SOUTH CAROLINA
K-12 SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

23
24
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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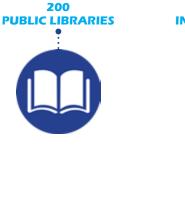Adrienne Fairwell, President and CEO

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WHO DOES THE INITIATIVE SERVE?
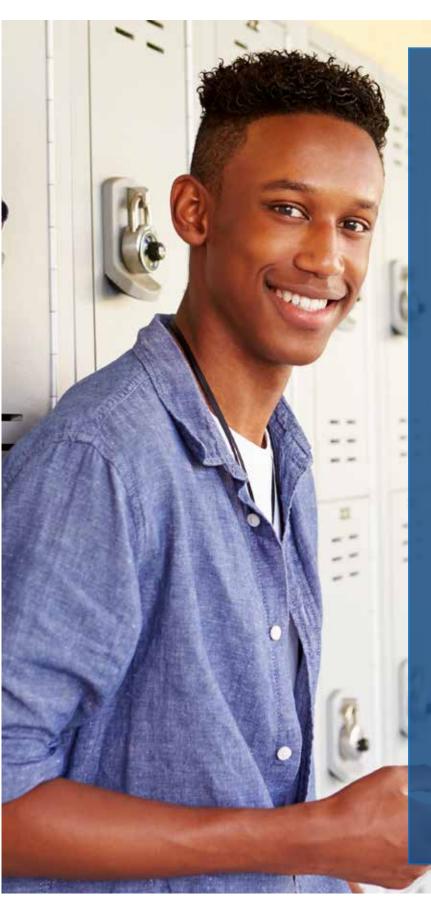
The South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative provides a wide variety of essential services to public schools and libraries throughout the state. These services include technology infrastructure, connectivity, educational content, information security, professional development and collaborative opportunities. Together, these efforts have a profound and lasting impact on the state's over 793,000 public school students while also helping shape and improve the future of our state and each of its citizens.

77
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

1,270
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3
GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS

1
SPECIAL SCHOOL

200
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

54,037
INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

793,860
SCHOOL STUDENTS

5,464,155
STATE CITIZENS

1
SOUTH CAROLINA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, K-12 School Technology Initiative partners provided programing and resources to help schools, students and communities across South Carolina have access to technology and high-quality educational programs and resources. This Progress Report highlights these efforts and the ways the Initiative has helped expand high-speed broadband infrastructure, internet security protection, data backup services and technology training for teachers, community members and students.

Efforts to provide high-speed broadband infrastructure for South Carolina's school districts have resulted in a majority of South Carolina public schools having access to premium connectivity speeds. The K-12 School Technology Initiative aims to continue to evaluate connectivity goals during the upcoming years, ensuring that teachers, libraries and students' broadband needs are met.

As these technology needs continue to grow and evolve, it is necessary to assist schools and libraries with cybersecurity, as this is a critical step to protect school and student data from cyber threats. During the 2023-24 Fiscal Year, the Initiative demonstrated its commitment to internet security and protection through providing cybersecurity services to the state's school districts, library systems and charter schools.

The Initiative continues to train teachers, students and community members of all ages on digital literacy and provide high-quality learning resources. Through providing these digital resources, educational platforms with vetted, quality content have been made available to assist students with research and learning.

Access to technology and instruction on its use are crucial to students' future achievements both in and beyond the classroom. The mission to provide premium technology access to all students continues to guide the programs and funding efforts for the K-12 School Technology Initiative. The Initiative will continue to collaborate to ensure that all students receive an information rich education.

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 2023-24 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 2024, school districts accounted for over 395 Gbps of bandwidth capacity, including 20 Gbps to library systems and 35 Gbps to charter schools. While the average library system and charter school had approximately 474 Mbps of internet bandwidth capacity, the average school district had a capacity over 4,700 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 2023-24, the Consortium was one of the largest E-Rate consortia in the United States with a total funding request of over $29 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

In FY 2023-24, Admin allocated $1,634,593 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 2023-24 Category Two E-Rate applications. The reimbursed funds are reinvested by the beneficiary to continue to upgrade network infrastructure. The program provided funding to eight library systems, 16 charter schools and 24 school districts.

E-Rate Program Trends

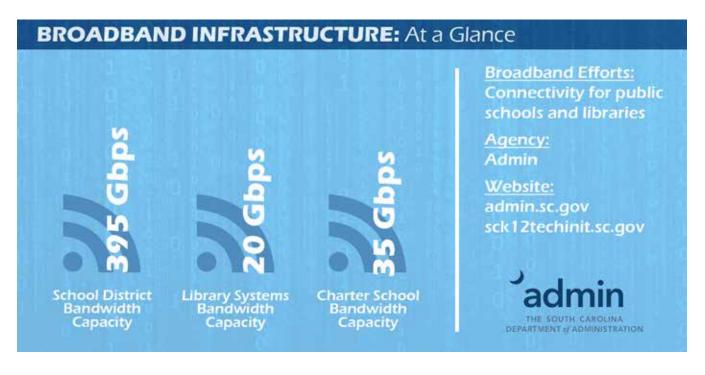Schools and libraries have been able to fund improvements to network infrastructure, due in part to the Schools and Libraries E-Rate Program's Category Two funding mechanism.

In FY 2023-24, 36 school districts, 14 library systems and 28 charter schools requested over $19.6 million in funding for Category Two products and services such as routers, switches and other internal connections. Of this amount, $15.6 million has been approved for funding. As of May 2024, these school districts and library systems were disbursed $10.3 million in reimbursements from the E-Rate program.

When comparing the FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 Category Two E-Rate filing data, two notable program trends were identified.

▶ Consortium members submitted 328 funding requests of those only one was denied and 25 were cancelled by the applicants. This equates to an efficiency factor of 92%.
▶ Schools and Libraries saw an increase in disbursements of 22.6% as of May 2024, over the previous funding year.

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

395 Gbps — School District Bandwidth Capacity

20 Gbps — Library Systems Bandwidth Capacity

35 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.

