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SC Department of Education (SCDE) will Host Statewide Webinar ESSA Implementation and the Development of the Consolidated State Plan

Columbia, SC- October 26, 2016 - State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman issued the following statement encouraging the public to participate on the **Statewide Webinar** Thursday, **October 27, 2016 at 6:00-7:30pm**. **Link for webinar access:** <http://tinyurl.com/scde-essa>

"I encourage all stakeholders to participate in this important virtual meeting, as we develop South Carolina's Consolidated State Plan," said Spearman.

"This meeting will enable parents, teachers, community organizations and others to learn more about the implementation of ESSA. I encourage all members of the media and the public to join this free webinar and share feedback with us on how to improve education in our state so that we can incorporate these ideals into South Carolina's Consolidated State Plan." concluded Spearman.

Congress passed the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA) in December 2015, reauthorizing the nation's largest education law 8 years overdue, with many much needed updates and revisions. In particular, there are opportunities that may exist for afterschool and summer learning organizations to contribute to the development of the "whole child". The South Carolina Afterschool Alliance (SCAA) is encouraging all 1300 members of our network to attend the webinar to be certain that afterschool is not an afterthought in the implementation of ESSA and the Consolidated State Plan. SCAA Executive Director, Zeldia Waymer stated, *"It is imperative that afterschool and summer learning program professionals lend their voices to the implementation of ESSA and developing the Consolidated State Plan. In South Carolina our strategic direction in afterschool and summer learning continues to be a model of best practices at the state and local levels in supporting the "whole child" and communities in South Carolina."*

SCAA is affiliated with the national non-profit, Afterschool Alliance. The Afterschool Alliance has been instrumental in providing ESSA points of interest and webinars that support the afterschool and summer learning space specifically. In January 2016 the Afterschool Alliance provided a webinar called; [ESSA: What does it mean for afterschool and summer learning?](#), which provided information on ESSA potential to support: 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Afterschool, Community Schools, Literacy, Family Engagement, and Youth Promise Plans specifically in the afterschool and summer learning environments.

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The South Carolina Afterschool Alliance (SCAA) mission is to raise awareness, increase sustainability, and promote the importance of quality afterschool and summer learning programs. SCAA convenes diverse stakeholders to influence development of policies and practices to increase access to quality out of school time programs. Over 1300 programs across SC are members of SCAA.

For more information, please call [866-237-5454](tel:866-237-5454) or visit www.scafterschool.com.