

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

Pierce McNair, Esq.

Director of Research

SC House Education and Public Works Committee

Debbie Elmore

Director of Government Relations and Communications

South Carolina School Boards Association

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

Budget highlights

- BSC set at \$2,220; below \$2,801
- hold harmless
- provisos of interest
 - teacher appeal hearing officer
 - teacher evaluation exempt public disclosure
 - teacher salary study
 - rural teacher recruitment, retention

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

charter school ethics H.4084

- affirms ethics act applicable to charter school staff, board
- charter school contract must contain a statement of assurance of ethical compliance
- in response to attorney general's opinion

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

question: *who wrote the
declaration of independence?*

- a. John Adams
- b. George Washington
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. Benjamin Franklin

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

answer:

- a. John Adams
- b. George Washington
- c. Thomas Jefferson*
- d. Benjamin Franklin

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

question: *what is one right or freedom from the first amendment?*

- a. right to free exercise of religion
- b. right to bear arms
- c. right to vote
- d. right to a speedy trial

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

answer:

a. right to free exercise of religion

b. right to bear arms

c. right to vote

d. right to a speedy trial

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

civics education S.437

- named after SC Governor James B. Edwards
- beginning entering 9th graders take U.S. immigration citizenship test as part of government class
- no minimum score required (“doesn’t count”)
- % students passing reported to Education Oversight Committee, printed on school report card
- districts may recognize students who earn a passing grade or higher but no state funding
- test use or administration at no cost to districts

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

makeup day waivers H.3890

- general assembly out of the waiver business
- Local school board can excuse up to 3 days w/ majority vote BUT ONLY AFTER
 - schools have made up three missed days (required to be built into calendar year)
- request to waive more than 3 days must be made to the sc board of education for approval

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

waiver for ineligibility S.154

- currently state board of education may grant a waiver to a student if he or she is ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities, including athletics, due to an error on the part of district personnel
- S. 154 expands waiver criteria in two additional situations
 - ineligibility is the result of a long term absence due to a medical condition but cleared by physician
 - any other reasonable circumstance

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

meeting notices changes S.11

- public notice (dates, times and locations) of all regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar year (*no change*)
 - * agenda posted on publicly accessible bulletin board at office or meeting location and on website at least 24 hours before meeting
- public notice (agenda, date, time, location) for any called, special or rescheduled meeting no later than 24 hours before meeting
- not applies to emergency meeting

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

agenda changes

- once agenda is posted (*24 hours before meeting*), no changes can be made without an additional 24 hours notice
- 2/3rds vote (present members) required to add “action” item
- 2/3rds vote and finding of emergency or exigent circumstances required to add final action item with no opportunity for public comment
- required public hearing items do not apply (*ex. budget hearing*)

2015 legislature in review



looking **back** and looking **ahead**

domestic violence instruction

- comprehensive bill makes changes to criminal offense and other judicial processes
- education component added
- domestic violence added to the list of subjects that must be covered in a district's comprehensive health education program for grades 6 – 8 starting in 2016-2017 school year

2015 legislature in review



looking back and looking ahead

other

- raffles for charitable
 - certain non-profits, including education institutions, can conduct raffles for fundraising
- school bus driver physical exam
 - expands the type of eligible medical providers (chiropractors)
- extension of state reading plans deadline
- local surplus public fund investments

2015 legislature in review



looking back and looking ahead

looking ahead

- school start date
- statewide turnaround district
- opt-out of testing
- school funding lawsuit legislative response (5 areas)
 - transportation, facilities
 - accountability, leadership, continuous improvement
 - education recruitment, retention, effectiveness, professional development
 - early childhood, family engagement
- uniform school board election, governance