SOUTH CAROLINA
K-12 SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

22
23
PROGRESS REPORT

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ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative was founded in 1996 as part of the General Assembly's proactive approach to addressing technology infrastructure, connectivity and education in schools throughout the state. The Initiative, steered by a unique public/private partnership, guides the distribution of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and approved by the Governor. These funds collectively help to meet schools' needs for software, hardware, connectivity, digital content, instructional technologies, cybersecurity protection and professional development opportunities.

Department of Administration

The South Carolina Department of Administration (Admin) serves as the central administrative agency for state government with a mission to lead, collaborate and innovate. In this capacity, Admin utilizes shared services and centralization to help agencies efficiently and securely carry out common government functions, thereby allowing them to focus on their core missions.

Department of Education

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is tasked with providing leadership and support so that all public education students graduate prepared for success in college, careers and citizenship. Through these efforts, districts will have a system of personalized and digital learning that supports students in a safe learning environment to meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

Education Oversight Committee

The South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC), an independent group of educators, business people and elected officials, is charged with encouraging continuous improvement in our public schools, approving academic content standards and assessments and establishing the state's educational accountability system.

Educational Television

South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) is the state's public educational broadcasting network. SCETV's mission is to enrich lives by educating children, informing and connecting citizens, celebrating our culture and environment and instilling the joy of learning. SCETV provides national and local content to classrooms and offers teacher training and recertification opportunities.

State Library

The South Carolina State Library is the primary administrator of federal and state support for libraries and is responsible for public library development, library service for state institutions, service for the blind and physically handicapped and library services to state agencies. The State Library develops, supports and sustains a thriving statewide community of learners committed to making South Carolina stronger.

Private Sector Partners

In addition to the five public sector partner agencies, the K-12 School Technology Initiative is also made up of two private sector representatives, AT&T and the South Carolina Telecommunications and Broadband Association. These partners help guide and steer the Initiative as it seeks to support the provisioning of high-quality, information-rich education for all students.

INITIATIVE PARTNERS

The South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative partners are extremely proud of the progress that has been made in the development and implementation of educational technology as well as the strides made in providing infrastructure initiatives designed to produce more successful students in South Carolina. It is our hope that South Carolina's leaders will continue their history of using the K-12 School Technology Initiative to guide the provisioning of high-quality, information-rich education for all students.

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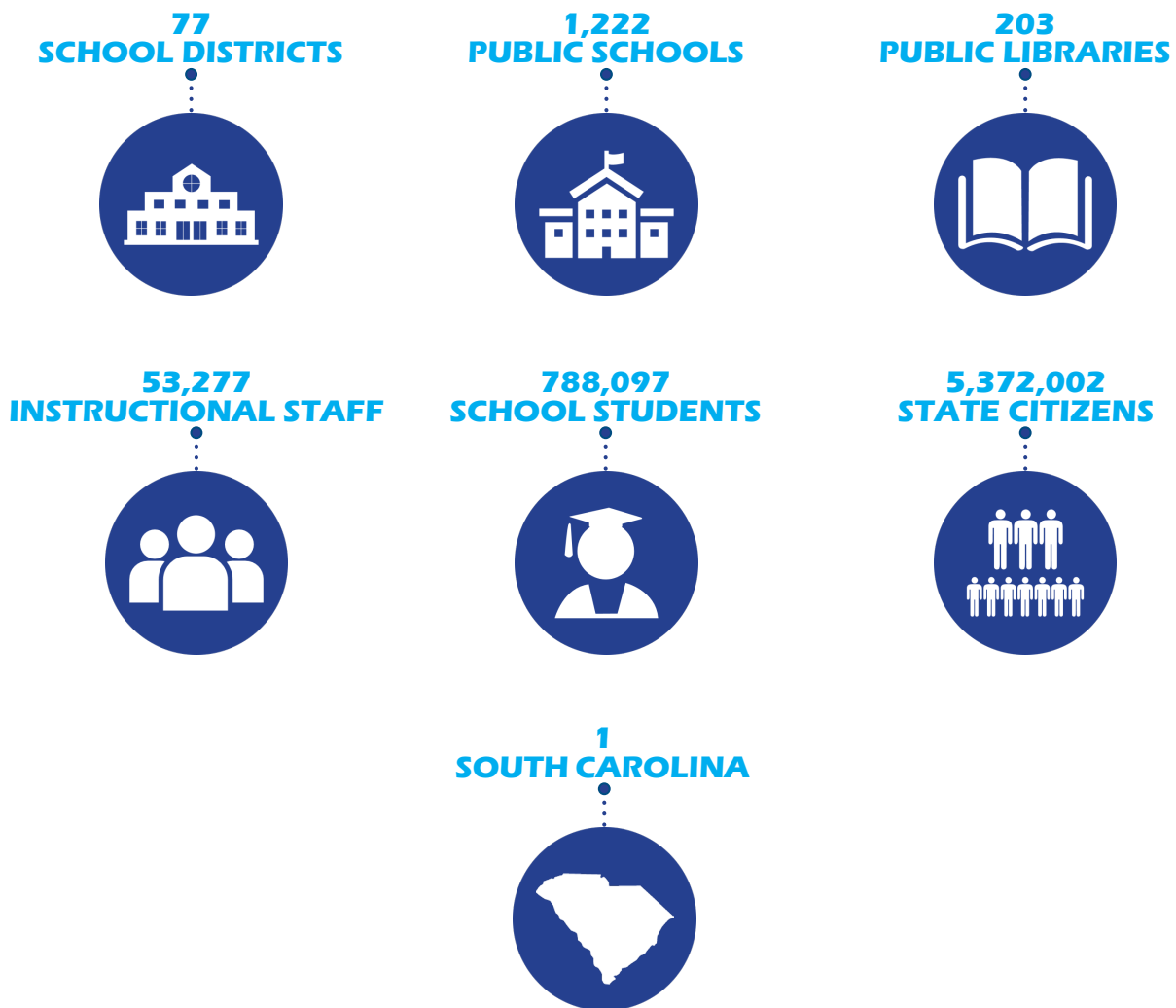Website: att.com
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WHO DOES THE INITIATIVE SERVE?

The South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative provides a wide variety of essential services to public schools and libraries throughout the state. These services include technology infrastructure, connectivity, educational content, information security, professional development and collaborative opportunities. Together, these efforts have a profound and lasting impact on the state's over 780,000 public school students while also helping shape and improve the future of our state and each of its citizens.

77
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

1,222
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

203
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

53,277
INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

788,097
SCHOOL STUDENTS

5,372,002
STATE CITIZENS

1
SOUTH CAROLINA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the return to face-to-face instruction in the 2022 school year, more students have access to reliable internet during school hours than in the two years prior. And now, in 2023, nearly all public school districts have reliable, high-speed internet. This year, the K-12 School Technology Initiative has made significant strides in improving access to high-quality learning programs for schools and students across the state.

Efforts have been made toward closing the connectivity gap for students as well as teachers. For instance, this year alone, SCETV provided over 400 Wi-Fi devices to early childhood educators and other education organizations, such as after-school programs. Opportunities for professional development continue to grow, with numerous free resources available to school districts across the state.

With this strong foundation, access to high-quality resources has improved also. Not only are outstanding, credible resources available to students and teachers, but they are being used, with K-12 students and educators leading the charge. Virtual tutoring and educational help are available throughout the state at no cost to students or schools.

Even with these improvements, it is important to note that for students without home internet, access to these resources stops once they leave school grounds. According to the South Carolina Broadband Office, approximately 191,548 households still do not have access to a reliable internet connection. While this represents a 13% improvement since last year's report, this still leaves a significant gap in terms of statewide access. For students who were disproportionately affected by the pandemic and shifts to online learning, access to high-quality resources and tutoring may not be enough. This is just one of many reasons why we must continue to push ourselves to help students and teachers across the state.

INFRASTRUCTURE, CONNECTIVITY, SECURITY AND PRIVACY

<u>South Carolina Technology Plan Goal</u>: To support the state's learning goals, by 2024 South Carolina's public schools will have more secure networks, fast and stable technology infrastructure and up-to-date computing devices. Public school students will have improved access to broadband internet at school and at home.

INFRASTRUCTURE, CONNECTIVITY, SECURITY AND PRIVACY

The South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative partners engage in a wide variety of activities and programs designed to improve infrastructure, connectivity, security and privacy. These activities and programs are detailed throughout this section of the 2022-23 Progress Report.

EXPANSION OF HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

The South Carolina Department of Administration (Admin) works to expand network connectivity for the state's K-12 public schools and libraries. The focus of this initiative is designed to provide a stronger technology foundation for students, teachers and library patrons as they acquire the skills needed to prepare for emerging educational technologies and job opportunities. As a direct outcome of this effort, fiber-based, high-capacity broadband connectivity continues to be expanded on a statewide basis among schools and libraries.

Bandwidth Growth

Internet connectivity for South Carolina's public schools and libraries has seen tremendous growth in recent years. Nearly all public school districts have a minimum internet bandwidth of 1,000 Mbps.

As of May 2023, school districts accounted for over 350 Gbps of internet bandwidth capacity, including 10 Gbps to library systems and 26 Gbps to charter schools. While the average library system and charter school had approximately 300 Mbps of internet bandwidth capacity, the average school district had a capacity over 4,000 Mbps.

Looking ahead, the K-12 School Technology

Initiative will need to consider the network connectivity needs of schools and libraries over the next decade and set forth new connectivity goals that support the Initiative's vision.

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES E-RATE PROGRAM

Since 1998, the Schools and Libraries E-Rate Program has proven to be transformational for education technology in public schools, charter schools and libraries across the state. The support provided by this program is utilized by Admin to acquire broadband services for the state's K-12 school and library network participants.

