

New S.C. program connects academic coaches and students struggling with education

COLUMBIA, S.C. (WPDE) —



State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman announced a new program that will support students who need help navigating the challenges of COVID-19 learning environments.

The new program called ENGAGE will connect students in kindergarten through 12th grade with a personal academic coach. The coach will answer questions about technology and curriculum, monitor the student's progress throughout the year, and connect them with additional community support programs.

RELATED: [Horry Co. teacher creates helpful videos to help with virtual learning](#)

"Throughout the pandemic, the lives of so many of our students and their families have been upended, and understandably many students have struggled with this transition," said State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman "ENGAGE South Carolina is designed to support these learners and help ensure they stay on track for graduation and beyond."

The program aims to re-engage students who are not progressing as they should. According to the program guidelines, 'those struggling may even be those students who were previously thriving in their classes before this crisis. This is not their fault, nor is it the fault of their teachers or their schools.'

RELATED: [Gov. McMaster, CDC director speak about COVID-19 impacts in the state](#)

The program is being offered to all public schools for free. But space is limited and districts must opt-in to participate. Districts will need to identify an estimated number of students who have not engaged in learning or those they feel would benefit from the ENGAGE program. [Click here to sign up.](#)

[For additional information, the SCDE and Graduation Alliance will host three webinars.](#)

- Oct. 30 at 9 a.m.

-Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.

Nov. 3 at 12 p.m.