PPL.

Policy – IHAR Revision

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Add Goal:

- Reporting to the South Carolina Department of Education annually by June 15th, the number of minutes of physical education instruction and additional physical activity students received daily, along with the total number of minutes provided each week.

Add Exemptions:

- A seventh or eighth grade student earning high school credit by taking one or more ninth grade or higher courses at an off-campus location, provided the school has made reasonable efforts to include the student in a physical education class.
- An eighth-grade student who is enrolled in three or more ninth-grade or higher course for high school credit, provided the school has made reasonable efforts to include the student in a physical education class.

If a waiver is granted, a student may be offered instruction in health education or lifestyle modification as an alternative to physical education.



Policy –JLCG Revision

SEIZURE SAFE SCHOOLS

Added:

The superintendent will ensure that the South Carolina Department of Public Health's evidence-based informational pamphlet or poster on rendering first for seizures in the workplace is prominently displayed in district schools and offices.

Add to Legal References:

Section 44-1-320 – Requires the Department of Public Health to create a pamphlet on rendering seizure first aid.

New Policy – EBCA

CARDIAC EMERGENCIES

1st Reading

Florence School District Three recognizes that from time to time it may become necessary for school personnel to promptly intervene when a student or staff member is experiencing a sudden cardiac or life-threatening emergency to help sustain life until emergency medical services arrive on scene.

The superintendent or his/her designee will develop a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) to ensure the proper handling of cardiac or similar life-threatening emergencies occurring on school grounds or during school-sponsored athletic practices or events.

The CERP will include the criteria established by the state board of education and will include, at a minimum, the following:

- a designated school-level cardiac emergency response team
- procedures for activating the cardiac emergency response team
- placement and routine maintenance of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) within the district schools and at each off site athletic event
- ongoing CPR and AED training for designated staff
- periodic CERP practice drills
- annual review and evaluation of the CERP

New Policy – EBCA

CARDIAC EMERGENCIES

1st Reading

Automated External Defibrillators

An AED is a portable electronic device designed to deliver a predetermined electrical shock through the chest wall to the heart of an individual experiencing life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia. It is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation (VF) and is capable of determining if defibrillation should be performed. The AED will guide the user with audible or visual prompts and does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgement in its use. It should be applied only to individuals who are unconscious, not breathing formally, and showing no signs of circulation.

The use of AEDs in the district's schools will follow district guidelines developed to meet the requirements of the South Carolina Automated External Defibrillator Act and the State Board of Education.

- Legal References:
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- S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
 - Section 44-76-10, et seq. – Automated External Defibrillator Act.
 - Section 59-17-155 – Automated External Defibrillator programs in high schools.
 - Section 59-17-165 – Smart Heart Act, cardiac response plans in schools.



Policy – IKADD- R Revision

CONTENT AND CREDIT RECOVERY

Added:

Content Recovery

Students must be currently enrolled in a course **and have submitted all required assignments to participate in content recovery.**

Added:

Credit Recovery

Eligibility

Students are eligible for a credit recovery course if they have previously taken and failed an initial credit course. Students must have obtained a grade of 50 or higher in the initial credit course **and must have submitted all required assignments** or the student is not eligible for credit recovery and must retake the full course to receive credit. Students who have already received credit for a course are ineligible to participate in credit recovery to improve their final grade.