



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais
Superintendent

1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Roy M. Stehle, Director
Office of Federal and State Accountability/Accreditation

DATE: January 15, 2013

RE: Science Graduation Requirements

The Office of Federal and State Accountability is sending out clarification regarding science graduation requirements.

State Board of Education Regulation 43-259 requires students to complete three units of science to graduate. This regulation does not state which science courses are required. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-18-310 (Supp. 2012) and SBE Regulation 43-234 require one of the science units to have an end-of-course test. That course, in the past, was Physical Science; however, the End-of-Course Biology test was approved by the Education Oversight Committee on Monday, June 14, 2010, and is now the required end-of-course test in science. The Physical Science End-of-Course test is no longer offered.

Students who took and received credit for Physical Science while the End-of-Course test was offered can still use this course to meet the graduation requirement. There is no longer a requirement that Biology be taken by the end of the student's second year in high school.

To address further questions or concerns, please contact Darlene Prevatt at dprevatt@ed.sc.gov or at 803-734-3477.