

STAND UP 4 SC PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Position statements and comments on education legislation

March 18, 2015

Name / Title _____

School District _____

Contact information _____

1. K12 education funding

Position: the General Assembly must meet its commitment to fully fund state-mandated educational programs and work to reform the state's education funding system.

Appreciation of:

- Effort to increase the base student cost in the Education Finance Act (EFA) to \$2,220 per student; however, it is still below the statutorily required amount of \$2,801 per pupil for 2015-2016.
- Effort to protect K12 education from drastic cuts.
- Increased weightings to recognize differing student needs; however, increased funding to hold districts "harmless" going forward is not guaranteed.

Concerned about:

- Transition funding and expansion fund increases for charter schools each year.
- Need to address comprehensive tax and education funding reform - the SC Jobs, Education and Tax Act (SCJET) is a good start.

2. Tuition tax credit program expansion

Position: opposed to any state or federally mandated efforts to directly or indirectly subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public funds.

- In a state with limited resources, the tuition tax credit program has expanded state government and created two systems of education to fund - a public one and a private one.
- Increasing certification and reporting requirements for organizations collecting donations and awarding scholarships is needed.

- There is no evidence to confirm the existing program works.

3. Teacher employment and dismissal

Position: supportive of S.533, Teacher Employment and Dismissal Act of 2015.

- S.533 would give school boards and districts needed flexibility in the teacher employment and dismissal process.
- S.533 needs to pass by both chambers and become law this year.

4. Freedom of Information Act changes

Position: support language in Senate bill for amending meeting agendas (S.11) and concerned about the "an emergency exists" provision in the House bill (H.3191). Concerned about H.3192 that would decrease response times for fulfilling FOIA requests, set deadlines to fulfill requests, and limit fees.

- Dedicated to following the Freedom of Information Act, exhibiting transparency in operations and conducting efficient meetings but concerned about the district's ability to fulfill voluminous requests by set deadlines with little staff.

5. Appointed state superintendent of education

Position: voters should decide if the position is to change and the ballot question should be clear. If change is supportive, to require qualifications outlined in law.