Admin is also responsible for the administration of the South Carolina E-Rate Consortium (Consortium), which includes:

▶ 74 school districts.
▶ 72 charter and special schools.
▶ 42 library systems.
▶ Three state agency districts.

As of FY 2022-23, the Consortium was one of the largest E-Rate consortia in the United States with a total funding request of over $27 million. The Consortium prepares and files annual applications for network connectivity on behalf of many of the state's public schools and libraries, relieving the administrative burden on those organizations.

Consortium staff also assist districts and libraries with navigating the complex process of filing their E-Rate applications. This assistance is provided through the K-12 School Technology Initiative website, which features current program news, resources and deadlines. Assistance is also provided through virtual training sessions.

To support the Consortium, Admin manages funding from the K-12 School Technology Initiative to pay service providers who supply internet access to connect public schools, charter schools and libraries with wide area network (WAN) services. These high-speed networks are built to meet the ever-expanding needs of students, teachers and library patrons for enriching content.

The funding support offered by the Schools and Libraries E-Rate program is essential to the continued expansion of education technology in districts and libraries throughout the state.

Category Two State Matching Funds Program

In FY 2022-23, Admin allocated $2.75 million from the K-12 School Technology Initiative for the Category Two (C2) E-Rate State Match Program. The program supports school districts, library systems and charter schools for the non-discounted share of their FY 2022-23 Category Two E-Rate applications. The reimbursed funds are reinvested by the beneficiary to continue to upgrade network infrastructure. The program provided funding to 15 library systems, 23 charter schools and 47 school districts.

E-Rate Program Trends

Schools and libraries have been able to fund improvements to network infrastructure, due in part to the Schools and Libraries E-Rate Program's Category Two funding mechanism.

In FY 2022-23, 49 school districts, 15 library systems and 27 charter schools requested over $20.5 million in funding for Category Two products and services such as routers, switches and other internal connections. Of this amount, $18.5 million has been approved for funding. As of May 2023, these school districts and library systems were disbursed $8.4 million in reimbursements from the E-Rate program.

When comparing the FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 Category Two E-Rate filing data, two notable program trends were identified.

- ▶ Applicants saw more E-Rate applications approved over the previous year.
- ▶ The FY 2022-23 E-Rate Efficiency Factor for Consortium members improved 7.1%.

With a goal to reach 100% E-Rate Efficiency Factor, the Consortium and the K-12 School Technology Initiative will continue to provide additional opportunities for E-Rate training.

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE: At a Glance

350 Gbps
District Bandwidth Capacity

10 Gbps
Library Bandwidth Capacity

26 Gbps
Charter School Bandwidth Capacity

Broadband Efforts:
Connectivity for public schools and libraries

Agency:
Admin

Website:
admin.sc.gov
sck12techinit.sc.gov

admin
THE SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of ADMINISTRATION

To learn more about the E-Rate program, visit sck12techinit.sc.gov/e-rate/program-information.

VALUE OF STATE MASTER CONTRACTS

In many states, school districts and library systems do not have a statewide E-Rate consortium that provides broadband connectivity services, files required documentation and coordinates service ordering on their behalf. In this scenario, schools and libraries must devote more personnel to procurement, E-Rate compliance and ultimately pay more for broadband connectivity services.

Fortunately, schools and libraries in South Carolina benefit from the avoided administrative burden of filing for E-Rate discounts on broadband connectivity and very low costs for those services through state term contracts.

Reduced Costs, Increased Capacity

In January 2019, Admin awarded a five-year state master contract for network services to AT&T (Lot 3, E-Rate Data Transport). This contract lowered the cost for WAN circuits by 29%. The contract also provided circuit bandwidth capacity speeds of 15 Mbps to 20 Gbps to schools and libraries for the first time. These high-capacity circuits allow the state's largest school districts to continue to grow their networks.

In March 2022, Admin awarded a five-year state master internet services contract to Segra. The contract lowers the cost of internet services by 20%, offering a wide range of bandwidth from 10 MB to 20 Gbps. The new contract went into effect July 1, 2022.

Cost savings from state term contracts fuel internet and WAN bandwidth capacity increases and, in many cases, lowers the cost shares for South Carolina E-Rate Consortium members. The Consortium provides higher circuit bandwidth on best-in-class service at a fraction of the cost of similar services a decade ago.

INTERNET SECURITY PROTECTION

To help the state's schools and libraries combat the increased quantity and complexity of malware, ransomware and other advanced security threats, the K-12 School Technology Initiative provides Cisco Umbrella to districts, library systems and charter schools.

Cisco Umbrella is a leading cloud-based, internet security product that complements schools' and libraries' current internet security measures. Specifically, Cisco Umbrella leverages its constantly updated list of known domain name server (DNS) security threats with internet security policies providing drastically improved defense and a user-friendly experience.

Cisco Umbrella Usage

It is important to note that South Carolina is the only state that provides Cisco Umbrella internet security services to all public school districts, library systems and charter schools through a coordinated statewide effort.

- ▶ In total, 174 school districts, library systems and charter schools are currently using Cisco Umbrella.
- ▶ Between July 1, 2022, and April 30, 2023, over 147.8 billion queries from South Carolina's schools and libraries were handled by Cisco Umbrella.
- ▶ Of those queries, 19.4 million security threats and potentially harmful or inappropriate websites were blocked.
- ▶ In FY 2022-23 the K-12 Cisco Umbrella served 183,000 clients, a significant increase over the 65,000 clients served in the previous year.

EXPANDED EDUCATOR ACCESS

South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) expands access to web resources like Knowitall and PBS LearningMedia to educators across the state. These high-quality resources support standards-aligned learning experiences, many of which are specific to South Carolina history and designed for South Carolina College and Career

Ready Standards. SCETV also expands access to the internet to select education facilities within T-Mobile's coverage areas through the provision of free Wi-Fi devices. During FY 2021-22, the merger between T-Mobile and Sprint expanded the market for the free service.

In FY 2022-23, SCETV provided 426 Wi-Fi devices as gateways to broadband internet to applicable early childhood educators and other educational organizations, including after-school programs. SCETV bundles Wi-Fi access with its quality professional development opportunities and content funded by the K-12 School Technology Initiative.

During FY 2022-23, SCETV added family engagement as a strategic educational priority. Through projects like Simple.Digital and Discovery Day, SCETV helps families implement responsible and safe technology for learning and well-being.
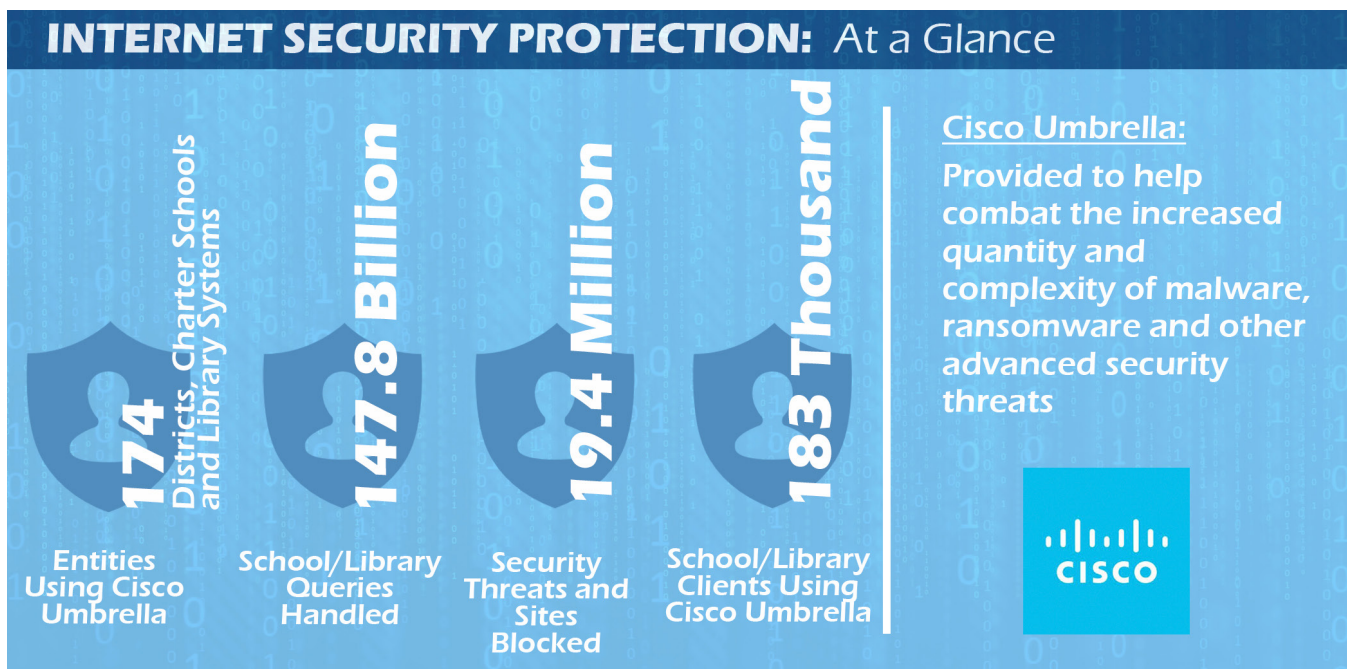
Simple.Digital is a digital literacy series featuring printable learning resources that cover topics like hardware, software and cybersecurity. During FY 2022-23, Simple.Digital resources were viewed 1,296 times and used to engage more than 362 caregivers including parents, grandparents and other guardians.

INCREASED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Data collected indicates that nearly 4% of career and technical education participants in South Carolina selected the Arts, AV Technology and Communications cluster as an intended career pathway. In an effort to increase interest and participation in these areas, SCETV prioritized student engagement and workforce development for FY 2022-23. Specific activities funded through this work include station field trips, career fair participation and in-studio experiential learning.