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 AT&T Lot 3 (K-12 and Libraries) of the Network Services state master contract for data transmission and transport. Since implementation of this contract, data transmission and transport rates for schools and libraries has been reduced by 29%. The savings in the year one alone was $6.4 million.

In March 2022, Admin awarded a five-year state master contract to Segra for internet services. The contract lowers the cost of internet services by 20% and offers a wide range of bandwidth options from 10 MB to 20 Gbps. The contract provided $1.1 million in savings the first year.

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

Cisco Umbrella internet security services are available to all South Carolina E-Rate Consortium members through a statewide effort.

- ► In total, 175 school districts, library systems and charter schools are currently using Cisco Umbrella provided by the K-12 School Technology Initiative.

- ► Between July 1, 2023, and April 30, 2024, over 164.4 billion queries from South Carolina's schools and libraries were handled by Cisco Umbrella.

- ► Of those queries, 12.1 million security threats and potentially harmful or inappropriate websites were blocked.

- ► In FY 2023-24 the K-12 Cisco Umbrella served 182,000 clients.

EXPANDED EDUCATOR ACCESS

South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) expands access to educational web resources to educators across the state. These resources — such as Knowitall and PBS LearningMedia — support standards-aligned learning experiences, many of which are designed specifically for 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.

In 2023-24, SCETV powered 480 Wi-Fi devices as gateways to broadband internet to applicable early childhood educators and other educational organizations, including after-school and adult

education programs. SCETV bundles Wi-Fi access with its professional development and content funded by the K-12 School Technology Initiative.

During the 2022-23 funding year, SCETV added family engagement as a strategic educational priority. Via existing projects like Simple.Digital and new initiatives like Wise and Wired, SCETV supports multi-generational households with implementing responsible and safe use of technology for learning and well-being.

Simple.Digital is a digital literacy series featuring printable learning resources covering topics like hardware, software and cybersecurity. During 2023-24, these resources were viewed 1,017 times and used to engage more than 301 caregivers including parents, grandparents and other guardians. Also, during the 2023-24 funding year, Simple.Digital expanded to create a digital literacy curriculum for senior citizens engaging with SCETV via Wise and Wired. Wise and Wired is SCETV's digital literacy community for senior citizens.
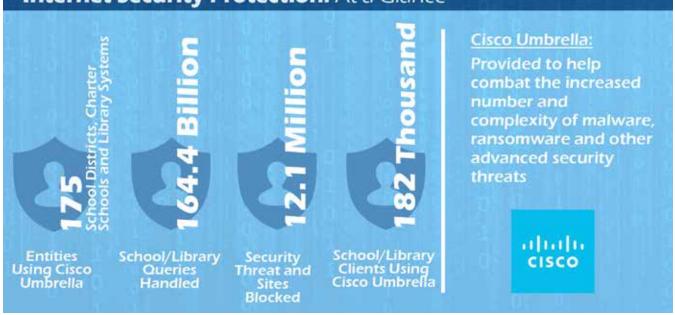
The goal of the effort is to engage communities of older learners with comprehensive, yet accessible learning experiences that cater to their unique needs to allow them to better engage with K-12 students. Through a combination of hands-on activities, discussions and practical demonstrations, these workshops create a supportive environment that fosters lifelong learning and empowerment.

In September 2023, SCETV hosted its inaugural Wise and Wired Digital Literacy workshop in partnership with the South Carolina Department on Aging, the Carolina Family Engagement Center and Talking Book Services at the South Carolina State Library. Workshop attendees were engaged in learning practical information about device attributes and settings, internet safety, email, social media and more.

INCREASED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

In 2022-23, SCETV prioritized student engagement and workforce development as strategic objectives. Specific activities funded through this work include station field trips, career fair participation and in-studio experiential learning experiences.

During funding year 2023-24, SCETV opened MediaSCape Studios, a dedicated space for on-site student and professional learning experiences. This education innovation space is designed to enhance on-site visits and support audio visual production and instructional activities.

Internet Security Protection: At a Glance

175 — School Districts, Charter Schools and Library Systems — Entities Using Cisco Umbrella

164.4 Billion — School/Library Queries Handled

12.1 Million — Security Threat and Sites Blocked

182 Thousand — School/Library Clients Using Cisco Umbrella

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

CISCO

While 2022-23 funding was used for equipment purchases and installation, 2023-24 funding was used for programmatic activities. During the funding year, over 485 students visited the station to participate in tours and standards-aligned activities related to careers in public media. This engagement count represents 15 schools, four youth engagement organizations and South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation. In many cases, station field trip participants were students enrolled in media magnet programs or members of student journalism classes or clubs.

Beyond on-site field trips, 5,700+ students were engaged via career fairs. Through initiatives like Shadow Day, unpaid internships and other special events, over 44 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 STEAM, finance, education and mass communications. Participation cultivated interpersonal skills, 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 counts exceed 1,800 learners. In aggregate, SCETV engaged over 31,000 students during funding year 2023-24.

Where internet access is unavailable or limited, SCETV offers datacasting as a complementary solution. Datacasting, a one-way communication system, 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 scetv.org/education/services-schools-and-districts.

SCDE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

During 2023-24, 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.

Backup Recovery Service Infrastructure

SCDE provides file system data backup and recovery services to participating districts throughout the state. The infrastructure for this effort includes Commvault software and Hitachi hardware, which has 70 TB of usable storage at the SCDE data center located in Columbia. The backup connection is over-the-WAN; therefore, hardware is not required to be installed at districts and involves minimal effort to implement. The backups are encrypted at rest and in transit. For further protection, backups are also replicated at the SCDE disaster recovery data center located in North Carolina.

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 July 2024, SCDE has been providing data backup for 11 school districts of various sizes and is actively working to onboard additional districts.

With the 11 school districts implemented, SCDE is backing up 82 servers and 35 TB of data. Some school districts back up a portion of their data while others are using the service to back up all their servers' file systems. SCDE will continue to review current storage resources as usage continues to grow.

