

Frequently Used Acronyms and Definitions

- **Student Information Systems (SIS):** Is a web-based software application used to manage student data. Student information systems provide capabilities for enrolling a student in school, taking student attendance, building student schedules, enrolling students into courses, storing grades and managing many other student-related data needs.
- **PowerSchool (PS):** Is the Student Information System (SIS) that is used in South Carolina. In South Carolina PowerSchool SIS is the only source for student data collections. The data in PowerSchool is pushed from the district electronically using the Enrich Data Collections Tool (EDCT) to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). The data that is pushed is used to fulfill SC State and/or federal data reporting mandates. Only data values that are needed for reporting purposes are included in the queries that are pulled by the Office of Research and Data Analysis (ORDA) department at the SCDE.
- **Student Unique Numbering System (SUNS):** This is a unique identifiable state student number that a student is associated with upon the first time enrolling in a South Carolina school. The student will retain this unique number until they graduate high school. The ORDA team has implemented a policy of not funding students' who do not have a SUN allocated to them in PowerSchool.
- **ADA (Average Daily Attendance):** The total number of days present divided by the number of days the school is in session.
- **ADM (Average Daily Membership):** The total number of days in membership divided by the number of day's school is in session. ADM is used to calculate schools financial funding from the SCDE based on the school's 45th day and 135th day average student membership count.
- **EFA (South Carolina Education Finance Act of 1977):** This Act is aimed towards equalization of public school finance in South Carolina. It was enacted to achieve school finance reform and was designed to ensure that every child in each public school receives an educational opportunity that meets state standards. This also refers to **EFA Pupil Classification**.
- **Grade Level:** The current grade level that a pupil is in during the current school year.
- **Sections:** Classes that students can be enrolled in.
- **Expression:** PowerSchool shows the schedule of a class with what they term the expression. It combines the period a class meets with the day of the schedule represented as a number in parentheses. The expression is sorted from the earliest period that class meets during the cycle to the latest that class meets.
- **G&T (Gifted and Talented) -** This program is for students in grades 3–12 who are identified as gifted either academically or artistically and served in this program any day between the 1st day of school and the 135th day of school.

- **AP (Advanced Placement)** - These classes give students an opportunity to take college-level courses and exams while still in high school.
- **ELDA (English Language Development Assessment)** - was developed to serve as the tool for gathering necessary data for establishing and reporting AMAOs 1 and 2. The ELDA consists of four tests designed to measure academic and social language proficiency in the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. From the listening and reading tests, a comprehension score is calculated.
- **IEP (Individual Education Plan)** - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires public schools to develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for every student with a disability who is found to meet the federal and state requirements for special education. The IEP must be designed to provide the child with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The IEP refers both to the educational program to be provided to a child with a disability and to the written document that describes that educational program.
- **Individual Graduation Plan (IGP)** - is a student specific educational plan detailing the courses necessary for the student to prepare for graduation and to successfully transition into the workforce or postsecondary education.
- **Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)** – is a software protocol for enabling anyone to locate organizations, individuals, and other resources such as files and devices in a network, whether on the public Internet or on a corporate intranet. Put simple it allows users to use one username and password for multiple applications on a network.

Important Law and Regulation Terms

- **Membership** - Membership is defined as the number of pupils present plus the number of pupils absent. A pupil will be counted in membership on the first day of entrance in an instructional program as an original entry, a re-entry, or a transfer. ([R43-172](#))
- **Class Period** - A minimum of fifty minutes of instruction or an accumulation of the equivalency of 120 hours required for a Carnegie Unit of Credit. ([R43-172](#))
- **Minimum Hours of Instruction** - The instructional year for elementary students must be at least 1,080 hours per year, including lunch. The instructional year for secondary students must be at least 1,080 hours per year, excluding lunch. S.C. Code §59-1-440 (1990)
- **Carnegie Unit of Credit** - a standardized unit of measurement for evaluating courses in secondary schools in terms of college entrance requirements, representing one year's study in any subject, that subject having been taught for a minimum of 120 classroom hours to qualify. **Note:** *In order to receive one Carnegie unit of credit, a student must be in attendance at least 120 hours, per unit, regardless of the number of days missed. Students whose absences are*

approved should be allowed to make up any work missed in order to satisfy the 120-hour requirement.

- **Minimum In-Session School Days in a Year** – 180 days
- **Truancy** - A child ages 6 to 17 years meets the definition of a truant when the child has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences. ([R 43-274](#))