During the funding year, over 575 students visited SCETV to participate in tours and standard-aligned activities related to careers in public media. In many cases, station field trip participants were students enrolled in media magnet programs or members of student journalism classes or clubs.

This funding year, SCETV upfitted an existing distance learning studio to support these on-site learning experiences and to attract prospective workforce talent. The space is outfitted with state-of-the-art technology that supports podcast production, video production, instructional

INTERNET SECURITY PROTECTION: At a Glance

174
Districts, Charter Schools and Library Systems
Entities Using Cisco Umbrella

147.8 Billion
School/Library Queries Handled

19.4 Million
Security Threats and Sites Blocked

183 Thousand
School/Library Clients Using Cisco Umbrella

Cisco Umbrella:
Provided to help combat the increased quantity and complexity of malware, ransomware and other advanced security threats

CISCO

activities and screening events. The space will be available for use starting in fall 2023.

Beyond on-site field trips, more than 4,200 students were engaged through career fairs. Through initiatives like Shadow Day, unpaid internships and other special events, over 23 middle school, high school and higher education students gained real-life experience working in a public media production facility.

These experiential learning opportunities promote careers in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), as well as in finance, education and mass communications. This participation cultivates the responsible use of media and awareness of cross-sector career opportunities in the media landscape.

In addition to workforce-focused activities, student engagement and activities also included technology-integrated workshops. Workshop topics included coding with PBS Scratch Jr., media literacy and design thinking. Student workshop attendance exceeded 880 participants. In aggregate, SCETV engaged over 11,500 students during FY 2022-23.

Where internet access is unavailable or limited, SCETV offers datacasting as a complementary solution. Datacasting is a one-way communication system that allows educators to send learning content to student devices using the broadcast signal. Specific activities funded through this work include the development of outreach materials, in addition to the research and design process for community resource kiosks powered by datacasting technology.

To learn more about services for schools and districts, visit https://www.scetv.org/education/services-schools-and-districts.

SCDE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

During 2022-23, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) assisted several districts and schools in need of infrastructure support by continuing to provide Backup Recovery and Business Continuity Services, as well as a pilot project solution for Student Safety Monitoring.

District Backup Recovery Services Infrastructure

SCDE provides data backup recovery services to participating districts throughout the state. The infrastructure for this effort includes an Avamar and Data Domain backup and recovery system, which has 127 TB of usable storage and is located in Columbia. SCDE also provides a Meraki communication device required for school districts to participate in the service.

The response from districts to this shared service offering has been greater than expected. Originally, only small school districts were targeted for this initiative; however, as of April 2023, SCDE has been providing data backup for 11 school districts of various sizes and is actively working to onboard additional districts.

Of the 11 school districts implemented, SCDE is backing up 81 servers and 32 TB of data. Some school districts back up a portion of their data while others are using the service to back up all data. SCDE will continue to review current storage resources as usage continues to grow.

Student Safety Monitoring Pilot

During FY 2022-23, SCDE conducted a pilot of a monitoring solution for student safety called Linewize by Family Zone Monitoring. This solution provides 24/7 monitoring of school-issued computers and helps detect seven categories of online risks, including cyberbullying and violence, before they become real-life incidents.

Ten school districts participated in the pilot for one year and feedback was very positive. Participants indicated the solution was superior to similar software previously used and captured results with a great level of detail and accuracy.

IMS GLOBAL LEARNING CONSORTIUM MEMBERSHIP

In 2021, SCDE purchased an IMS Global Learning Consortium affiliate membership to expand the support it offers to the state's school districts. Membership in the consortium provides a wide variety of benefits, including access to development tools not available to the public, guidance on the effective implementation of IMS specifications and information on new innovations in the learning industry.

Consortium membership also provides districts the ability to access the TrustedApps utility, which includes access to an application-vetting rubric and a set of applications that meet defined security and privacy requirements. It also provides support for implementing IMS global standards for developing a digital learning environment.

DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

SCDE coordinated technical and non-technical training opportunities for school districts throughout the state.

District Online Professional Development

SCDE offered school districts the opportunity to acquire a site license for online professional development courses through SkillSets of Silicon Valley. The site license provides unlimited dashboards and access to a large variety of both technical and non-technical courses, assessments and practice labs.

With unlimited access, this resource can be extended to both school district staff and students. As of May 1, 2023, 24 school districts have taken advantage of this opportunity, including:

- 901 courses (technical and non-technical).
- 15 certification assessments.
- 80 practice labs.
- 2 job aids.

Technical Assistance Funding

SCDE allocated $1,500 initially to the Abbeville Plaintiff Districts for the purpose of providing technical assistance through district technology leaders and staff. All other qualifying districts received this funding allocation for the same purpose.

The funds were intended to help enable technical skills and strategic planning in supporting teaching and learning. District technology leaders and staff were permitted to use these funds for costs associated with attending in-person and virtual professional development training events, conferences and classes related to educational technology, which increased the school district's capacity to provide the following:

- Secure online testing.
- Increased access to technological and online resources.
- Technology strategic planning tools.
- Technology collaboration.
- Professional development.
- Secure network connectivity and internet access.

Electronic Document Accessibility Training

SCDE also offered virtual training on making online documents accessible to school district educators and support staff. This two-day, hands-on training reviewed checking for and repairing common accessibility issues in Microsoft, Google and PDF documents. This training focused on instruction and content development for posting online. Over 75 participants from 32 school districts registered for this training session.
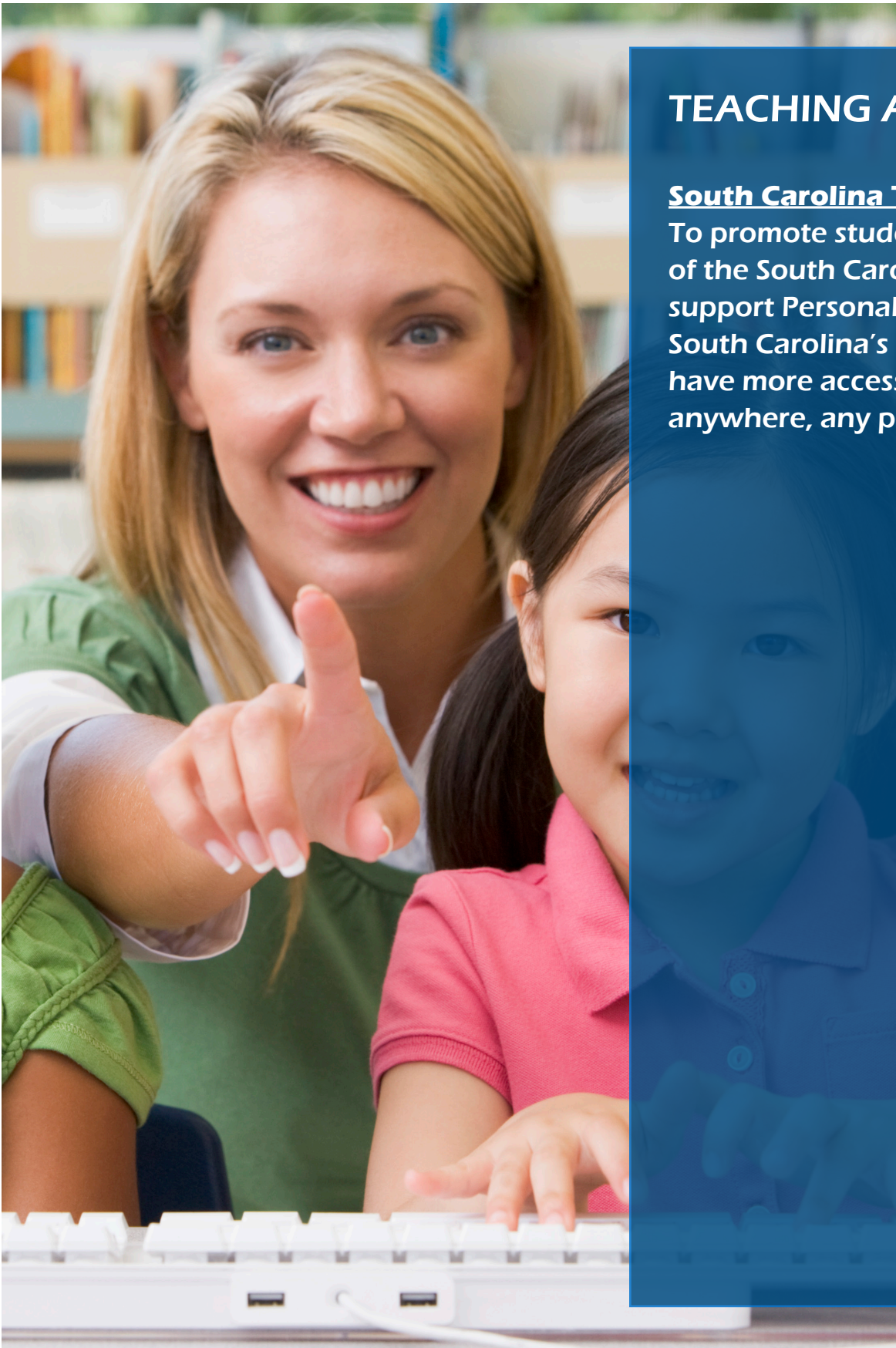
TEACHING AND LEARNING

South Carolina Technology Plan Goal:
To promote students' meeting the Profile
of the South Carolina Graduate and to
support Personalized Learning, by 2024
South Carolina's public schools will
have more accessible tools for "anytime,
anywhere, any pace" learning.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The K-12 School Technology Initiative partners engage in a wide variety of activities and programs designed to improve the areas of teaching and learning. These activities and programs are detailed throughout this section of the 2022-23 Progress Report.