Student Safety Monitoring Pilot

During FY 2023-24, SCDE continued its Linewize student safety monitoring pilot. This solution from Family Zone Monitoring 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 year two and feedback was very positive. Participants indicated the solution was superior to similar software previously used and captured results with a greater level of detail and accuracy.

1EDTECH MEMBERSHIP

In 2021, SCDE purchased an 1EdTech (formally 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 1EdTech specifications and information on new innovations in the learning industry.

In 2023, SCDE expanded its support in this area by providing 1EdTech One Roster files to vendors on behalf of school districts. This service lowers the technical debt required of participating districts.

1EdTech membership 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 1EdTech standards for developing a digital learning environment.

DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

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

K-12 Digital Accessibility Boot Camp

SCDE and the University of South Carolina's Assistive Technology Program co-hosted a K-12 Digital Accessibility Boot Camp focused on providing South Carolina public school district personnel with the knowledge and support needed to improve the digital accessibility of their classrooms, materials and services. Over 80 participants from districts statewide participated in this two day in-person training event held at the South Carolina Educational Television headquarters.

Professional Development Certification Support

SCDE offered information technology professional development support to school district educators and IT staff via proctoring services for vendor-sponsored certification exams. During the annual statewide South Carolina Educational Technology Conference's "Certification Central," participants were given the opportunity to take over 100 different tests to become certified in technical/non-technical areas.

Electronic Document Accessibility Training

SCDE 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 76 participants from 17 school districts registered for this training session.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

<u>South Carolina Technology Plan Goal</u>: 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.

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 2023-24 Progress Report.

DISCUS

Fiscal year 2023-24 marked the 25th anniversary of Discus – South Carolina's Virtual Library. Discus is managed and administered by the South Carolina State Library (State Library) and funded by multiple sources, including the South Carolina General Assembly, the K-12 School Technology Initiative, the Library Services and Technology Act and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). The State Library has been committed to providing quality, vetted electronic resources for all residents regardless of race or socioeconomic status. Students of all ages and their teachers depend on Discus to provide a safe environment to learn by removing advertising and other distractions.

The $3.9 million annual investment in the subscription databases validates the State Library's continued commitment to the program and the ability to add select age and subject-appropriate resources. The fall of 2023 marked the third and final year of a three-year $1.5 million partnership with SCDE to address the continuing academic impact of the pandemic by providing 24/7 online, live tutoring.

This partnership established South Carolina as the only statewide program offering 24/7 tutoring access for English and Spanish speakers in more than 200 subjects. Providing such tutoring ensures equal access to individualized learning and career coaches for all students and families. Tutoring usage remains strong compared to

previous years, with 97% of respondents glad the service is provided free of charge.

Discus resources consist 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.

Seamless access to Discus was enjoyed by 97% of users, with the remaining access occurring using the statewide username and password. EZproxy, a state-of-the-art authentication solution, utilizes geo-location technology to allow equal access to information and learning resources regardless of race or socioeconomic status.

Enhanced Discus Resources

The Mailbox Plus was added to Discus during FY 2023-24 with funding of $153,000 from the K-12 School Technology Initiative. The Mailbox Plus is integrated into Learn360, an educator resource designed for classroom support. This resource contains more than 55,000 fun and engaging ideas, activities and worksheets used in lesson plans for pre-K-6 to use The Mailbox Plus to inspire imaginations while teaching essential skills in math, phonics, reading, science, social studies and other early learning topics.

The K-12 School Technology Initiative also provided continued funding for African-American History, Ferguson's Career Guidance Center, PebbleGo Animals, TumbleBooks and NewsBank. Each of these resources experienced an increase in usage compared to the same time as last year,

with PebbleGo Animals and Ferguson's Career Guidance Center tallying 31% and 76% usage increases, respectively.

The Ferguson's Career Guidance Center increase is due to student career projects and adults interested in career development and exploration. The career video hub provides valuable insight shared by professionals in their field with subjects ranging from industry insights to workplace skills. Job seekers of all ages find these brief videos valuable. Financial aid opportunities and resume assistance are included, which makes Ferguson's Career Guidance Center a one-stop resource for users of all ages.

The Capstone suite of learning modules had a 79% increase in usage compared to last year. During the first three quarters of FY 2023-24, 3.1 million articles were viewed and e-books read in the PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next modules. PebbleGo Animals — designed for young learners studying a variety of topics such as animal behavior, dinosaurs, insects or mammals — make this easy-to-use resource vital to elementary aged learners. South Carolina's educators depend on PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next to provide age-appropriate content for K-5 projects and research.

NewsBank, a collection of over 600 U.S and 20 South Carolina current and historical newspapers — including The State, Post and Courier and Columbia Record — was funded by the K-12 School Technology Initiative for State Library cardholders. During the first three quarters of FY 2023-24, more than 66,000 articles were accessed by State Library patrons through NewsBank. Researchers, genealogists and general learners all find NewsBank a wealth of information.

While K-12 School Technology Initiative funds were not utilized for the ChiltonLibrary, it was added to Discus during FY 2023-24. ChiltonLibrary is the most authoritative automotive repair information available for DIY car owners, high school and technical college students. Candidates sitting for their Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) exam and students taking automotive technology courses have found ChiltonLibrary to be a valuable addition

to Discus. ChiltonLibrary provides access to step-by-step vehicle service and repair manuals, wiring diagrams, images, a video library and ASE practice test questions. Public library patrons repairing their vehicles also recognize and respect the ChiltonLibrary name.

Discus Usage

Discus is essential for the state's K-12 schools, public libraries and academic institutions, with overall usage of the databases remaining steady compared to the previous year. The K-12 community accounts for the highest usage compared to other library communities. During the first three quarters of FY 2023-24, 18,827,497 items were retrieved in Discus, including full-text articles, videos, e-books, primary sources and practice tests. This number is comparable to the previous year, which illustrates the trust and confidence educators have in the Discus collection and how the resources support all ages, learning styles and education levels.

