

# ☆ L ☆ E ☆ G ☆ I ☆ S ☆ L ☆ A ☆ T ☆ I ☆ V ☆ E ☆ **ADVOCACY** C O N F E R E N C E

## Agenda

### Thursday, December 5

Noon - 1:30 p.m.     **Delegate Assembly orientation webinar**  
 Join SCSBA staff and fellow school board members from across the state for an interactive webinar. Get an in-depth overview of the SCSBA Annual Delegate Assembly, which takes place during our Legislative Advocacy Conference. Learn about the meeting’s procedures, the proposed slate of association officers, and the key Legislative Resolutions that will shape SCSBA’s legislative efforts in 2025. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions and gain valuable insights into how to effectively participate in the assembly.  
 Scott T. Price, *SCSBA Executive Director*  
 Debbie Elmore, *SCSBA Director of Governmental Relations*

### Friday, December 6

3:30 – 6:30 p.m.     **Registration** ..... Lobby  
 5:30 – 7 p.m.        **SC Caucus of Black School Board Members Meeting** ..... Opal room  
*This meeting is open to all participants.*

### Saturday, December 7

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.     **Registration and breakfast break**.....Crystal foyer  
*Co-Sponsored by White & Story, LLC*  
 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.     **First general session**.....Crystal ballroom  
  
**Welcome and purpose**  
 Michele Branning, *SCSBA President, Fort Mill Schools*

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## **Priorities of the state superintendent of education**

Don't miss this informative session to gain valuable insights into the 2025 budget recommendations and policy priorities of the state superintendent. Hear firsthand from the state's top education leader about the strategic direction and goals set to impact schools, educators, and students. The Honorable Ellen Weaver, *South Carolina Superintendent of Education*

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. **Beverage break**.....Crystal foyer  
*Co-Sponsored by Halligan Mahoney & Williams, P.A.*

9:45 – 11:15 a.m. **Second general session**.....Crystal ballroom

## **Legislative roundtable of K12 and other issues**

Join us for a must-attend roundtable session featuring key state legislative leaders who will share their perspectives on the top issues likely to shape the 2025 legislative agenda, with a focus on K12 education. Lawmakers from both the House and Senate will offer political insights, address questions on the pressing education topics up for debate and discuss how school board members can be effective advocates for their districts. The Honorable Brad Hutto, *Senate Minority Leader and member of the Senate Education Committee*

The Honorable Shane Martin, *member, K12 Senate Finance Subcommittee and Senate Finance Committee; chairperson of the Senate Corrections and Penology Committee*

The Honorable Doug Gilliam, *member, House Education and Public Works Committee and chairman of the Motor Vehicles Subcommittee*

The Honorable Michael Rivers, *member, House Education and Public Works Committee and Higher Education Subcommittee*

The Honorable David Vaughan, *member, House Education and Public Works Committee and K12 Subcommittee*

Moderator: Scott Price, *SCSBA Executive Director*

11:15 – 11:30 a.m. **Beverage break**.....Crystal foyer  
*Co-Sponsored by Boykin & Davis, LLC*

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11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Third general session** .....Crystal ballroom

**Federal legislative update**

Explore expectations for federal education policy and funding in 2025 and how they align with COSSBA’s (Consortium of State School Boards Associations) legislative priorities.

Jared Solomon, *Senior Policy Advisor, Bose Public Affairs Group, Washington, D.C.*

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch** (*Included in registration*).....Emerald ballroom  
*Co-Sponsored by Duff Freeman Seibert, LLC*

2 – 5 p.m. **Delegate Assembly** .....Crystal ballroom  
(*Delegates are asked to sign in at 1:45 p.m.*)  
Representatives of the boards governing our state’s 72 school district will convene for the association’s annual business meeting to elect officers and set the association’s 2025 legislative resolutions.

5 p.m. **SCSBA board of directors meeting** .....Emerald salon one  
*This meeting follows the annual business meeting and is open to all participants.*

**Sunday, December 8**

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Registration and breakfast break**.....Crystal foyer  
*Co-Sponsored by White & Story, LLC*

8:30 – 9 a.m. **Closing general session** .....Crystal ballroom

**Welcome**

Scott T. Price, *SCSBA Executive Director*

**Address by 2025 SCSBA president**

Charles Govan, *SCSBA President, Darlington County School District*

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. **A Conversation with SCSBA Lobbyists**  
Join the association’s experienced lobbyists for a discussion on the evolving political landscape of the South Carolina General Assembly in 2025. This session will explore the potential impacts of the November

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General Election results on education policy and funding, offering key insights into how the state's legislative dynamics may shift.

Mark Harmon, *The Harmon Consulting Group, LLC*

Duane Cooper, *The Cooper Group, LLC*

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

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

## **What are other education groups advocating for in 2025?**

Discover the key issues shaping the legislative agenda for teachers and school administrators in this engaging roundtable discussion.

Representatives from various state education organizations will share insights into the top priorities for the upcoming legislative session, highlighting the areas they will be advocating for and closely monitoring.

Ryan Bailey, *Director of Membership and Communications, S.C.*

*Association of School Administrators (SCASA)*

Phillip Cease, *Director of Governmental Relations, S.C. Department of Education (SCDE)*

Mary Rita Watson, *Statewide Member Engagement Coordinator/  
Government Relations, S.C. Education Association (SCEA)*

Patrick Kelly, *Director of Governmental Affairs, Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA)*

Dr. Jerome Singleton, *Executive Director, S.C. High School League (SCHSL)*

Moderator: Scott Childers, *York School District One, SCSBA Region 13 Director*

11 a.m.

## **Closing remarks**

Charles Govan, *SCSBA President, Darlington County School District*