



SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

AND

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

DEC. 6-7, 2025 • CHARLESTON MARRIOTT

2026: YEAR TWO OF THE 126TH SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOIN SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE THIS DECEMBER FOR THE SCSBA LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CONFERENCE AND DELEGATE ASSEMBLY. WITH THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ON THE HORIZON, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

NEW LAWMAKERS ARE SETTLING IN. COMMITTEE AGENDAS ARE SHIFTING. EDUCATION REMAINS FRONT AND CENTER. WHAT ISSUES WILL RISE TO THE TOP? HOW WILL STATE AND FEDERAL DECISIONS SHAPE YOUR DISTRICT'S FUTURE?

HEAR DIRECTLY FROM KEY STATE LEADERS AND POLICY EXPERTS. GET THE LATEST INSIGHTS ON WHAT'S COMING, WHAT'S CHANGING, AND HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT. THIS WEEKEND IS YOUR CHANCE TO ENGAGE, ASK QUESTIONS, AND HELP SHAPE THE CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

CONFERENCE AND DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

OBJECTIVES

- Adopt SCSBA's 2026 legislative platform during the Delegate Assembly
- Explore key education issues likely to surface in the upcoming legislative session
- Hear what other K-12 organizations are supporting — and opposing — in Columbia

Board members will receive 5 points and 7 hours of credit in the Boardmanship Institute for conference attendance and participation.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee through Nov. 14, is \$275 per person for SCSBA members. The fee includes lunch on Saturday. There is an additional \$25 fee for cancellations and registrations after the deadline.

The conference registration fee is nonrefundable but transferable to anyone in the attendee's district or organization. The meeting is open to SCSBA members only.

To help prevent duplicate registrations, invoicing, and credit card charges, we no longer accept registrations from individual members. School board members and district administrators must register through their board secretary, and associate members must register through their SCSBA company contact.

For more information or assistance, contact Ashleigh Hankwitz at ahankwitz@scsba.org or 803.988.0240.

HOTEL

The Charleston Marriott, located at 170 Lockwood Blvd., Charleston, South Carolina, is offering a nightly room rate of \$152 for single/double occupancy, plus taxes and fees. This rate is available through Nov. 14, 2025, or until the room block is full—whichever comes first. Room reservation instructions will be provided to district administrative assistants.

Conference attendees must register for the conference before securing lodging associated with the event.

SCSBA.ORG



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AGENDA AT-A-G

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Delegate Assembly orientation webinar Online

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, held 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 advocacy efforts in 2026. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and gain valuable insight into how to effectively participate in the Delegate Assembly.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY DECEMBER 6-7

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE - K-12 AND OTHER

ISSUES: Join us for a must-attend session featuring key state legislative leaders who will share their perspectives on the top issues expected to shape the 2026 legislative agenda, with a focus on K-12 education. Lawmakers from both the House and Senate will provide political insight, address pressing education topics, and discuss how school board members can be effective advocates for their districts. Confirmed lawmakers include:

Sen. Shane Martin, member of the Senate Finance Committee and its K12 Finance Subcommittee; chairman of the Senate Corrections and Penology Committee

Sen. Russell Ott, member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Family and Veteran's Services Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee

Rep. Neal Collins, member of the House Ways and Means Committee and its Public Education Subcommittee; chairman of the Property Tax Ways and Means Subcommittee; and member of the House Ethics Committee. He is also a member of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee

Rep. Terry Alexander, second vice chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee and its K12 Education Subcommittee; and second vice chairman of the House Regulations, Administrative Procedures, Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Committee. He is also a member of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee

WHAT'S ON EVERYONE'S AGENDA? 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ACROSS THE EDUCATION SPECTRUM:

What's keeping education advocates up at night—and what are they pushing hardest for in 2026? In this fast-moving roundtable, advocates from state education organizations share the key issues they're championing for teachers, school administrators, and students. This session offers a front-row seat to the conversations shaping the education landscape next year. Confirmed representatives include:

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 and Government Relations, S.C. Education Association (SCEA)

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

Representative, TBD, S.C. High School League (SCHSL)

GLANCE

SCSBA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: The SCSBA Delegate Assembly will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, from 2 to 5 p.m. During this annual business meeting, delegates from across South Carolina's 71 school districts will elect the association's leadership and set the 2026 legislative platform. These decisions shape SCSBA's advocacy agenda and reflect the collective voice of local school boards statewide.

FEDERAL EDUCATION POLICY BRIEFING: Get the latest from Capitol Hill in a briefing led by a seasoned Washington, D.C.-based K-12 education insider. This clear, no-spin session breaks down the current federal landscape—what's moving, what's stalled, and what's next. Stay ahead of the curve by understanding how federal developments could affect schools, programs, and services. Presenting will be:

* **Lindsay Fryer** — President and founding principal of Lodestone D.C. and former senior education policy advisor to Chairman Lamar Alexander on the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. She served as principal negotiator on the Every Student Succeeds Act.

CONFERENCE BREAK CO-SPONSORS

- **Saturday
BREAKFAST BREAK**
Co-sponsored by Duff Freeman Seibert, LLC
- **Saturday
MORNING BEVERAGE BREAK**
Co-sponsored by Halligan Mahoney Williams, P.A.
- **Saturday
MID MORNING BEVERAGE BREAK (2nd beverage break)**
Co-sponsored by Boykin & Davis, LLC

UPCOMING 2026 BOARDMANSHIP INSTITUTE CONFERENCES

Feb. 19, 2026

NEW BOARD ORIENTATION, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Feb. 19, 2026

BOARD CHAIR WORKSHOP, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Feb. 20 - 22, 2026

SCSBA ANNUAL CONVENTION, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

March 13 - 15, 2026

COSSBA NATIONAL CONFERENCE, Louisville, Ky.

April 22, 2026

DAY AT THE CAPITOL, Columbia, S.C.

June 4, 2026

NEW BOARD ORIENTATION MAKEUP, Columbia, S.C.

Aug. 29 - 30, 2026

SCHOOL LAW, Greenville, S.C.

Oct. 8, 2026

BEYOND THE BASICS, Columbia, S.C.

Oct. 15 - 16, 2026

RISKY BUSINESS, Hilton Head, S.C.

Dec. 5 - 6, 2026

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY
CONFERENCE AND DELEGATE
ASSEMBLY**, Charleston, S.C.

