

# SCHOOL LAW CONFERENCE

**AUG. 27-28, 2022**  
HYATT REGENCY  
GREENVILLE

ESCSBA

SOUTH CAROLINA  
SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

# SCHOOL LAW CONFERENCE

## OVERVIEW

### Public schools must

constantly respond to new and changing legal requirements and procedures.

**The SCSBA School Law Conference** brings together board members, district administrators and the attorneys who advise them to present valuable, up-to-date information on legal and regulatory issues impacting public schools. This informative conference will address topics that school board members won't want to miss.

## OBJECTIVES

- Increase understanding of federal and state laws governing school boards and districts.
- Present recent legal changes affecting school boards and districts.
- Clarify the legal roles and responsibilities of board members on specialized topics.

*SCSBA will apply for CLE credit for attorneys in attendance.*

**BOARDMANSHIP  
INSTITUTE**

**15 POINTS  
7 HOURS**

## REGISTRATION

The registration fee, which includes lunch on Saturday, is \$225 per person for SCSBA members. Registration fee for all others is \$450 per person. Special dietary requests can be made when registering online. The deadline for cancellations is July 25, 2022. No refunds will be made after this date.

School board members and district administrators must register through their board secretary. Registrations by individual members are not accepted to prevent duplicate registrations, invoicing, and credit card charges.

Associate members must register through their company's contact assigned by SCSBA. Registrations by individual members are not accepted.

## HOTEL

The Hyatt Regency is located at 220 North Main Street in Greenville. A nightly room rate of \$159 for single/double occupancy, plus tax and fees, is available through July 25, 2022, or until the room block is full, whichever comes first. Hotel information is available at [scsba.org](https://scsba.org) and reservations are made using an online link. A one night's guarantee is required and may be refundable only if the reservation is canceled by August 4, 2022.

## DRESS CODE

The dress code throughout the conference is casual. Dressing in layers is recommended, as temperatures may vary in the meeting rooms.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Regional Advocacy Meeting - Lowcountry**

September 21, 2022 – Summerville, Lowcountry Conference Center

### **Regional Advocacy Meeting - Upstate**

September 28, 2022 – Spartanburg, 1881 Event Hall

### **Regional Advocacy Meeting - Midlands**

September 29, 2022 – Blythewood, Doko Manor

### **Regional Advocacy Meeting - Pee Dee**

October 5, 2022 – Florence, Florence Civic Center

### **Beyond the Basics Workshop**

October 13, 2022 - Columbia, SCSBA Training Center

### **Risky Business Seminar: SCSBIT's Workers' Compensation and Property & Casualty Insurance Trust Seminar**

October 26-28, 2022 – Hilton Head Island, Sonesta Resort

### **Legislative Advocacy Conference & Delegate Assembly**

December 3-4, 2022 - Charleston, Charleston Marriott

### **Annual Convention, New Board Orientation, Board Chair Workshop**

February 16-19, 2023 - Hilton Head Island, Hilton Head Marriott



# FRIDAY AUGUST 26

4 - 7 p.m.

**Registration**

# SATURDAY AUGUST 27

7:45 - 8:30 a.m.

**Registration and breakfast break**

● **Co-sponsored by Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.**

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

**First general session**

**Welcome and purpose**

**Jamie Devine**, SCSBA President, Richland One

**Cases and controversies:**

**A review of the national school landscape**

Learn more about key court rulings, pending cases and federal regulations affecting public schools across the country and how the national legal landscape and current trends are impacting public school boards, districts, and their students.

**Sara Clark**, Chief Legal Counsel, Ohio School Boards Association

9:45 -10:45 a.m.

**Accommodations for transgender and gender nonconforming students**

Get a review of case and statutory laws that require school districts to accommodate students based on their gender identity. Review

terminology and, through the use of scenarios, discuss how districts may respond to requests and questions. The session is designed to foster reflection about how school boards can support educational equity for transgender and gender nonconforming students.

**Helen Grant, J.D.**, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Richland School District Two

10:45 - 11 a.m.

**Beverage break**

● **Co-sponsored by White & Story, LLC**

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

## **Breakout sessions (choose one of three)**

### **The South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Government in the sunshine or in a fishbowl**

Hear from school attorneys who will review common questions related to public meetings and document requests and discuss ways to avoid FOIA pitfalls, especially in this time of increased public scrutiny. Additionally, they will share information on recent FOIA state court decisions and state attorney general's opinions that are most relevant to school districts.