DISCUS

The South Carolina State Library (State Library) manages and administers Discus, South Carolina's Virtual Library. This collection of K-12 curriculum resources consists of more than 70 databases and services for all South Carolinians. Available 24/7, students and education professionals have free access to research databases, eBooks, practice tests and live tutoring. The credible, high-quality, vetted publications in Discus allow students and educators to safely search for up-to-date information without sifting through advertisements and non-educational results found in internet search engines.

The State Library invests $3.4 million annually in Discus, with funding primarily provided by the South Carolina General Assembly in collaboration with the K-12 School Technology Initiative. Additional funding is received from the Library Services and Technology Act and SCDE.

In the fall of 2021, the State Library announced a three-year $1.5 million partnership with SCDE to address the continuing academic impact of the pandemic by providing online, live tutoring. The establishment of this partnership means that South Carolina has the only statewide program offering 24/7 tutoring access for English and Spanish speakers in more than 200 subjects. Utilizing the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER), the Tutor.com service provides

equal access to individualized learning and career coaches for all students and families. Usage of Tutor.com remains strong as compared to the previous year, with 97% of respondents glad the service is offered.

The integration of EZproxy, a state-of-the-art authentication solution, into Discus provides seamless access for 97% of users. Equitable access, regardless of economic status or geographic location, ensures students throughout South Carolina can utilize high-quality, current and age-appropriate scholarly information without usernames, passwords or other credentials. Access to Discus resources is found in schools, academic institutions and public libraries, and includes the subjects considered essential to the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate — language arts, science, technology, engineering, math, world languages, arts and social sciences.

Enhanced Discus Resources

The State Library added PebbleGo Science and 50 Capstone eBooks to Discus in the fall of 2022. The addition of PebbleGo Science to the existing PebbleGo Animals and PebbleGo Next Biographies databases has been well received as educators supplement classroom curriculum. PebbleGo Science is ideal for young students researching topics including weather, plants, inventions, math and technology. Capstone resources are designed for early learners ages kindergarten through fifth grade, and offer an engaging approach to literacy with simple navigation, read-aloud informational articles, activities, videos and games.

The K-12 School Technology Initiative provided $168,000 to fund PebbleGo Science and continue funding for PebbleGo Next Biographies, a

companion module to assist early researchers. In the first three quarters of FY 2022-23, there were 1.7 million articles viewed, games played and eBooks read in the PebbleGo collection.

TeachingBooks, another recent literacy addition to Discus, has experienced the tremendous usage of 3.1 million investigations for FY 2022-23. This addition is designed to empower readers to connect with books while gaining insights and understanding from the author through the joy of reading. The vast amount of author and illustrator interviews and author readings provide an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the author and the relevance of their works, reflecting diverse cultural experiences and interests.

Through this resource, educators have access to curriculum tools for programming and collection analysis as well as book trailers to foster a love of reading in students. An analysis of each South Carolina Association of School Librarian Book Award nominee is found in TeachingBooks, as are eBooks from the Discus collections of TumbleBooks and TeenBookCloud, providing an integrated, seamless experience for readers.

An updated and eye-catching Britannica Elementary and Middle School module with user-friendly navigation was released during the year. An In the News! article prominently displays breaking news by appropriate age group and reading level. The Britannica School Learning Suite provides an engaging learning experience allowing students to toggle between reading levels so that information is available for students of all backgrounds.

A redesigned discovery service, known as SmartSearch and SmartSearch Kids, was launched prior to the start of the school year. These services provide the option to search multiple databases simultaneously and return relevant results, reducing the steps necessary if searching databases individually. A new Concept Map is included in the search results and provides a visual, interactive approach to exploring topics with artificial intelligence. The primary purpose of the Concept Map is to allow users to visually

discover related ideas and construct effective search queries, yielding relevant, specific results.

EBSCO's Publishing's History Reference and Science Reference Centers have been integrated into the Explora design and layout to provide a consistent research experience throughout these EBSCO databases. Both History and Science Reference Centers display carefully curated categories and popular research topics to encourage browsing and access.

Discus Usage

Discus continues to be heavily used by K-12 schools, public libraries and academic institutions, with K-12 students and educators accounting for the highest usage. During the first three quarters of FY 2022-23, there were 19,378,803 items retrieved in Discus, including full-text articles, videos, e-books, primary sources and practice tests. This is an increase of 34% compared to the same period in FY 2021-22, which reinforces the support and confidence in the Discus collection and how the array of resources supports all ages, learning styles and education levels.

Several Discus resources experienced significant increases in usage during this time, including:

- ▶ Britannica Online increased 16%.
- ▶ Capstone increased 98%.
- ▶ Credo Reference increased 31%.
- ▶ EBSCO increased 23%.
- ▶ Gale Cengage increased 14%.
- ▶ LearningExpress Library increased 38%.

The addition of the For Students eBook collections from Gale Cengage aided in the significant 14% usage increase. These one-time purchases provide research assistance with middle and high school language arts assignments and assist with understanding the literary and historical backgrounds of various cultures and time periods through drama, novels, poetry and short stories analysis.

Another resource with significant usage is CultureGrams and its cultural information about

countries around the world. From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, each concise, reliable and up-to-date report provides unique cultural details from an expert's perspective in 25 cultural categories.

Discus Return on Investment

Discus also provides an excellent return on investment from both a learning perspective and a cost-efficiency standpoint, as indicated through the following:

- ▶ Discus database license costs budgeted for FY 2022-23 were $3.4 million.
- ▶ If each library purchased access separately, the total cost would be over $32 million.
- ▶ Administration of this statewide program provides cost avoidance of over $28.6 million.
- ▶ All state funding for Discus goes directly to database acquisition.

Ensuring the State Library provides these resources saves schools and libraries millions each year through contract negotiations, purchasing these products at significant statewide discounts. Without Discus, many resource-constrained schools could not provide scholarly resources for students as they navigate through their educational requirements. The ability of all libraries to provide patrons access to such resources, regardless of race or socioeconomic status, is imperative to the intellectual development of South Carolina citizens.

Thorough vetting of potential resources is conducted by the State Library to ensure new products align with South Carolina curriculum standards and the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Each database in Discus fills the needs of educators and students with scholarly articles, lesson plans, primary sources, eBooks, test preparation and live tutoring. All current and potential databases are continuously analyzed and monitored for price point and usage.

Statewide licensing eases the costs to libraries, freeing up funds for other materials or programming. The State Library's administration of this valuable and popular statewide program provides a cost avoidance for South Carolina institutions of over $28.6 million, which reinforces the fact that Discus is an excellent example of cost efficiency and learning opportunities.

To learn more about the State Library's Discus, visit scdiscus.org.

DISCUS: At a Glance

19,378,803 — Discus Items Accessed

$28.6 million — Cost Avoidance Provided

9,696,367 — Britannica Online Items Retrieved

3,137,648 — TeachingBooks Items Retrieved

Discus: South Carolina's virtual library

Agency: SC State Library

Website: scdiscus.org

Discus

south carolina STATE LIBRARY
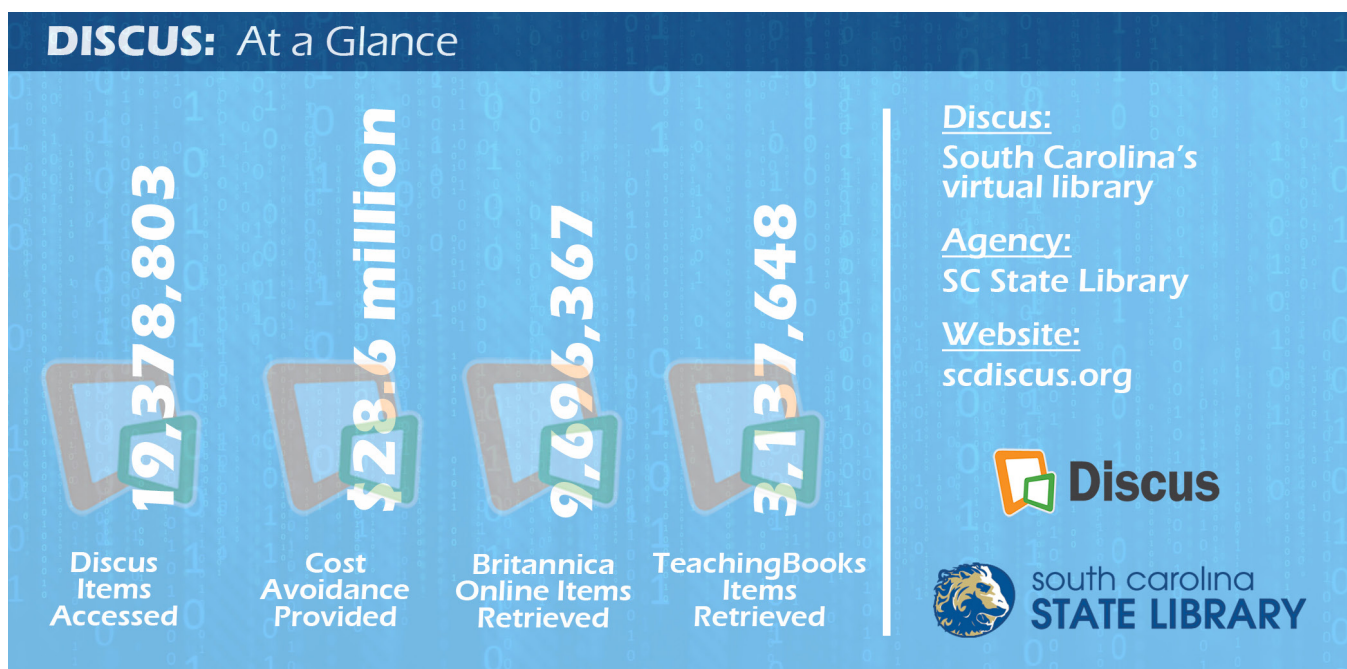
DISCUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

After two years of virtual trainings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Discus training was able to resume on-site professional development at schools, districts, media specialists regional meetings, family literacy nights and state conferences. Interest in training sessions continues to grow, both virtual and in-person, allowing all areas of the state equal opportunity for professional development. The continued resource and functionality enhancements in Discus ensure training attendees learn something new about Discus. Training announcements are regularly scheduled through a variety of mediums including newsletters, listservs and social media.

