



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Tuesday, May 25, 2021**

**CONTACT:** Tom F. Hudson, Executive Director, SC School Improvement Council  
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**WHO:** SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) and Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC)

**WHAT:** Free webinar for South Carolina families and community members (limited to first 100 participants)

- Information on federal COVID-19 relief funds for South Carolina K-12 education
- How summer and after-school programs can play vital roles in addressing student learning and developmental needs
- Action steps local school and community leaders can take to generate input to inform school district decisions on using these funds

Speakers will include Ryan Brown, Chief Communications Officer, SC Department of Education; Felicia Robinson Jones, SIC Chair, Belton Middle School (Anderson District Two); Dr. Terry Peterson, Senior Fellow to The Riley Institute at Furman and Co-Chair, Afterschool Alliance; Karen Utter, Project Director, CFEC; Dr. Lorlei Swanson and Julia Beaty, Family Engagement Liaisons, CFEC; and Tom F. Hudson, Executive Director, SC-SIC.

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 3, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm

**WHERE:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85917997288?pwd=N0YzdUttN1IRY3pqZHVqSzdmS05FUT09>

**BACKGROUND:** Federal COVID-19 relief packages passed by Congress in 2020 and 2021 (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds, or ESSER) have allocated over \$3 billion to South Carolina to address impacts of the pandemic on K-12 education. Of these funds 90% are to be regranted to local school districts and 10% will be retained by the SC Department of Education to address impacts at the state level.

ESSER funds can be used for a range of activities that support reopening schools safely, sustaining their safe operation, and addressing students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs resulting from the pandemic. Families and community leaders can provide important information regarding impacts on student learning and development, as well as suggestions on how to prioritize and address student needs. Such input is a vital part of the process that can help ensure that South Carolina's ESSER funds are targeted and utilized for maximum impact.

For additional information on ESSER, visit the SC Department of Education online at [ed.sc.gov](http://ed.sc.gov), the Carolina Family Center, [cfec.sc.gov](http://cfec.sc.gov), or the SC School Improvement Council, [sic.sc.gov](http://sic.sc.gov). The Carolina Family Engagement Center is housed in the SC School Improvement Council at the University of South Carolina College of Education and is funded through grant U310A180058 from the U.S. Department of Education.

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