



## AGENDA

### Friday, August 26

4 - 7 p.m.                    **Registration** ..... *Atrium*

### Saturday, August 27

7:45 - 8:30 a.m.            **Registration and breakfast break** ..... *Foyer*  
*Co-sponsored by Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.*

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.            **First general session**... ..... *Regency ballrooms C-H*

**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** ..... *Foyer*

*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-** *Regency ballrooms F-H*

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, L.L.C.*  
 David Lyon, *Esquire, Duff Freeman Lyon, L.L.C.*  
 Meredith Seibert, *Esquire, Duff Freeman Lyon, L.L.C.*

❖ **Sink or swim: a deep dive into executive session-** *Regency ballroom C*

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-** *Regency ballrooms D-E*

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, P.A.*  
 Vernie Williams, *Esquire, Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.*

12 - 1:30 p.m.       **Lunch** (*included in registration*) ... ..*Regency ballroom*  
*Seating is available in the Crepe Myrtle ballroom*

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.       **Breakout sessions** (*choose one of three*)

❖ **What to do when you are sued-** *Regency ballrooms F-H*

Hear from panelists who will share what to do and what not 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, P.A.*

❖ **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)- getting back on track-** *Regency ballroom C*

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-** *Regency ballrooms D-E*  
 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 LLC*  
 Ashley Story, *Esquire, White & Story LLC*

2:30 - 2:45 p.m.      **Beverage break** ..... *Foyer*  
*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-** *Regency ballroom C*  
 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-** *Regency ballrooms F-H*  
 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-** *Regency ballrooms D-E*  
 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-** *Regency ballrooms F-H*  
*This meeting is open to all participants.*



**Sunday, August 28**

7:30 - 8 a.m.           **Registration and breakfast break** ..... *Foyer*  
*Co-sponsored by Duff Freeman Lyon, L.L.C.*

8 - 9 a.m.               **Second general session** ... ..... *Regency ballrooms C-H*

**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, LLC*

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

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

**Moderator:** *Jamie Devine, SCSBA President*

9 - 9:15 a.m.           **Beverage break** ..... *Foyer*  
*Co-sponsored by Boykin & Davis, LLC*

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.   **Closing general session**..... *Regency ballrooms C-H*

**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 Education Candidates’ Forum**

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

Lisa Ellis, *State Superintendent of Education Candidate, Democratic Party*

Patricia Mickel, *State Superintendent of Education Candidate, Green Party*

**Moderator:** *Scott Price, SCSBA Executive Director*

11:30 a.m.           **Closing remarks**

Jamie Devine, *SCSBA President, Richland One*