**Dave Duff, Esquire**, Duff Freeman Lyon LLC

**David Lyon, Esquire**, Duff Freeman Lyon LLC

**Meredith Seibert, Esquire**, Duff Freeman Lyon LLC

### **Sink or swim: A deep dive into executive session**

This presentation will cover the rules for closed school board meetings in South Carolina. Attendees will thoroughly examine applicable statutory and case law while exploring practical application of same.

**Stephanie Lawrence, Esquire**, General Counsel, SCSBA Director of Policy and Legal Services

## **Navigating the First Amendment's impact on employee and student expression and social media**

Gain a practical understanding of current case law regarding the First Amendment's free speech clause and the ability of school districts to address student and employee conduct and expression, including the use of social media.

**Kathryn Mahoney, Esquire**, Halligan Mahoney & Williams

**Vernie Williams, Esquire**, Halligan Mahoney & Williams

12 - 1:30 p.m.

**Lunch (included in registration)**

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

## **Breakout sessions (choose one of three)**

### **What to do when you are sued**

Hear from panelists who will share what to do and what not to do if you are served with a complaint. They will take you through the different stages of a complaint and what to expect at each stage from service through resolution or trial.

**Mike Sandlin**, SCSBIT Assistant Director of Property and Casualty

**Mercedes Pinckney Reese**, General Counsel, Charleston County School District

**Allen Smith, Esquire**, Halligan Mahoney & Williams

### **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - getting back on track**

Hear an overview of the latest requirements and guidance concerning compliance with the IDEA and the COVID-19 challenges of serving students with disabilities.

**Barbara Drayton**, Deputy General Counsel, South Carolina State Department of Education

### **Taking board meetings to the next level – going viral in a positive way: effective techniques for managing public participation and live stream**

In this interactive session, learn effective techniques for managing public participation and live stream access at school board meetings. Interspersed with legal highlights and real-life examples, this breakout will pack a punch (no pun intended).

**Andrea White, Esquire**, White & Story L.L.C.

**Ashely Story, Esquire**, White & Story L.L.C.

2:30 - 2:45 p.m.

**Beverage break**

● **Co-sponsored by Boykin & Davis, LLC**

2:45 - 3:45 p.m.

### **Breakout sessions (choose one of three)**

#### **Do they fit the bill? Effective evaluation of outside counsel**

School districts, even those with in-house attorneys, often utilize outside attorneys to provide legal services such as assisting at school board meetings, administrative hearings, with special education matters, and litigation. Learn more about the oversight of and collaboration with outside legal counsel when providing these services including managing legal fees, establishing an effective means of organizational communication, and the ethical obligations that lawyers have when representing school districts.

**Doug Webb**, General Counsel, Greenville County School District

**Dr. Tiffany Richardson**, General Counsel, Berkeley County School District

**Christy Graham**, General Counsel, Dorchester County School District Two

### **Ethics for elected officials**

Get an overview of the Ethics Reform Act with an emphasis on the rules of conduct for school board members.

**Meghan Walker**, Executive Director of the South Carolina Ethics Commission

### **Policy in practice: Board policies and why they matter**

Learn what school board members need to know to understand their role in policy development. Gain a deeper understanding of the policy-making process, the critical elements of a policy, and the best practices for reviewing board policies.

**Rasheeda Cleveland, Esquire**, SCSBA Staff Attorney

4 - 5 p.m.

### **S.C. Caucus of Black School Board Members meeting**

This meeting is open to all participants.

## **SUNDAY AUGUST 28**

7:30 - 8:00 a.m.

### **Registration and breakfast break**

● **Co-sponsored by Duff Freeman Lyon, LLC**

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

### **Second general session**

#### **Opening remarks**

**Jamie Devine**, SCSBA President, Richland One

### **Navigating the challenges of school district employment issues**

Hear a discussion of critical employment issues facing school districts and an overview of the due process stages, the board's role in the process, contract

disputes and the impact of teacher and employee shortages in districts.

**Allen Nickles**, Nickles Law Firm L.L.C

**Susan Williams**, General Counsel,  
Richland County School District One

**Alex Sherard**, Senior Associate, White &  
Story L.L.C.

**Moderator:** TBD

9:00 - 9:15 a.m.

**Beverage break**

● **Co-sponsored by Boykin & Davis, LLC**

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

**Closing general session**

**What passed the legislative  
finish line in 2022?**

Get an overview of K12 bills of note that were signed into law during the 2022 legislative session and which ones will likely be back in 2023 after falling short of the deadline.