In addition to PebbleGo Animals/Animales and Ferguson's Career Guidance Center, several other Discus resources experienced significant increases in usage, including:

- ► PebbleGo Science – 67%
- ► PebbleGo Next Biographies – 82%
- ► Gale in Context: Biography – 8%
- ► Gale in Context: Elementary – 25%
- ► CultureGrams – 6%
- ► LearningExpress Library – 4%
- ► TumbleBooks Library – 3%

PeebleGo Next Biographies for young researchers is a tremendous addition to Discus for those interested in learning about famous newsmakers, including actors, American Indians, explorers, scientists and women. The companion module of PeebleGo Science also experienced substantial growth over the same time period as the previous year. PebbleGo Science supports elementary curriculum with educator resources, articles on a variety of topics, videos and games to reinforce science concepts for young learners. The PebbleGo Science subjects include weather,

plants, simple machines and technology, making it a go-to resource for educators and students.

Discus Return on Investment

Through contract negotiations and long-term relationships with national database partners, Discus provides an excellent return on investment for South Carolinians. The variety of topics covered in Discus and the cost-efficiency of the consortia pricing demonstrate the excellent return on investment, as indicated through the following:

▶ Discus database license costs budgeted for FY 2023-24 were $3.9 million.

▶ If each library purchased access separately, the total cost would be over $33 million.

▶ Administration of this statewide program provides cost avoidance of over $29.1 million.

▶ All state funding for Discus goes directly to database acquisition and retention.

The continued funding support ensures the State Library provides these educational resources statewide, saving schools and libraries millions of dollars each year. Without Discus, resource-constrained schools and public libraries could not provide quality resources for students as they

navigate through their education. The ability of all libraries to provide patrons access to these resources, regardless of race or socioeconomic status, is imperative to the intellectual development of South Carolina's citizens.

Thorough vetting of potential resources is conducted by the State Library to ensure products align with curriculum standards and the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Discus supports educators and students with lesson plans, ebooks, educational videos, scholarly articles, primary sources, test preparation tools and live tutoring. Monthly usage is monitored and analyzed for trends to ensure reports are accurate and marketing promotions are effective.

The ability to share these resources with all libraries frees 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 $29.1 million, which reinforces the fact that Discus is an excellent example of cost efficiency and learning tools.

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

DISCUS: At a Glance

18,827,497 — Discus Items Accessed

$29.1 million — Cost Avoidance Provided

3,127,645 — Capstone Items Retrieved

2,895,669 — TeachingBooks Items Retrieved

Discus: South Carolina's virtual library

Agency: SC State Library

Website: scdiscus.org

Discus

south carolina STATE LIBRARY

DISCUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The State Library added two former educators to the training staff to complement the librarians on the Discus team. The mix of elementary and high school understanding with librarian knowledge brings a unique skill set that training participants appreciate. The camaraderie the Discus trainers have with their audience is apparent in the training requests from state agency partners and community groups.

Virtual and in-person training requests increased from previous years, with 77 trainings and 21 exhibit tables monitored. A total of 8,100 individuals attended the in-person workshops, watched the live online or recorded sessions, or stopped at Discus conference exhibit tables.

Professional Development Offerings

With schools and libraries completely open and state conferences resuming after the pandemic, the number of in-person professional development workshops increased. Trainers demonstrate to attendees how to incorporate the Discus resources into lesson plans and programs, an appreciated takeaway. Previously, training centered around resource functionality, so transitioning to this new training model has been well-received by media specialists and teachers. The training sessions cover a variety of subjects and ages, depending on the request.

Live, virtual professional development sessions were available regularly throughout the year for families, librarians, students and teachers with subjects ranging from auto repair to literacy and summer reading. Creating Gale Choice Boards for classroom instruction was very popular with educators and librarians as they learned how to challenge their students with independent learning by making them more responsible. Session registrants unable to attend the live trainings also had the option of viewing the posted recordings when their schedule allowed.

A few of the organizations that benefited from the Discus trainings include:

- ► SC Department of Education
- ► SC Department of Juvenile Justice
- ► SC Department of Social Services
- ► Coastal Carolina University
- ► Clinton College
- ► Family Resource Center

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. Additionally, SCETV 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 children throughout the state. This funding has helped support SCETV's on-demand multimedia curriculum resource sites and professional development, including Knowitall, PBS LearningMedia, PD 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 2,600 educators. Funds were also used to maintain the learning management system used to host asynchronous professional development offerings. 650 asynchronous course completion certificates were issued during the 2023-24 funding year.

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 application programming interface (API) documentation renewal that supports alignment of educational assets to standards. Additional updates included enhanced search for discoverability, an upgrade to Drupal 10 for enhanced speed and reliability and back-end functions to support more efficient management of the site.

Multimedia assets on KnowItAll.org fall into the following categories:

- ▶ 5,217 mobile-friendly videos
- ▶ 1,353 audio resources
- ▶ 850 lessons
- ▶ 2,095 photos
- ▶ 498 documents
- ▶ 140 interactives

During the funding year, the site amassed 1.4 million pageviews and 429,000 new users. 54% of users accessed KnowItAll.org resources using a computer, 44% via smartphone and 2% via tablet.

In addition to website maintenance and development, South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative funding supported the purchase of new equipment for producing interactive virtual tours of notable historic sites and industry workspaces, the update of existing virtual tours to include insights from students, and tours of the state's natural landmarks.

Funding also supported the production of new interactive episodes of KidsECON, a personal and community economics series for use in first grade classrooms, new standard-aligned learning activities with digital show, What's Wild and broadcast show, Coastal Kingdom. Funds were

also used to support production of new episodes, of and learning activities for, History in a Nutshell focusing on Appollo 13, the Battle of Fort Sumter, The Alamo and Absolum Williams.

Moreover, funding from the 2023-24 funding year supported the development of South Carolina African American History Calendar broadcast interstitials and standard-aligned cross-curricular learning activities related to the life of each calendar honoree. Funds were also used to collaboratively produce learning media focusing on embryology with Richland County 4-H, learning media focusing on heat transfer with the South Carolina Energy Office and arts-integrated curricular resources with Arts Grow SC. In addition, funds were used to partner with the South Carolina Department of Education to host the South Carolina K-12 Accessibility Bootcamp.

