

# 2019

south carolina school  
boards association

## legislative priorities

### Education funding reform

SCSBA supports legislation to reform the state's education funding structure. Any revision should be based upon specific analysis and recommendations on (1) the current tax structure and the state's taxing policy, (2) the current education funding formulas and their ability to equalize educational opportunities statewide, and (3) a realistic means of computing a per pupil funding amount, which is aligned with state-imposed student performance standards and expectations. Recommendations for reforming the method of fully funding public education in South Carolina must do the following:

- expand local district revenue-raising options;
- generate revenue that is adequate, stable and recurring;
- ensure equitable and timely distribution, to include direct distribution from the state to a district;
- provide adequate funding for other operational needs such as transportation and fringe; include state-driven initiatives to ensure that every public school student has the opportunity to learn in permanent school facilities that are safe, structurally sound and conducive to a good learning environment;
- ensure that districts are held harmless from receiving less money through a new funding plan; and,
- grant all elected school boards full fiscal autonomy.

### Local district fiscal impact statements

SCSBA supports legislation directing the General Assembly to provide individual school district fiscal impact statements before passage of any legislation which requires a local district financial match or use of local funds for any reason.

### Local legislation

SCSBA supports legislative measures directing members of the General Assembly, prior to introducing any local legislation, should be required to attach a statement that the local affected school board as a whole was notified of the intent to file the bill and stating if the board supports the proposed legislation.

### School start date

SCSBA supports amending state law regarding when public schools may start the school year to give districts the flexibility of setting their own start date.

### Retired teacher salary cap

SCSBA supports legislation to eliminate the salary cap for retired classroom teachers.