Discus Professional Development Offerings

Discus worked with vendor partners to plan and schedule virtual training sessions on a variety of subjects for students and parents to explain the resources and integrated tools. In addition to scheduled training sessions with vendors, this year Discus focused on planning and promoting a training series for Tutor.com and a training series for TeachingBooks, two very popular resources. The Tutor.com series was designed to target the audience by age group to ensure the material was beneficial for all attendees.

The TeachingBooks series also targeted educators and librarians by age group served and areas of interest. Ideas and insights were shared to encourage reading with engaging programming and instruction using TeachingBooks. The series also provided information on conducting readers' advisory, collection development and book promotions for all audiences.

A total of 3,178 individuals attended the in-person offerings, watched live sessions or watched the recorded sessions. A few of the organizations that benefited from the Discus trainings are:

- ▶ Palmetto State Literacy Association.
- ▶ South Carolina EdTech Conference.
- ▶ Coastal Carolina University.
- ▶ South Carolina Library Association Conference.
- ▶ South Carolina Association of School Librarians.
- ▶ South Carolina Independent School Librarians and Guidance Counselors.

SCETV EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

South Carolina Educational Television's (SCETV) Education Services delivers a wide range of high-quality digital learning content for students and educators. SCETV also provides professional development and curriculum support designed to support personalized, collaborative learning experiences. As part of this effort, SCETV creates, organizes and distributes educational content to support pre-K-12 student needs, while also providing a variety of online and face-to-face professional development opportunities for teachers, staff and administrators.

Over the past two decades, funding from the K-12 School Technology Initiative has been used to help provide resources used extensively by pre-K-12 students throughout the state. This funding has helped support SCETV's on-demand multimedia curriculum resource sites and professional development, including Knowitall, PBS LearningMedia, Professional Development At Home and SCETV's datacasting initiative.

Over the past year, SCETV offered synchronous virtual training and professional development on several instructional technology topics to nearly 2,500 educators. Funds were also used to maintain the learning management systems (LMS) used to host asynchronous professional development offerings, with 435 course completion certificates issued during FY 2022-23.

KnowItAll.org

KnowItAll.org, a long-standing resource powered by SCETV, is a free online collection of original and engaging educational resources designed specifically for classroom use. Most of the assets

are accessible, standards-based, include cross-curricular lessons and assessments and are available in Spanish.

KnowItAll.org features a wide assortment of more than 10,000 media assets and curriculum resources. As a result of this funding, SCETV was able to maintain the site and update the IMS Global common cartridge that permits ingestion of these assets into the state's learning object repository, the SC Instruction Hub.

Funds also provided for Academic Performance Index (API) documentation renewal that supports alignment of educational assets to standards, to include the 2021 SC College and Career-Ready Science and the 2023 College and Career-Ready English Language Arts standards. Additional updates included the addition of a Lesson Outcomes section for sharing the results of lesson implementation among users, enhancements for search optimization and the addition of Spanish translations for select resources.

Multimedia assets on KnowItAll.org break down into these categories:

- ▶ 5,166 mobile-friendly videos.
- ▶ 1,336 audio resources.
- ▶ 774 lessons.
- ▶ 2,095 photos.
- ▶ 498 documents.
- ▶ 140 interactives.

During the funding year, the site amassed 1.2 million pageviews and 449,000 new users. 52% of users accessed site resources using a computer, 45% via smartphone and 2% via tablet.

In addition to website maintenance and development, initiative funding supported the purchase of new equipment for producing interactive virtual tours of notable historic sites, the update of virtual tours and tours of the state's natural landmarks. Funding also supported the production of KidsECON, a personal and community economics series for use in first grade classrooms, new episodes of History in a Nutshell and the new season of What's Wild.

Additionally, 2022-23 funding supported the development of South Carolina African American History Calendar broadcast interstitials and standards-aligned, cross-curricular learning activities related to the life of each calendar honoree. Funding also supported the production of learning media in collaboration with the Arts in Basic Curriculum Project – Arts Grow SC initiative. Through this collaboration, 26 high-quality instructional videos and accompanying learning supplements were produced. These videos are demonstrative of art-integrated teaching and promote cross-curricular learning that connects English Language Arts and quilting, history and dance, science and dance, art and history and more.

PBS LearningMedia

SCETV is also expanding access to web resources through the continued utilization of PBS LearningMedia. In FY 2022-23, South Carolina's PBS LearningMedia library included more than 150,000 multimedia resources for pre-K-12 educators boasting more than 250,000 users, including 179,000 new users. Users viewed approximately 700,000 pages, resulting in the streaming of over 1.2 million videos, averaging 106,700 streams per month. During most months, both data points were above the national average. Training on PBS LearningMedia is incorporated into customized workshops designed for educators across the state.

SCETV Survey Efforts

All of the aforementioned services are continuously evaluated for effectiveness and efficiency. To ensure SCETV remains responsive to the needs of the educational community, teachers, staff and administrators are surveyed to help identify gaps and gauge the use of educational services and technology in schools.

To date, nearly 750 respondents have participated in the annual survey, representing public, private, charter and home schools, child care and adult education centers and higher education institutions. Respondents represent 89% of South Carolina school districts.

Survey respondents reported using KnowItAll resources through the SC Learning Object Repository, PBS LearningMedia and/or PBS Kids at a rate of 73%. Approximately 80% of participants that utilized SCETV educational resources and services indicated that they helped improve student engagement in the classroom.

Survey responses indicated interest and need for more resources translated into Spanish and resources related to teaching students with disabilities, STEM/STEAM, literacy, arts integration and classroom management. In addition to content needs, respondents expressed interest in learning more about youth media creation, assessment of student learning, media literacy and financial literacy.

Respondents also gave insights regarding ways SCETV could continue to enhance provided services and resources. Survey results are paramount in assisting SCETV with ensuring that services align not only with the needs of educators, but with the tenets outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

To learn more about SCETV and the resources it has to offer, visit scetv.org/education.

SCETV PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Meeting the needs of educators who affect learning each day in classrooms across the state is one of SCETV's top priorities.

SCETV has historically committed to serving South Carolina's districts, schools and educators by providing free professional development sessions on a variety of teaching and learning topics, including how to effectively integrate SCETV resources into instruction. Typically, sessions are hosted in a face-to-face or blended format, reaching approximately 2,500 educators each year.

During the 2022-23 academic year, SCETV's training participation rate increased to 2,700, including educators attending the Year of Possibilities Back to School professional development series and Afterschool professional development with ETV. Both programs covered topics including instructional technologies, science and math resources, learning with immersive technology, early learning pedagogy, workforce development, flexible pedagogy and designing learning media.

Evaluation results from the annual survey of educational services show that 99% of attendees found the presenters knowledgeable and the sessions valuable in supporting their respective roles. Requested training topics included arts integration, project-based learning, accessibility resources, family engagement, teaching new science standards, media literacy and integration, world history, health and well-being.

The free professional development sessions offered through SCETV are complemented by recertification courses available for certificate renewal and graduate-level credit. Courses are made available directly through SCETV and TeacherStep (Converse College).

Educators can search for courses through a centralized website by curriculum interest, professional development and credit needed, and can also easily find out if courses qualify for technology credit. The completion of each term yields an overwhelming majority of positive feedback from participants.

To learn more about SCETV's free professional development sessions and the SCETV Teacher Recertification Courses, visit scetv.org/education/services-school-districts/group-trainings or scetv.org/education/recertification-courses#/.

STUDYSC

StudySC is a website loaded with resources for K-12 students doing homework or projects about South Carolina and its citizens. Created by the South Carolina State Library, StudySC is arranged by grade level and subject area and meets South Carolina curriculum standards.

Whether students are looking for notable South Carolinians, geography, history, facts or county information, they can quickly find what they need from the curated content. The image-rich website is mobile-friendly and very easy to search and navigate.

The revamped StudySC continues to evolve with the addition of TeachingBooks support materials for the 2023-24 South Carolina Book Awards. Each award nominee is shown by grade level and includes author and illustrator information as well as reviews and supplemental materials. In partnership with the State Library, TeachingBooks aggregated all the Book Award nominee information found within TeachingBooks into easy-to-find links in the user interface.

This year the State Library partnered with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to link digitized copies of Sandlapper and South Carolina Wildlife magazines with the middle and high school subjects. Sandlapper, published from 1968-2012, and South Carolina Wildlife promote the state's beauty, wildlife, citizens and history.

StudySC continues to be popular with students and educators as well as residents discovering South Carolina. In FY 2022-23, StudySC saw 95,168 page views.

To learn more about the State Library's StudySC, visit studysc.org.

VIRTUALSC

In 2007, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) developed VirtualSC — the state's virtual school program — with funding from the K-12 School Technology Initiative. VirtualSC has become an invaluable resource by offering online courses for credit free of charge to all South Carolina students.

Rise in Popularity

VirtualSC has become increasingly popular since its inception and has grown to become the fifth largest state virtual school program in the nation based on student enrollments, according to the latest Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning Report.

