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.

School governance takeovers
SCSBA opposes the takeover of schools, school districts and locally raised revenues and opposes legislative efforts to remove, diminish or interfere with the authority of local governing school district boards.

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.