Via the embryology initiative, Eggstraordinary Beginnings classrooms and the public were invited to tune in to a 24/7 social media livestream of the incubation and hatching of baby chickens. The livestream attracted over 14,200 views and 945 engagements. In addition to the livestream experiences, educators were encouraged to implement STEAM-based embryology and agricultural lessons made available via KnowItAll.org. The newly hatched chickens were donated to the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture and are being used in collaborative teaching and storytelling.

PBS LearningMedia

In addition to Knowitall, SCETV is expanding access to web resources through the continued utilization of PBS LearningMedia.

In 2023-24, South Carolina PBS's LearningMedia library included more than 150,000 multimedia resources for pre-K-12 educators boasting nearly 250,000 users, including 183,952 new users. Users viewed approximately 700,000 pages, resulting in the streaming of over 1.46 million videos, averaging 121,500 streams per month. During most months, both data points are above the national average. Peak usage during the past year reflected 192,060 page views in April

2024 and nearly 536,000 video streams from February–April 2024. Training on PBS Learning Media 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, SCETV surveys teachers, staff and administrators to help identify gaps and gauge the use of educational services and technology in schools.

To date, nearly 500 respondents have participated in the annual survey, representing public schools, private schools, charter schools, home schools, childcare centers, adult education centers and higher education institutions. Survey respondents reported using KnowItAll.org and its resources via the SC Learning Object Repository, PBS LearningMedia and/or PBS Kids at a rate of 73%. Approximately 91% of participants that utilized SCETV educational resources and services indicated that they helped to improve student engagement in the classroom.

Survey responses indicated interest and the need for more resources translated into Spanish, resources related to teaching students with disabilities, classroom management and age-appropriate elementary social studies. Respondents expressed interest in learning more about STEM/STEAM, assessment of student learning, media literacy, teacher preparedness and youth media creation. More than 50% of respondents expressed interest in class field trips to SCETV headquarters and SCETV conducting engagement activities at their respective schools.

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 South Carolina Educational Television's (SCETV) top priorities.

SCETV has historically committed to serving 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 2023-24 academic year, SCETV trainers facilitated learning experiences for more than 3,150 individuals. The count includes educators attending district and school requested professional development (PD), including in-service day trainings and Afterschool PD with ETV. Both programs covered topics such as instructional technologies, science and math resources, learning with immersive technology, early learning pedagogy, workforce development, flexible pedagogy and designing learning media.

Workshop and training evaluations, completed by attendees rated SCETV trainers at 4.7 or higher on a 5.0 scale in the areas of presenter knowledge, quality of instructional materials, resource ease-of-use, and practical applicability. Requested training topics included ETV and PBS resources, creating accessible learning resources, family engagement, early math and literacy, the SC Instruction Hub, South Carolina African American History Calendar integration in social studies and ELA courses, and resources for adult and correction education.

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 courses through a centralized website by curriculum interest, professional development and credit needed, and they can also readily find out if courses qualify for technology credit. Some courses qualify for Read to Succeed credit, while others place emphasis on topics such as assessment, early childhood pedagogy, digital storytelling, project-based learning, flipped classrooms and culturally relevant pedagogy. 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.
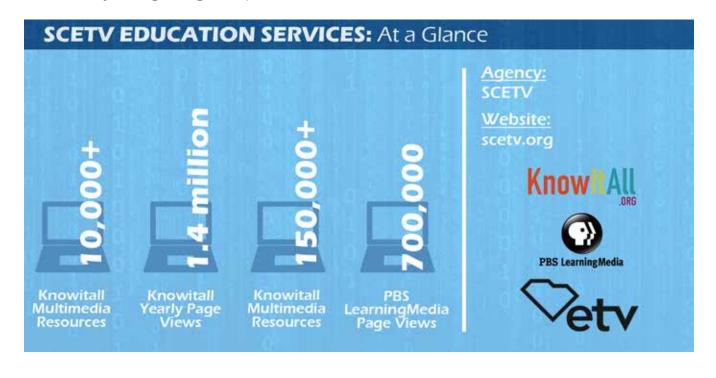
STUDYSC

Launched in 2010, StudySC is designed and maintained by the South Carolina State Library (State Library) as a portal for K-12 students to safely search and research South Carolina's history, culture and citizens. Arranged by grade level and subject area, StudySC meets curriculum standards with curated content chronicling the state's history through images, maps, facts and

articles. Both Discus resources and appropriate websites are incorporated into StudySC, which has simple navigation and a mobile-friendly interface, making the website easy for students to search and navigate.

Usage of StudySC remains strong, with county and South Carolina Book Awards pages being very popular areas of the website. Each county page includes a brief history and landmark image, lists of educational institutions, cities and towns, recreation ideas and people of significance.

The South Carolina Book Award nominees are chosen by the state's school librarians and voted on by students to encourage reading, quality contemporary literature and to honor the authors. The nominees are categorized by grade level and include author and illustrator biographies, book reviews and supplemental classroom material.

StudySC continues to be popular with students and educators as well as residents discovering South Carolina. In FY 2023-24, StudySC saw 161,246 page views compared to 95,168 the previous year, a 69% increase in usage.

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

SCETV EDUCATION SERVICES: At a Glance

10,000+ — Knowitall Multimedia Resources

1.4 million — Knowitall Yearly Page Views

150,000+ — Knowitall Multimedia Resources

700,000 — PBS LearningMedia Page Views

Agency: SCETV
Website: scetv.org

KnowItAll.ORG
PBS LearningMedia
etv

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. Since that time, 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 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 class.com.

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 program 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 53 full-time teachers for the academic year, in addition to 142 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 VirtualSC continues to grow. During the 2023-24 school year, the program had 57,913 student enrollments, which included students from:

- 346 schools
- 80 public school districts
- 31 home school associations
- 80 private schools
- 16 adult education centers

VirtualSC had a success rate of 85% for 2023-24.

