



Agenda

August 28, 2026

SCSBA School Attorneys Association

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **What Passed the Legislative Finish Line in 2026**

This session breaks down the key K-12 education laws passed during the 2026 South Carolina legislative session, and shares what didn't pass but could shape the 2027 agenda.

Presenter: Debbie Elmore, SCSBA Director of Governmental Relations

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **What We Know Now and What's Next: A Review of the Federal K-12 Landscape**

A year after SCOTUS' most consequential rulings, federal courts are putting new legal standards to work in cases affecting public schools. This session focuses on how those decisions are being interpreted in school-related disputes, with attention to free exercise, and parents' rights. We will map emerging trends, flag areas of continued uncertainty, and preview the next term's most consequential cases. The session also reviews recent federal agency actions with direct impact on public schools.

Presenter: Sonja Trainor, Executive Director, National School Attorneys Association

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 – 12:15 p.m. **Special Education Legal Update: What Every School Attorney Should Know**

This session will provide a timely review of significant legal developments affecting students with disabilities. Attendees will gain practical insight into what has changed and what remains uncertain.

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

12:15 – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch** (included in registration)

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Artificial Intelligence: The Risks Worth Knowing**

As AI tools become embedded in school culture, the legal questions surrounding them are multiplying fast. This session provides a focused look at three emerging risk areas: the use of AI-generated deepfakes to bully, harass, or impersonate students and staff; student data privacy vulnerabilities introduced by AI platforms; and the growing phenomenon of students forming emotional attachments to AI

companion chatbots. This is a practical conversation designed to help schools get ahead of the risks before they escalate.

Presenters: Mark Henderson, Director of AI Strategy & Services, Missouri School Boards Association

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. **It Ends with A Lawsuit (And A Timely Surprise Settlement) *Lively v. Baldoni, et al.* Recast in South Carolina**

The highly publicized litigation arising from the production of “It Ends With Us” has generated national attention, raising complex legal issues involving workplace misconduct allegations, defamation, retaliation, contract disputes, public relations campaigns, and the role of social media in high-profile litigation. This session examines the claims and defenses asserted throughout the dispute between Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni and explores how similar issues would be analyzed under South Carolina law.

Presenter: Thomas “Tom” Barlow, Esq., Halligan, Mahoney, and Williams, P.A.

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks, Evaluations, and Adjournment