VirtualSC courses are available to all public, private, home-schooled and adult education students in the state and are provided through the Moodle online learning management system. Registration for these courses takes place in the program's student information system, Genius. Teachers remain in contact with their students

SCETV EDUCATION SERVICES: At a Glance

10,000+
Knowitall Multimedia Resources

1.2 million
Knowitall Yearly Page Views

150,000+
PBS LearningMedia Resources

Agency:
SCETV

Website:
scetv.org

KnowItAll.ORG

PBS LearningMedia

etv

through a variety of methods, including telephone, email, web conferencing and instant messaging. Live lessons are also conducted for some courses, such as world language offerings, utilizing BlackBoard Collaborate and Jigsaw virtual classrooms.

To help ensure courses meet quality, design and academic standards, SCDE's Office of Virtual Education developed a curriculum team comprised of instruction designers, media specialists and curriculum coordinators. This team is responsible for the design, development, review and revision of courses and related learning objects. VirtualSC continues to align all courses to the Quality Matters framework to ensure accessibility standards are met and external review guidelines are followed.

All VirtualSC courses are taught by state-certified teachers who have demonstrated expertise and are certified in their respective subjects and program areas. In addition, all teachers — both full-time and part-time — must undergo in-service online professional development training to teach through the program.

VirtualSC consisted of 51 full-time teachers for the academic year, in addition to 140 part-time instructors and language coaches. The number of full-time and part-time teachers has consistently grown over the past several years due to increased student demand for courses.

VirtualSC Enrollments

The popularity of the virtual school program continues to grow. During the 2022-23 school year, the program had 54,142 student enrollments, which included students from:

- ► 373 schools.
- ► 76 public school districts.
- ► 25 home school associations.
- ► 70 private schools.
- ► 18 adult education centers.

VirtualSC had a successful course completion rate of 82% for the school year.

In addition to the 30,620 enrollments for high school-level courses, the program also served 555 middle school students and approximately 100,000 elementary school students through its blended elementary typing course. This course was offered in 37 public schools, charter schools and home schools across the state.

In the 2023-24 school year, schools will have access to elementary typing resources through the learning object repository provided through the Return to Learn grant awarded to the state in 2020. Over the past year, the typing program has been completely integrated into the Instruction Hub statewide learning object repository, so content can be easily accessed by schools across the state.

VirtualSC Course Offerings

VirtualSC offered courses in the following areas:

- ► Academic electives.
- ► Career and technology education.
- ► English and language arts.
- ► Health and physical education.
- ► Mathematics.
- ► Science.
- ► Skills recovery and test preparation.
- ► Social studies.
- ► Visual and performing arts.
- ► World languages.

The program offered 107 diverse courses of varying levels, including advanced placement, honors, college preparatory, middle school and credit recovery classes. In addition to courses in the core content areas of English, mathematics, science and social studies, VirtualSC offered courses in Spanish, Latin, German and French as well as a variety of electives in popular career majors.

VirtualSC is also seeking ways to continue expanding the newly-implemented middle school program. The program has continued to add new exploratory courses to the catalog so that middle school students have opportunities to take

coursework they may not otherwise have access to at their local schools.

VirtualSC Middle School Program

In 2021, VirtualSC began a pilot program serving public, private and home-schooled students in grades six to eight. The program consists of 12 courses in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, science and social studies, plus six exploratory courses. This year the program served 555 middle school students, had a completion rate of 74% and a success rate of 92%.

In FY 2023, the middle school program became fully state-funded. The program will continue beyond the expiration of emergency federal funding (ESSER) so that VirtualSC can continue to offer middle school courses to students statewide. The middle school program continues to grow and expand course opportunities for students with a focus on expanding exploratory course options.

To learn more about SCDE's VirtualSC, visit virtualsc.org.

VIRTUAL SC: At a Glance

54,142
VirtualSC Student Enrollments

373
Schools Represented

76
Districts Represented

82%
Successful Course Completion

VirtualSC:
South Carolina's virtual school program

Agency:
SCDE

Website:
virtualsc.org

VirtualSC

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ed.sc.gov

STATE-HOSTED SERVICES, COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES AND SHARED SERVICES

South Carolina Technology Plan Goal: To better support districts, create efficiencies and improve effectiveness and quality, by 2024 the state will increase and expand state-level technology systems and services, including state-hosted regional technology support centers, backup and recovery services, procurement assistance, coordination of training, an updated student information system (SIS) with district operational data stores and single sign-on.

STATE-HOSTED SERVICES, COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES AND SHARED SERVICES

The K-12 School Technology Initiative partners engage in a wide variety of activities and programs designed to improve the areas of state-hosted services, collaboration opportunities and shared services. Such activities and programs are detailed throughout this section of the 2022-23 Progress Report.

SCETV COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

In an effort to inform citizens about the availability of educational programs, services and technologies, South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) shares stories of projects that serve to address the needs of the state's educational community.

Content broadcast by SCETV provides case studies and best practices for use throughout the state. Several national and statewide television series and educational specials are broadcast and streamed for use in schools and classrooms, providing significant reach to both SCETV's television and radio audiences.

Carolina Classrooms

SCETV's Carolina Classrooms, a school year series designed for teachers, educators and parents, features educational initiatives in South Carolina schools. Episodes aired during the funding period focused on topics including school safety, health and wellness, workforce development, student journalism and summer learning. These episodes were produced in collaboration with partners including the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), the South Carolina State Museum, South Carolina Educators of Color Collaborative, National Alliance on Mental Illness

and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, in addition to various colleges, universities, schools and districts in the state.

Promotion of Carolina Classrooms and other aforementioned programs is provided through a variety of platforms, including the SCETV Press Room, educational websites, social media and broadcast interstitials. Education outreach efforts take place consistently throughout the year through staff participation in K-12 conferences, community engagement events, presentations and the submission of awards.

An advisory group of educators from across the state continues to assist the station in increasing awareness about educational resources and services.

SCETV Education Newsletter, Guest Blog and Social Media

Throughout the year, SCETV distributes an education-related newsletter in collaboration with the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and SCDE for the promotion of SCETV education features. The monthly newsletter informs more than 34,000 pre-K-12 administrators, teachers and staff about timely education resources and services.

Additionally, SCETV has a monthly educator blog that features perspectives on a variety of topics from educators across the state. SCETV also uses social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and YouTube, to engage the education community.

SCDE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS

SCDE is engaged in a variety of technology-related partnerships with districts throughout the state. These partnerships, designed to support and enhance district efforts, are detailed below.

Standards Authoring Tool

SCDE's standards authoring tool is populated with academic standards — including all academic standards and competencies from the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate and the South Carolina Teacher Standards — that can be loaded into a state-level learning object repository (LOR) and district learning management systems (LMS) in a machine readable format. This is a key component of providing direct access to state standards and the resources needed to facilitate remote K-12 learning opportunities in a digital ecosystem.

The standards authoring tool is being utilized to digitize the activity coding manual. Next year SCDE should be able to include a base course code with standards alignment and certification requirements.

1EdTech

SCDE was able to supplement a 1EdTech associate membership for state school districts. School districts were offered memberships for 20% of the cost. This model assures affordability without providing services that were not being consumed. Membership provides technology planning support around related standards as well as access to a privacy and security vetting service, TrustedApps.

District Data Governance Group

SCDE has also partnered with a subset of school districts to form the District Data Governance Group (DDGG). This group manages change requests through the PowerSchool student information system and supports members with the development of the Ed-Fi Operational Data Store (ODS) in each district.

Teacher as Researcher

SCDE has leveraged Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to link professional development with a technology platform to promote short-cycle process improvement in the classroom.

A public facing resource, Strategy Workshop (strategyclearinghouse.org) contains research-based strategies for the What Works Clearinghouse linked to South Carolina content and teaching standards. The associated application for teachers uses the rosters from district Ed-Fi ODS to prepopulate the application for teachers. It also demonstrates the viability of a statewide rostering service.

REPORT CONCLUSION

It takes many partners and a wide variety of efforts to improve outcomes for students across an entire state. The South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative partners have taken a multi-faceted approach to this undertaking through providing improved access to technology, infrastructure, security, professional development, tutoring opportunities and high-quality resources. Through this multi-faceted approach, the Initiative partners have remained dedicated to providing crucial supports to students, teachers and families across the state.

As technology continues to advance, it brings new challenges and opportunities for collaboration and support. Therefore, while much was accomplished this year, the Initiative partners will continue to adapt and overcome challenges while continuing innovation.

As shown in this report, continuous advancements mean continuous investments and support. As we all work toward ensuring students graduate from public school with the world-class knowledge, skills and characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, these investments will be crucial. World-class graduates require world-class, competitive support. As the needs of students and teachers across the state continue to adjust and evolve, the Initiative looks forward to providing the many tools and resources necessary to ensure the success of South Carolina students.

