

MEMORANDUM

TO: Special Education Directors
PowerSchool Administrators
District Instructional Leaders

FROM: Peter Keup
Director, Office of Special Education Services

Wyatt Cothran
Deputy Director, Office of Information Technology

DATE: May 20, 2025

RE: Interim Guidance on Course Code Weighting for Special Education Courses

The Office of Special Education Services (OSES) and the Office of Information Technology recently made changes to special education courses and codes in an effort to improve coding practices and to promote consistency throughout the State. However, during information sessions in several school districts, a potential unintended consequence was identified. Specifically, course codes with a zero (0) in the seventh position could affect GPAs for diploma-seeking students requiring special education services.

In light of these concerns, the SCDE will work with stakeholders in the coming months to develop criteria and standards for course weighting designations for special education courses. Once they are developed, the SCDE will provide updated criteria to districts with instructions on implementation. **In the interim, OSES and ORDA have developed a temporary solution for the 2025–26 school year.**

The updated special education courses and codes are still in effect for the 2025–26 academic year; however, **districts that have utilized standards-based high school curricula and have previously awarded college preparatory course weighting for supplemental special education courses for diploma-seeking students may continue to award this weighting for the 2025–26 school year.** This means that the requirement of a zero (0) in the seventh course code position for the courses detailed below is not in effect until the 2026–27 school year.

Course Code Details

There are eight Academic Seminar courses in the [Course Code Database](#). The activity codes for those courses are 4919-4989. Each Academic Seminar course will have both 0 and C as academic weighting options representing a non-weight bearing option and a college preparatory weighting option, respectively. This will allow districts to select the weighting that is appropriate for each student based on the student's individualized education program and the instructional content provided during course time.

This guidance can also be found in the Item Card for each Academic Seminar course located in the Course Code Database.

The screenshot shows a card for '4919 Academic Seminar I'. It includes a 'Notes' section with text about college prep academic rigor for the 2025-26 school year. Below the notes is a table with fields: Item Type (Course), Ed. Level (09-12), and Last Changed (2025-05-01). There are also icons for editing, sharing, printing, and a settings menu. At the bottom, there is a 'Course Description' and a list of metadata: SCED Subject Code: 23, SCED Subject: Non-Subject-Specific, Academic Weighting: 0, C, Academic Unit: W, Special Education: YES, and Effective Date: 2025-26.

Item Type:	Ed. Level:	Last Changed:
Course	09-12	2025-05-01

Course Description: Seminar courses vary widely, but typically offers a small peer group the opportunity to gain skills and problem-solve. This course is assigned as determined by the student's IEP team. It can be repeated, as necessary, for the student.

SCED Subject Code: 23 **SCED Subject:** Non-Subject-Specific **Academic Weighting:** 0, C **Academic Unit:** W **Special Education:** YES **Effective Date:** 2025-26

In summary:

- For the 2025–26 school year, districts will be able to make weighting selections based on prior district practices relating to the instructional content covered in the courses.
- For the 2026–27 school year, weighting selections will be made in accordance with established criteria and standards that will be disseminated by the SCDE at a future date.

If you have any questions regarding this memo please email Peter Keup at pkeup@ed.sc.gov, and for questions around specific course codes email Wyatt Cothran at wcothran@ed.sc.gov.