STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders
Secondary Principals

FROM: Darlene Prevatt
Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability

DATE: August 2, 2018

RE: Marching Band with Physical Education and Comprehensive Health Education

Act 185 of 2018 allows students to earn physical education graduation credit through marching band with approval from the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). The SCDE has identified the Innovative Course Application as the process for seeking approval. All approved applications must document that the marching band course includes all appropriate South Carolina Academic Standards for Visual and Performing Arts as well as those for Physical Education.

Often high school courses integrate comprehensive health education into physical education. For most students that will receive physical education through marching band, comprehensive health education must be a separate course listed in PowerSchool with the appropriate course code identifiers.

In most instances is it unlikely that comprehensive health education could be taught with the marching band and physical education course. First, the band directors/music teachers would need to be properly certified to give health instruction. Only teachers credentialed in health, science, or physical education may teach health content. Secondly, comprehensive health must cover all of the following topics including time requirements:

- community health;
- consumer health;
- environmental health;

- growth and development;
- nutritional health;
- personal health;
- substance use and abuse, including opioid abuse prevention;
- dental health;
- mental and emotional health;
- prevention and control of diseases and disorders safety and accident prevention;
- 750 minutes of reproductive health and pregnancy prevention;
- sexually transmitted diseases;
- hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR);
- awareness in use of automated external defibrillator (AED); and
- Erin's Law.

Districts must also publish all health education materials on the district's website. More information is located in S.C. Code Ann. § 59-32-5 *et. seq*. and State Board of Education Regulation 43-238.

Proviso 1.50 authorizes the SCDE to withhold one percent of funds allocated in the Student Health and Fitness Act if it determines a district is not compliant with comprehensive health education.

Questions regarding these requirements or the Innovative Course Application process can be addressed to Darlene Prevatt at dprevatt@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-3477. Email completed applications to Nicole Ivery at nivery@ed.sc.gov.