FY 2022-23 K-12 School Technology Initiative Budget

Base Appropriation: School Technology	$12,271,826
Total Appropriations :	**$12,271,826**
Carry Forward:	
State Library	$0
SCETV	$0
SCDE	$0
Department of Administration	$0
Total Carry Forward :	**$0**
Total Available Funds:	$12,271,826
E-Rate Funds (Estimated)	$22,517,665
Total Funds Anticipated:	$34,789,491
Total Budget Requested:	$34,789,491
Net Remaining Funds:	**$0**

Priority	Principals Budget Requests	Budget Requests	School Technology Appropriation	E-Rate Funds (Estimated)	Approved Budgets
	Non Discretionary				
	DEPARTMENT of ADMINISTRATION				
1	Network Connectivity Costs	$30,261,010	$7,743,346	$22,517,665	**$30,261,011**
2	E-Rate Field Training and Outreach	$10,600	$10,600		**$10,600**
3	DNS-based Internet Security License Renewal	$849,878	$849,878		**$849,878**
4	Infrastructure Upgrades Schools & Libraries*	$2,750,000	$2,750,000		**$2,750,000**
	Total:	**$33,871,488**	**$11,353,824**	**$22,517,665**	**$33,871,488**
	SCDE				
1	School District Technology Technical Assistance	$350,000	$350,000		**$350,000**
	Total:	**$350,000**	**$350,000**	**$0**	**$350,000**
	Total Non Discretionary:	**$34,221,488**	**$11,703,824**	**$22,517,665**	**$34,221,488**
	Total Available Budget	**$568,002**	**$568,002**		**$ 568,002**
	Discretionary				
	DEPARTMENT of ADMINISTRATION				
1	No Request	$0	$0		$0
	Total:	**$0**	**$0**		**$0**
	STATE LIBRARY				
1	PebbleGo Science	$76,800	$76,800		**$76,800**
2	PebbleGo Next - Biographies	$91,202	$91,202		**$91,202**
	Total:	**$168,002**	**$168,002**		**$168,002**
	SCDE				
1	No Request	$0	$0		$0
2		$0	$0		$0
3		$0	$0		$0
	Total:	**$0**	**$0**		**$0**
	SCETV				
1	KnowItAll.org Maintenance and Upgrades	$75,000	$75,000		**$75,000**
2	Standard Alignment & Content Development	$150,000	$150,000		**$150,000**
3	STEM Content – AR/VR, Coding, 3D Printing & Robotics (Phase 2)	$175,000	$175,000		**$175,000**
	Total:	**$400,000**	**$400,000**		**$400,000**
	Total before Carry forward	**$34,789,491**	**$12,271,826**	**$22,517,665**	**$34,789,491**
	Total Carry Forward From Previous year:	**$0**			**$0**
	Budget Surplus/Shortfall	**$0**			**$0**
	Grand Total for a Balanced Budget:	**$34,789,491**	**$12,271,826**	**$22,517,665**	**$34,789,491**
			$0	**Balanced**	

* Committee funding will be leveraged with the Category 2 federal share, FY 2022-23 financial impact will be $23.7 million.

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE: At a Glance

350 Gbps
District Bandwidth Capacity

10 Gbps
Library Bandwidth Capacity

26 Gbps
Charter School Bandwidth Capacity

Broadband Efforts:
Connectivity for public schools and libraries

Agency:
Admin

Website:
admin.sc.gov
sck12techinit.sc.gov

admin
THE SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT *of* ADMINISTRATION

INTERNET SECURITY PROTECTION: At a Glance

174 Districts, Charter Schools and Library Systems
Entities Using Cisco Umbrella

147.8 Billion
School/Library Queries Handled

19.4 Million
Security Threats and Sites Blocked

183 Thousand
School/Library Clients Using Cisco Umbrella

Cisco Umbrella:
Provided to help combat the increased quantity and complexity of malware, ransomware and other advanced security threats

CISCO

DISCUS: At a Glance

19,378,803
Discus Items Accessed

$28.6 million
Cost Avoidance Provided

9,696,367
Britannica Online Items Retrieved

3,137,648
TeachingBooks Items Retrieved

Discus:
South Carolina's virtual library

Agency:
SC State Library

Website:
scdiscus.org

Discus

south carolina
STATE LIBRARY

SCETV EDUCATION SERVICES: At a Glance

10,000+
Knowitall Multimedia Resources

1.2 million
Knowitall Yearly Page Views

150,000+
PBS LearningMedia Resources

Agency:
SCETV

Website:
scetv.org

KnowItAll .ORG

PBS LearningMedia

etv

VIRTUAL SC: At a Glance

54,142
VirtualSC Student Enrollments

373
Schools Represented

76
Districts Represented

82%
Successful Course Completion

VirtualSC:
South Carolina's virtual school program

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SCDE

Website:
virtualsc.org

VirtualSC

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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The Profile of the South Carolina Graduate is designed to identify the knowledge, skills and characteristics high school graduates should possess in order to be prepared for success as they enter college or pursue a career. The profile is intended to guide all that is done in support of college and career readiness.

Appendix D:
What Others Are Saying

Discus Resources

- ▶ "The resources make me a hero in my school."
  – Camellia Harris, C.E. Williams Middle School

- ▶ "It makes finding reliable information and citations a breeze for middle schoolers!" – Lisa Chapman, Leavelle McCampbell Middle School

- ▶ "My students love to use Discus for research, even though research is not their favorite. Discus makes it easy to find, use and cite credible sources." – Victoria Dickerson, D.R. Hill Middle School

- ▶ "We love Discus. It's easy to navigate with a variety of awesome resources." – Gabriella Pace, Sedgefield Middle School

- ▶ "I cannot imagine teaching research to my students any other way than using Discus. Discus is safe and reliable every time."
  – Sharmen Oswald, Gilbert Middle School

- ▶ "My high school students benefit from the curated quality of sources Discus provides. Discus makes researching easy for our students, especially by helping them cite sources and link/store sources over multiple days." – Kelley Rider, Pendleton High School

- ▶ "Discus provides a safe place for my students to find reliable information. Thank you for this service." – Meg Black, Powdersville Elementary School
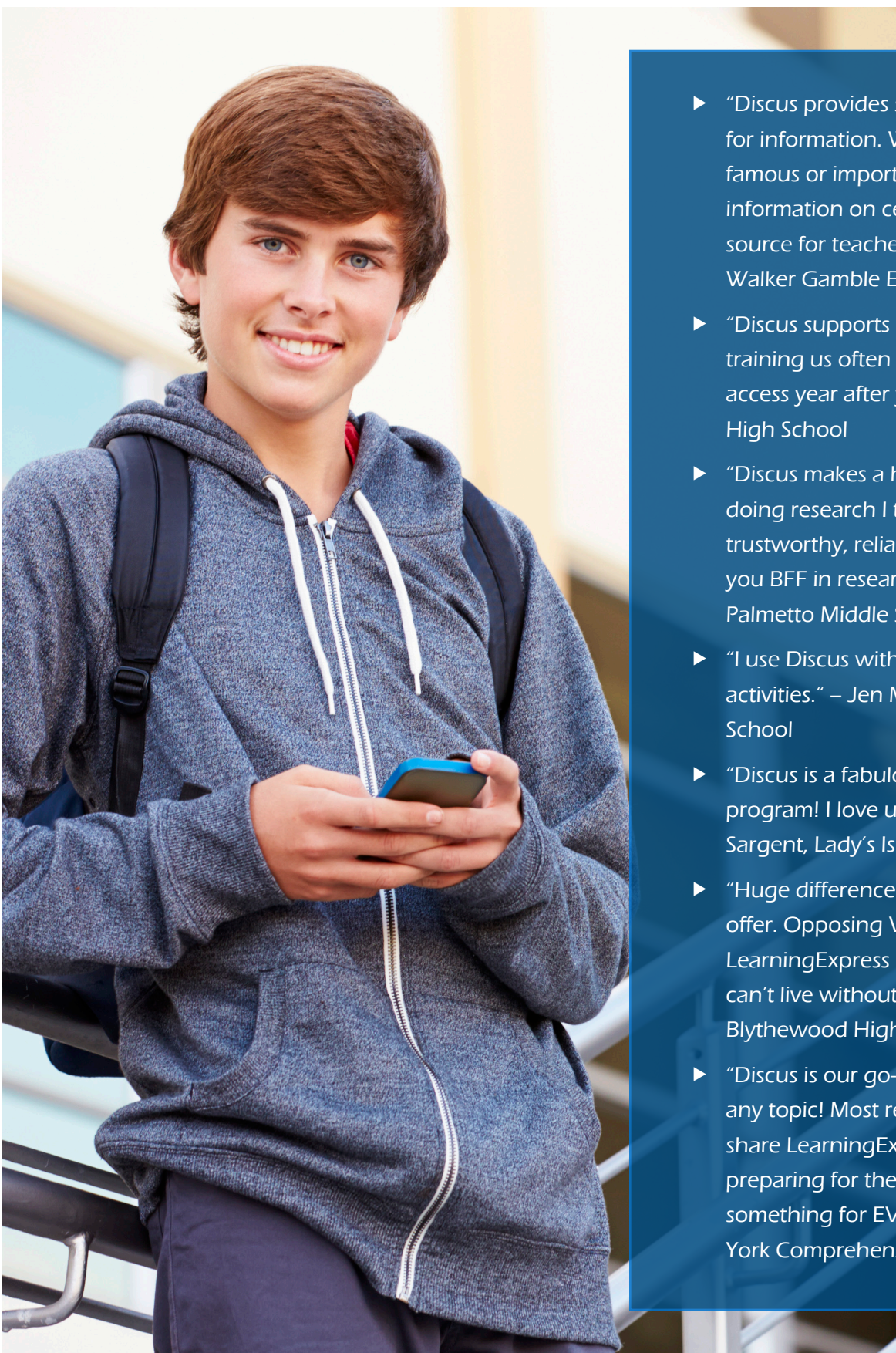
▶ "Discus provides safe and reliable sources for information. We have used it to research famous or important people and to gather information on certain topics. It is a great source for teachers to use." – Michelle Weaver, Walker Gamble Elementary School

▶ "Discus supports librarians and teachers by training us often so that we have equitable access year after year." – Kelley Rider, Pendleton High School

▶ "Discus makes a huge difference. When doing research I tell students that Discus is trustworthy, reliable and accurate. Discus is you BFF in research." – Natalie Smick Thomas, Palmetto Middle School

▶ "I use Discus with my students for any research activities." – Jen Mandrell, DuBose Middle School

▶ "Discus is a fabulous savings to my library program! I love using the resources!" – Joanna Sargent, Lady's Island Middle School

