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South Carolina School Boards Association issues statement responding to Governor's press conference on reopening schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA, S.C. — *South Carolina School Boards Association President Chuck Saylor issued the following statement in response to Governor McMaster's press conference regarding reopening schools.*

“We appreciate the Governor expressing recommendations rather than mandates, and while school boards overwhelmingly support returning to the normal operations of schools, their emphasis is on the safety of students, teachers and staff.

As the stewards of public schools, who are accountable to the citizens in their communities, school board members, with their superintendents, are carefully weighing health and safety information and guidance at the state and federal level, with a focus on disease activity ratings in their local counties, to make the best decision for the students and families in their communities.

School board members have been consistent in advocating that recommendations from the state level should include a range of options, not universal mandates, in recognition of every districts' differing needs of their students, teachers and staff, differing infrastructures and differing resources.

The decision of when and how to open schools is best made at the local level.

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