

**SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2025 REGIONAL ADVOCACY MEETINGS**

**YOUR VOICE.
OUR SCHOOLS.
ONE
CONVERSATION.**

**THE MISSION OF SCSBA IS TO BE THE LEADING ADVOCATE FOR QUALITY PUBLIC
EDUCATION AND EQUIP SCHOOL BOARDS THROUGH TRAINING AND SERVICES.**



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Dinner & Door Prize

Jacelyn Arradaza

SCSBA Administrative Assistant for

Communications and Governmental Relations



Welcome

Scott Childers

SCSBA Region 13 Director

Chair, York School District One

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Greetings

Karla Kelley

SCSBA Region 16 Director

Vice Chair, School District of Pickens County



K12 funding and other issues in 2026

Debbie Elmore

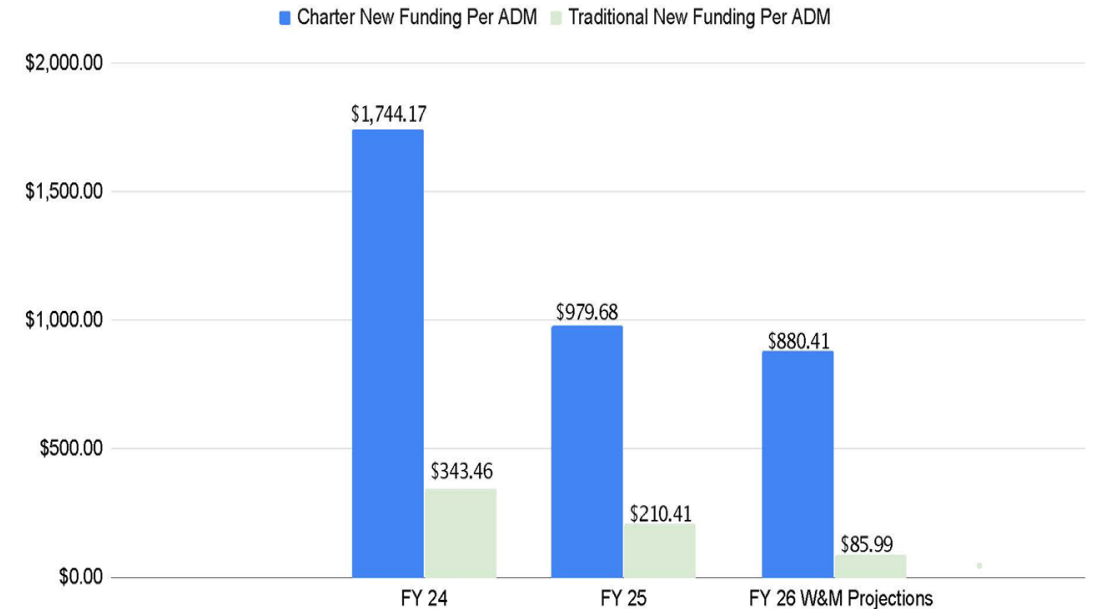
SCSBA Director of Governmental Relations

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Funding revisions

- Disproportionate distribution of “new” state funding to charter schools vs. traditional schools discovered in 2025
- Virtual charter school weighting decreased from 0.65 to 0.50
- Budget proviso 1.3 amended to direct RFA to **improve alignment** of State Aid to Classrooms funding **with student enrollment**, more **consistent distributions**, provide report by **December 1, 2025**.

New Per Student Aid to Classrooms Funding Over Time



<i>New Aid to Classrooms Funds Over Time</i>	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	
Total Allocation	\$324.3 million	\$200 million	\$112 million	
Charter Per Student	\$1,744.17	\$979.68	\$880.41	
Traditional Per Student	\$343.46	\$210.41	\$85.99	
Charter Multiplier	5.1 x	4.7 x	10.2 x	

Bills still on the table

- H.3645 - expands paid parental leave from the **current six weeks to 12 weeks** for birth or adoption of a child and from two weeks to four weeks for co-parents or for fostering a child. Passed the House and in Senate Finance Committee.
- H.3974 - allow private providers (e.g., ABA therapists) to deliver **medically necessary services** to students with autism spectrum disorder **during school hours in classroom**, under certain conditions and with appropriate oversight. Passed the House and in Senate Education Committee.
- H.3802 - expands and standardizes the rights of home school, charter school, and Governor's school students to participate in **extracurricular activities, and career and technical education (CTE)** within public school districts.

Bills still in play

- S.416 – modifies the automatic, one-year expulsion of students who bring a firearm to school as follows: requires a finding that the student **“knowingly”** brought the gun to school. Board can modify year expulsion on **case-by-case basis**. Expelled students not precluded from receiving educational services in an alternative setting, to include **virtual programming**. Passed the Senate. In House Education Committee.
- H.3431 – authorizes public schools, along with parents and minors, to **notify online services** when students may be at risk of harm (such as compulsive use, psychological distress, or exposure to inappropriate features). Passed the House. Amended by Senate and returned to the House.

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Small Group Breakout Discussions

Challenges & Concerns

- What are the top challenges your board is currently facing?
- What local concerns keep coming up in your community or with parents?
- Are there policies or mandates that are creating unintended burdens for your district?

Successes & Strengths

- What successes or innovations in your district are you proud of?

Legislative & Policy Needs

- What issues do you think deserve more attention from the General Assembly?
- How is your district being affected by current education funding?

Support & Collaboration

- What support do you need most from SCSBA moving forward?

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**Collective issues
and ideas for
solutions**



Closing