

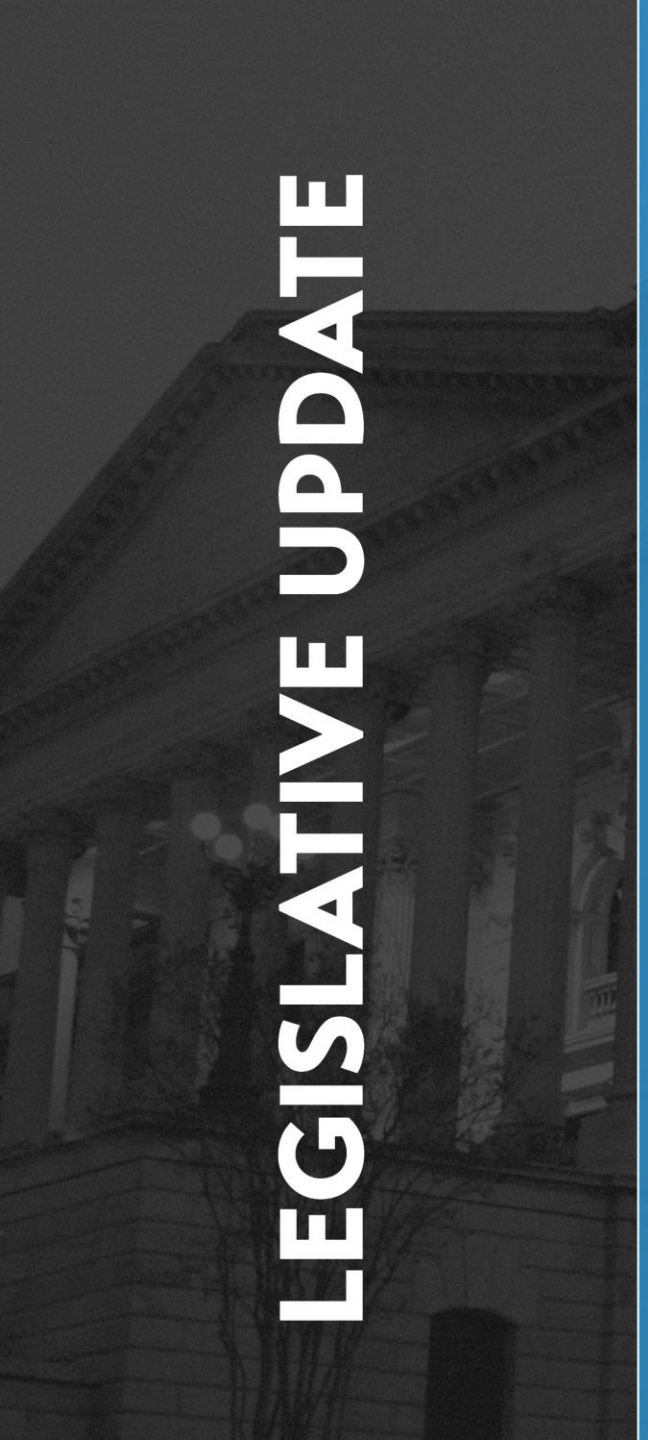
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DEBBIE ELMORE, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, SCSBA
SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION



SCSBA weekly and daily updates

- Weekly Legislative Updates
- E-clippings and daily update (Wednesday – Friday)
- SCSBA Day At the Capitol, April 27, Columbia Convention Center
- Look out for SCSBA Legislative Alerts in March and April



House spending plan H.5150

- $13.9 billion plan debated on House floor this week
- Applies new K12 funding formula
- SCSBA webinar on funding formula scsba.org
- Increases $4,000 teacher pay on state minimum teacher salary schedule – district paying above not required to give $4,000
- 18% increase employer health insurance
- Teacher supply increase $275 to $300
- Bus driver pay increase (state salary schedule)



Bills we are following (too many!)