In addition to the 57,167 enrollments for high school-level courses, the program also served 746 middle school enrollments and 110,331 elementary school students through its blended elementary typing course. This typing course was offered in 49 public schools, charter schools and home schools across the state.

In the 2024-25 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
- ► Social studies
- ► Visual and performing arts
- ► World languages

The program offered 106 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

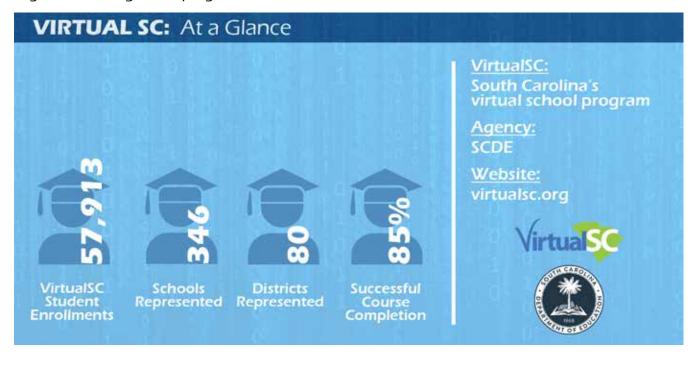In 2021, VirtualSC began a pilot program serving public, private and home-schooled students in grades six to eight. The program consists of 18 courses in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, science and social studies, plus six exploratory courses. This year the program served 350 middle school students in 746 enrollments, had a completion rate of 83% and a success rate of 89%.

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.

Statewide Instruction Hub (iHub)

The South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE) statewide Instruction Hub (iHub) is a library of digital books, materials and resources that provides a reliable, effective place for teachers to identify materials for their classrooms. The iHub includes a statewide "megalibrary" which brings together purchased instructional materials as well as other curated resources that SCDE makes available; like Discovery Education,

VIRTUAL SC: At a Glance

57,913 — VirtualSC Student Enrollments

346 — Schools Represented

80 — Districts Represented

85% — Successful Course Completion

VirtualSC: South Carolina's virtual school program

Agency: SCDE

Website: virtualsc.org

the State Library's Discus, SCETV's KnowItAll, Streamable and other digital content. Further, each district has its own satellite library that includes all state content plus district-specific materials and add-ons.

Sophisticated filtering, tagging and development tools allow teachers to curate their own lesson or entire course, or chose from complete South Carolina-developed courses. Teachers can search by grade level, subject, standards and even specific keywords. The resulting materials all have units, associated standards, lessons and sample assessments that are relevant, appropriate, standards-aligned digital content.

iHub links with each district's learning management system, which delivers custom content to a classroom or specific individual students. K-12 School Technology Initiative funding supports the iHub platform (by Safari Montage) renewal and configuration as well as digital content fees.

Serving more than 780,000 students in 75 districts, SCDE needed to address the problem of uneven distribution of learning resources across the state. SCDE sought to create and provide each school equitable access to up-to-date digital courses and materials, so they partnered with a digital education content provider to develop a learning object repository (LOR). A LOR is a searchable digital library of educational content where teachers, students and administrators can store, search, access and share various digital resources from any device and place.

SCDE's LOR, known as the Instruction Hub, manages resources and assimilates new content for automated distribution to every school district in the state. Because the LOR utilizes industry-accepted data standards, it integrates with various learning management systems used by South Carolina school systems. In addition to increasing the number of high-quality digital resources available to teachers, the LOR saves teachers valuable planning and preparation time.

The Instruction Hub is implemented across 99% of the state's schools. A robust meta-tagging

system makes finding content by grade, subject and keywords easy. Through the Instruction Hub, educators can access licensed resources from several content providers and South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV).

To learn more about SCDE's Instruction Hub, visit ed.sc.gov/instruction/instruction-hub.

STATE-HOSTED SERVICES, COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES AND SHARED SERVICES

<u>South Carolina Technology Plan Goal</u>: 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 2023-24 Progress Report.

SCETV COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

In an effort to help 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 such as hip hop in the classrooms, field trip destinations, civics, accessibility, student journalism and teacher appreciation. These episodes were produced in collaboration with partners like the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), South Carolina State Museum, University of South Carolina, Bamberg County Election

Commission, South Carolina State Library and the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, in addition to various colleges, universities, schools and districts in the state.

Promotion of Carolina Classrooms and other aforementioned programs are provided through a variety of platforms, including the SCETV Press Room, educational websites, social media and broadcast interstitials. Further, 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. During the funding year, the "Hip Hop in the Classroom" and "Student Journalism" Carolina Classrooms episodes were awarded Telly Awards in the Silver and Bronze Award categories, respectively.

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

Carolina Family Engagement Center

SCETV partners with the Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC) at the University of South Carolina to make multi-generational learning experiences and resources available to families, particularly families in rural areas of the state. Via this partnership, SCETV and CFEC have produced family-focused public awareness interstitials that orient audiences to the functions of school improvement councils and parent teacher associations, in addition to resources that support kindergarten readiness.

During the 2023-24 funding year, SCETV and CFEC partnered to add a co-branded Family Resource Center at The Village Inc., in Dillon

South Carolina. The Village Inc. is an afterschool and summer engagement site that focuses on academic support, motivation and parent engagement, particularly among Black fathers. The collaboratively powered site features a book vending machine, a technology area that supports academic enrichment and creative activities, and informational materials from CFEC and SCETV family and community engagement partners.

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 South Carolina Deparatment of Education for the promotion of SCETV education features. The monthly newsletter assists with informing over 34,000 pre-K-12 administrators, teachers and staff of timely education resources and services.

