

March 19, 2020

Dear School Board Members,

As school boards across the state work through challenging governance, leadership and management issues, I have been moved by the genuine concern of our members for students who are impacted by these decisions. The creativity and dedication of your districts in meeting these challenges is to be commended. We have seen school board members working with their superintendents to understand and support their system's response to parents and community members in the wake of COVID-19. Within hours of the declaration of a statewide school closure, educators prepared online lessons and instructional packets for all children in our state so that instruction could continue. Equally important, it has been heartwarming to see you, along with district staff, coming together to provide, serve and even deliver thousands of meals to children in your district. Educators and districts are doing whatever it takes so that all students – even while at home – are being served in whatever capacity necessary to ensure that they feel the comforting embrace of their local schools.

Our schools are the hub of our communities and the epicenter of so many memorable events in the lives of our children. While the unfortunate reality is that there will likely be more disruptions ahead for our children, I know that our school boards will continue to act in the best interests of the nearly 800,000 public school children across South Carolina. I am also confident that our dedicated school board members will provide stability and model effective governance at a time when it is so desperately needed.

Know that SCSBA will continue to serve its members throughout this time. We are continuing to add new information to our <u>coronavirus resources page</u>. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can help. You can reach me by email at <u>sprice@scsba.org</u> or by phone 803.988.0259.

For safety purposes, we are operating with a mix of in-office and remote work during our normal business hours of Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Staff, as always, can be reached via email or through the main switchboard during business hours.

We hope that you and your family remain healthy and safe in the coming days.

Scott Price

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