▶ "Huge difference in resources I am able to offer. Opposing Viewpoints for all subjects! LearningExpress Library for test prep. We can't live without Discus." – Amy Whitfield, Blythewood High School

▶ "Discus is our go-to source for research on any topic! Most recently, I have been able to share LearningExpress Library with students preparing for the SAT. I love that there is something for EVERYONE!" – Cayle Whitesides, York Comprehensive High School
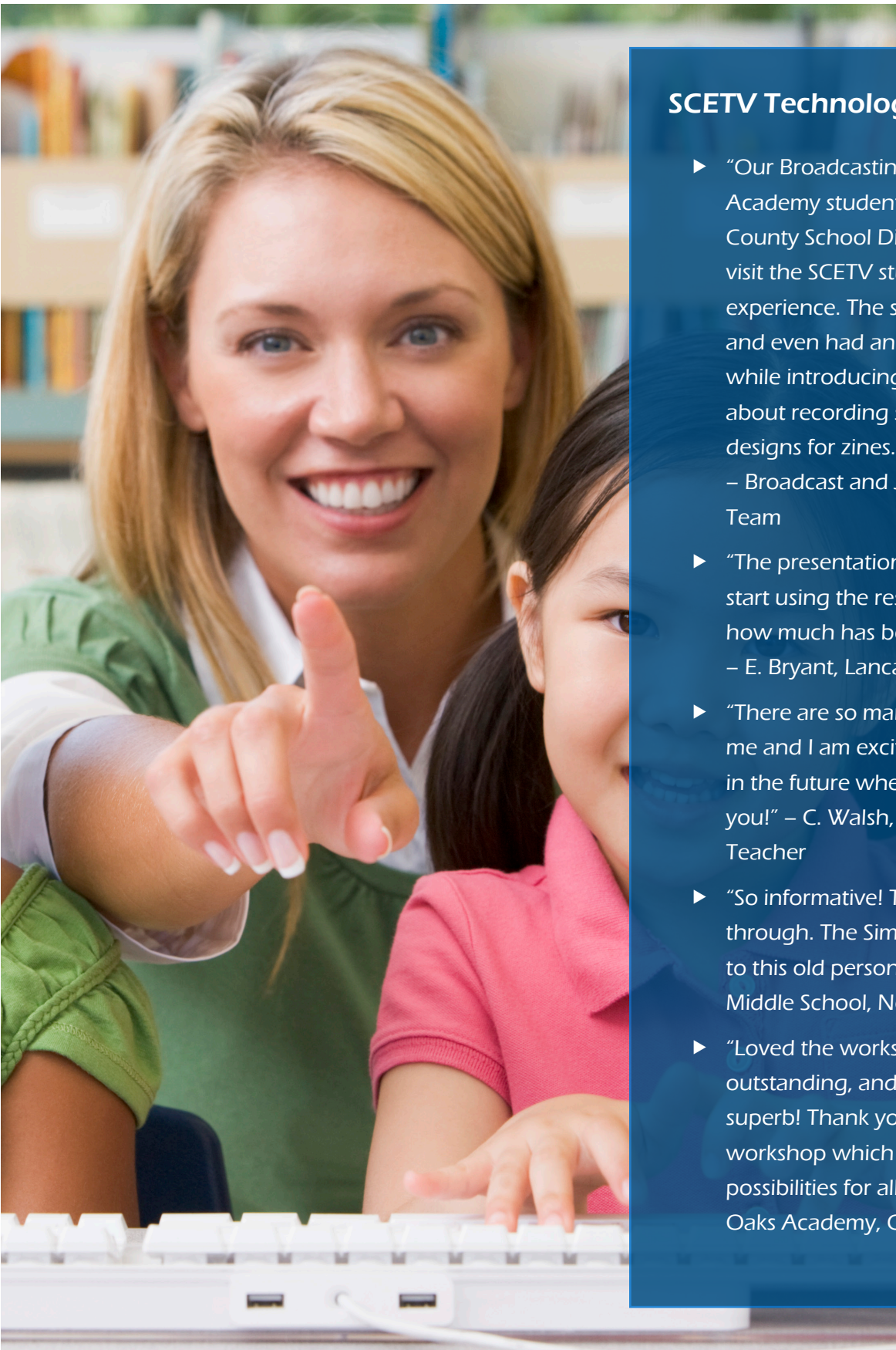
SCETV Technology Initiatives

▶ "Our Broadcasting and Journalism Magnet Academy students from Orangeburg County School District had the privilege to visit the SCETV studio and it was a great experience. The students enjoyed the tour and even had an opportunity to be "on air" while introducing themselves. We learned a lot about recording segments as well as creating designs for zines. We can't wait to go back!" – Broadcast and Journalism Academy (BAJA) Team

▶ "The presentation was excellent! I feel like I can start using the resources now. I was amazed by how much has been added to Knowitall.org." – E. Bryant, Lancaster School District

▶ "There are so many resources that were new to me and I am excited to try out at home and use in the future when I enter a classroom. Thank you!" – C. Walsh, Columbia College, Preservice Teacher

▶ "So informative! Thank you for walking us through. The Simple.Digital will be super useful to this old person!" – C. Dixon, Mid-Carolina Middle School, Newberry School District

▶ "Loved the workshop. All presenters were outstanding, and resources provided were superb! Thank you for this meaningful workshop which certainly expanded endless possibilities for all." – A. Browne, Royal Live Oaks Academy, Charter Institute at Erskine
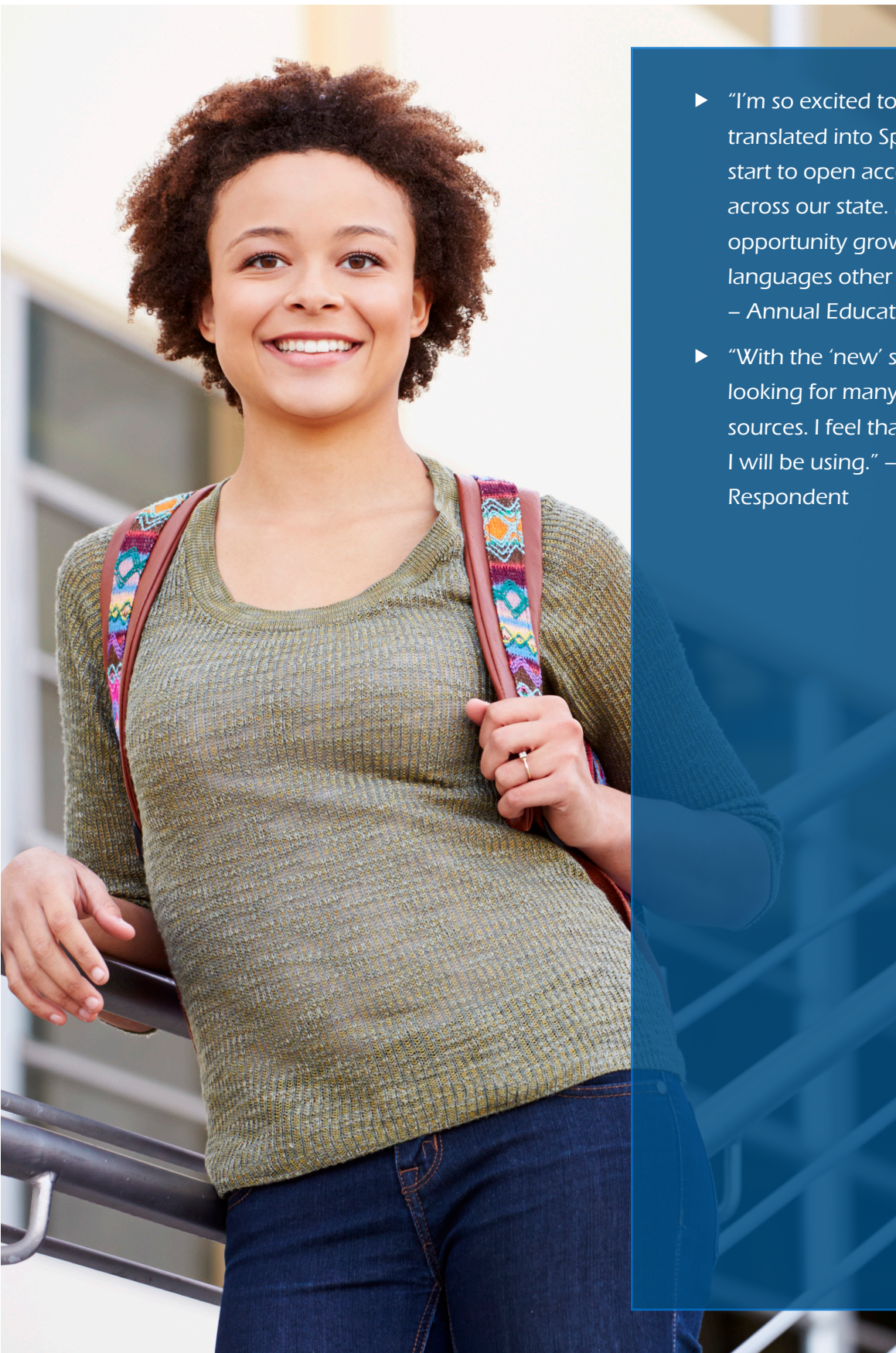
▶ "I'm so excited to learn that you have resources translated into Spanish. This is a wonderful start to open access to multilingual learners across our state. I look forward to seeing this opportunity grow for students with primary languages other than Spanish. SO exciting!" – Annual Educator Survey Respondent

▶ "With the 'new' science standards, I will be looking for many reference and informational sources. I feel that ETV has the sources that I will be using." – Annual Educator Survey Respondent

South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative
4430 Broad River Road
Columbia, S.C. 29210
sck12techinit.sc.gov