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

SCDE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS

The South Carolina Department of Education (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 and district learning management systems 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.
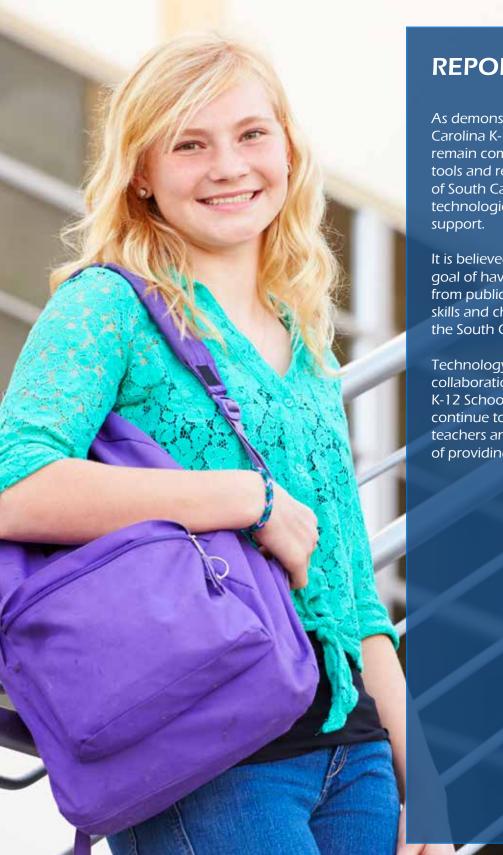
District Data Governance Group

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 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

As demonstrated in this year's report, the South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative's partners remain committed to providing the technological tools and resources necessary to ensure the success of South Carolina students through continuous technological advancements, investments and support.

It is believed these investments will help to fulfill the goal of having all South Carolina students graduate from public school with the world-class knowledge, skills and characteristics identified in the the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

Technology also brings new opportunities for collaboration and support. Therefore, South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative partners will continue to work together to support students, teachers and families across the state in their journey of providing needed resources.

FY 2023-24 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**
K12 -- Other State Funds :	**$20,000,000**
Total Available Funds:	**$12,271,826**
E-Rate Funds (Estimated)	$23,334,791
Total Funds Anticipated:	**$55,606,617**
Total Budget Requested:	**$55,606,617**
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	$31,398,840	$8,064,049	$23,334,791	$31,398,840
2	E-Rate Field Training and Outreach	$10,600	$10,600		$10,600
3	DNS-based Internet Security License Renewal	$864,900	$864,900		$864,900
4	Infrastructure Upgrades Schools & Libraries*	$1,634,593	$1,634,593		$1,634,593
	Total:	**$33,908,933**	**$10,574,142**	**$23,334,791**	**$33,908,933**
	SCDE				
1	School District Technology Technical Assistance (Proviso 1.57)	$350,000	$350,000		$350,000
	Total:	**$350,000**	**$350,000**	**$0**	**$350,000**
	Total Non Discretionary:	**$34,258,933**	**$10,924,142**	**$23,334,791**	**$34,258,933**
	Total Available Budget	**$21,347,684**	**$1,347,684**		**$ 21,347,684**
	Discretionary				
	DEPARTMENT of ADMINISTRATION				
1	No Request	$0	$0		$0
	Total:	**$0**	**$0**		**$0**
	STATE LIBRARY				
1	Mailbox Plus	$153,636	$153,636		$153,636
2	African American History – Infobase	$64,175	$64,175		$64,175
3	Ferguson's Career Center	$64,175	$64,175		$64,175
4	Newsbank	$66,000	$66,000		$66,000
5	Pebble Go - Animals	$91,198	$91,198		$91,198
6	Tumblebooks	$108,500	$108,500		$108,500
	Total:	**$547,684**	**$547,684**		**$547,684**
	SCDE				
1	K12 -- Other State Funds - IHUB Platform	$20,000,000	$20,000,000		$20,000,000
2	HOPE Network	$500,000	$500,000		$500,000
3		$0	$0		$0
	Total:	**$20,500,000**	**$20,500,000**		**$20,500,000**
	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	Digital Learning Initiative	$75,000	$75,000		$75,000
	Total:	**$300,000**	**$300,000**		**$300,000**
	Total before Carry forward	**$55,606,617**	**$32,271,826**	**$23,334,791**	**$55,606,617**
	Total Carry Forward From Previous year:	**$0**			**$0**
	Budget Surplus/Shortfall	**$0**	**$0**		**$0**
	Grand Total for a Balanced Budget:	**$55,606,617**	**$32,271,826**	**$23,334,791**	**$55,606,617**
			$0	Balanced	

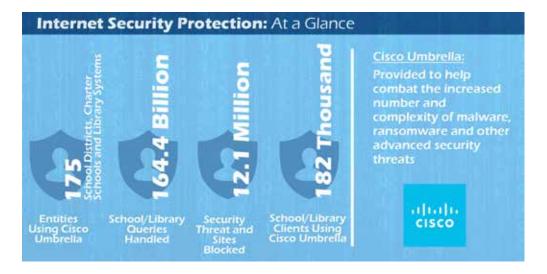* Committee funding will be leveraged with the Category 2 federal share, FY 2023-24 financial impact will be $24.8 million.
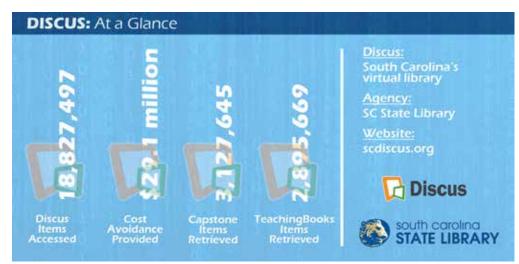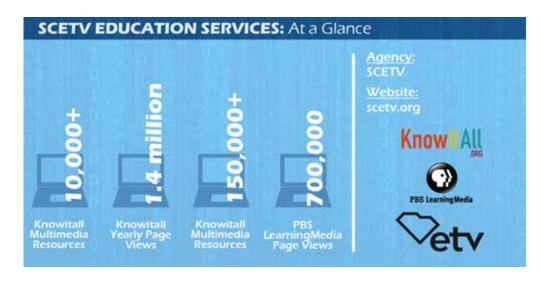
BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE: At a Glance