**Debbie Elmore**, SCSBA Director of  
Governmental Relations

10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

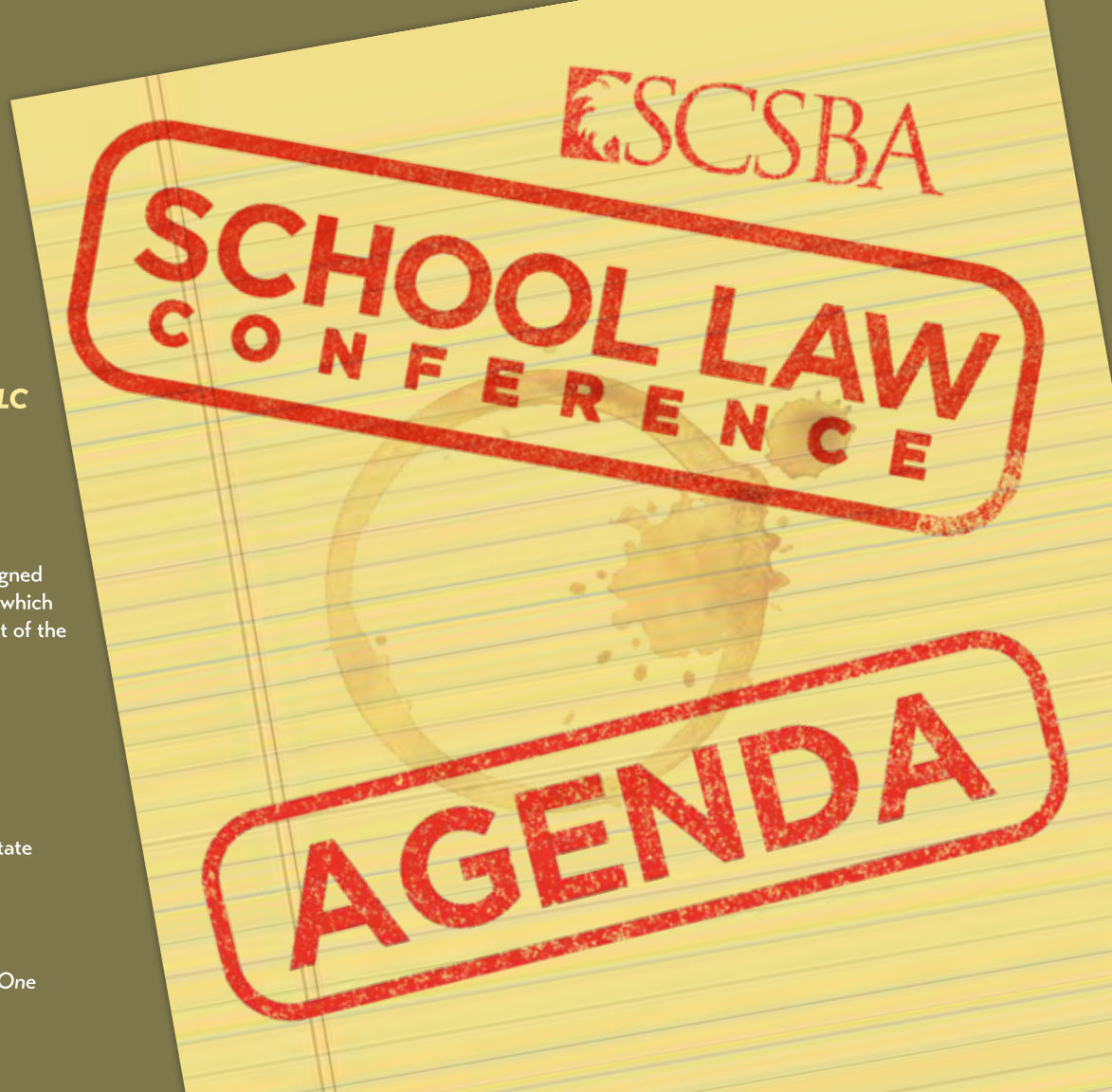
**State superintendent of education  
candidates' forum**

Hear from the candidates seeking the office of state superintendent of education.

11:30 a.m.

**Closing remarks**

**Jamie Devine**, SCSBA President, Richland One



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

SCSBA

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SCSBA • 111 RESEARCH DRIVE • COLUMBIA, SC 29203

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