- Education Scholarship Account (ESA) (H.4879)
- Put Parents in Charge Act (S.935)
- Public school open enrollment (S.544)
- Unencumbered teacher breaks (S.946)
- Hiring noncertified teachers (H.3590)
- Financial literacy course for graduation (S.16)
- Other

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ESA & Parents in Charge

H.4879

- sailed through Ways and Means Committee sent to full House
- pilot program for 3 years
- up to $5,000 scholarship account ($2,500 each semester) to up to 5,000 eligible students
- cost to attend public or private school (whichever less)
- fiscal impact $75 million

S.935

- subcommittee hearing on 2nd day of session (companion bill in house)
- amended several times and in full committee this week
- est. $7,000+ scholarship for up to 15,000 K-12 student (phase-in 5,000 each year)
- public or private school various expenses
- fiscal impact $110 million

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ESA & Parents in Charge

H.4879

- eligible students: K – 5th grade, & medicaid eligible & previously enrolled in a public school one of the three years prior, or sibling
- program funded with $75 million from state contingency fund ($25 million each year)
- operational funding will be provided in general fund
- non discrimination (admission) race, color, sex, religion or national origin except single gender schools
- national achievement or state standardized test

S.935

- eligible students: attended public school year prior & medicaid eligible or attends unsatisfactory, below average school or has iep or received esa prior year or sibling
- program funded with resident public school district average state per pupil funding (to be amended)
- non discrimination (school) “unlawfully discriminate race, color, religion, national origin
- state standardized tests for 3 – 12 students

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Public School Open Enrollment

- still in Senate Education Subcommittee continues to be amended
- requires each district to offer school choice options within the district and board adopt policies include
  - board open enrollment policy related procedures, timelines
  - allow parents to declare preference, allow siblings
  - describe lottery, wait list and appeal process
  - school capacity standards, approval and denial standards, priorities of acceptance, transportation
  - non-resident fees
- Districts not required
  - alter school structures, create programs not in a school
  - alter eligibility requirements
  - expand capacity
  - provide transportation outside attendance zones
  - have more than one deadline for applications



Open Enrollment Continued

- allows districts under consolidation to seek a waiver from compliance until consolidation is completed
- eliminates $300 property in statute for non-district students but grandfathers in current students
- amends current law regarding students living closer to adjacent district attending schools in the district to apply for enrollment through the applicable district's open enrollment procedures

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Unencumbered Teacher Break

- passed Senate, resides in House Education Committee
- 30 mins unencumbered break each regular school day must be provided to:
  - full-time, K-5 grade classroom teachers
  - any teacher responsible for instructing a student who is removed from the general education setting for more than 20% of day
- SBE adopts statewide policy that each local board uses
- local board adopts policy at regular meeting within 3 months after statewide policy adoption and provides to SCDE
- provisions implemented before July 1, 2023
- 34 districts estimate fiscal impact: $0 - $5.1 million
- 22 districts estimate fiscal impact: 19.4 million



Hiring Noncertified Teachers

House version

- authorizes schools, career centers to hire up to 25% noncertified teachers if certified teacher not available
- undergo background checks, certification checks etc.
- possess bachelor's degree in subject area & 5 years relevant experience
- after two years, noncertified teacher must be enrolled in certification program
- Districts must register noncertified teachers with SCDE

Senate version

- SCDE establish 5-year pilot program authorizing certain schools to hire up to 10 percent noncertified teachers
- eligible schools: ratings of excellent below average, unsatisfactory OR located in critical geographic area
- possess bachelor's degree in subject area & 5 years relevant experience
- undergo background checks, certification checks etc.
- within three years, noncertified teachers must be enrolled in certification program

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Financial Literacy for Graduation

Senate version

- high school students complete ½ credit course in basic personal finance required for graduation in place of economics
- applies to 11th graders beginning 2023-2024
- basic personal finance principles, internet safety, planning & asset management, loan, insurance auto insurance products and federal student aid process, application etc.
- SCDE develop standards, metrics, monitoring

House version

- high school students complete ½ credit course in basic personal finance for graduation
- reduce required electives from 7 to 6.5
- Applies to 9th graders in 2026-2027
- basic personal finance principles, internet safety, planning & asset management, loan, insurance auto insurance products and federal student aid process, application etc.
- SCDE develop standards, metrics, monitoring



Other

- Five critical race theory bills in House Education Committee
- S.203, removal school board members in conference committee
- S.923, patriotic society presentations in schools (on Senate floor)
- H.3614, high school senior complete FASA form (passed House and Senate Education Committee)
- H.4866, school-based community canneries (amended on floor to go into effect when funding is provided)
- There is more but we have run out of time …..