395 Gbps
School District Bandwidth Capacity

20 Gbps
Library Systems Bandwidth Capacity

35 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

175
School Districts, Charter Schools and Library Systems
Entities Using Cisco Umbrella

164.4 Billion
School/Library Queries Handled

12.1 Million
Security Threat and Sites Blocked

182 Thousand
School/Library Clients Using Cisco Umbrella

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

CISCO

DISCUS: At a Glance

18,827,497
Discus Items Accessed

$29.1 million
Cost Avoidance Provided

3,127,645
Capstone Items Retrieved

2,895,669
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

1.4 million — Knowitall Yearly Page Views

150,000+ — Knowitall Multimedia Resources

700,000 — PBS LearningMedia Page Views

Agency:
SCETV

Website:
scetv.org

KnowItAll .ORG

PBS LearningMedia

etv

VIRTUAL SC: At a Glance

57,913 — VirtualSC Student Enrollments

346 — Schools Represented

80 — Districts Represented

85% — Successful Course Completion

VirtualSC:
South Carolina's virtual school program

Agency:
SCDE

Website:
virtualsc.org

VirtualSC

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.

PROFILE OF THE
South Carolina Graduate

WORLD-CLASS KNOWLEDGE

Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness

Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences

WORLD-CLASS SKILLS

Creativity and innovation

Critical thinking and problem solving

Collaboration and teamwork

Communication, information, media and technology

Knowing how to learn

LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

Integrity • Self-direction • Global perspective • Perseverance • Work ethic • Interpersonal skills
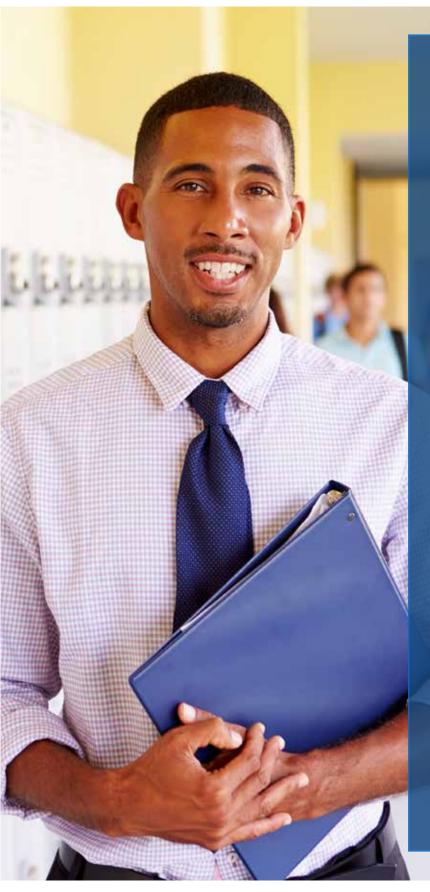
© SCASA Superintendents' Roundtable
Adopted by: SC State Board of Education, SC Department of Education, SC Education Oversight Committee, SC Arts Alliance, SC Arts in Basic Curriculum Steering Committee, SCASCD, SC Chamber of Commerce, SC Council on Competitiveness, SC School Boards Association, TransformSC Schools and Districts.

Appendix D:
What Others Are Saying

Discus Resources

▶ "Discus has made it easier for my students to do research. It supports teaching because teachers are able to have more time for prep because resources are easily accessible through Discus."
– Ashley Davis, Manning Primary School

▶ "Discus provides students and teachers with curated professional and scholarly sites that help with research, general inquiries, and personal research topics. Students and teachers understand that Google is not the best resource for factual information."
– Wendy Parker Powell, Fairfield Middle School

▶ "We use Discus extensively with our 8th grade students who are working on National History Day projects. And many teachers use the biography resources found in Discus."
– Robin Clinton, York Middle School

▶ "I love Discus. It helps my students and teachers improve their research skills."
– Megan Minchener, North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary

▶ "I teach my elementary students to go to Discus for their research. It's the main resource for reliable information."
– Angela Williams, EP Todd Elementary School

▶ "Discus helps students understand the value of paid for databases versus the open web and Googling for information."

– Tara Ussery, Sandlapper Elementary

▶ "My students access Discus to use the resources for research projects, foreign language projects, and teachers accessing articles to prepare for assessments."
– Michele Carrol, Laurens High School

▶ "Discus is great for research! I collaborate with teachers who are teaching plagiarism and research and used sources in Discus to help teach this concept."
– Julie Toole, Manning High School

SCETV Technology Initiatives

▶ "Thank you so much for the opportunity and space to learn something new! I'd like to take the time to explore ways in which I can use these resources to support my students."
– ELA Resources Workshop attendee

▶ "Today helped me a lot. It was a lot of information, but I'm glad I learned about Talking Book Services at the State Library."
– Wise and Wired workshop attendee

▶ "I'm happy to see that ETV is creating opportunities for older folks like myself to learn how to use the technology. Everything was very nice."
– Wise and Wired workshop attendee.

▶ "Keep being fabulous! I have taken advantage of the classes, I have written for the blog, and I am bringing a group of 8th graders for a field trip on May 14th. I am consistently impressed with SCETV's education opportunities and

resources!"
– 2023-2024 Annual Educator Survey Respondent

▶ "I have found several ELA lessons on knowitall.org that matched exactly to the standard and they provided fun and engaging lessons that broadened the content."
– 2023-2024 Annual Educator Survey Respondent

▶ "I enjoy using PBS Kids content in my classroom because I know it will not be filled with 'junk' things that my kids do not need to see."
– 2023-2024 Annual Educator Survey Respondent

▶ "This is an excellent opportunity to combat a lot of the misinformation surrounding voter registration and elections. Keeping the citizens informed with the most accurate and current information is a vital part of Bamberg County's mission. Voting and civic engagement is important because our vote is our voice, and it matters. Furthermore, when we commit to exercising our civic duty at the ballot box, we demonstrate concern and appreciation for Bamberg County and our great nation."
– Athena Moorer, Bamberg County Voter Registration Director, Carolina Classrooms subject matter expert

▶ "I really appreciate you providing resources in Spanish!"
– PAT Workshop on PBS KIDS attendee

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