



members matter

THE SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



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Member Matters is a newsletter from The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA) designed to provide supporters of public education with timely updates on issues that impact our lives. For more information on The SCEA, visit our website at www.thescea.org.

Legislative Update –Week 2, January 18-20, 2011

Governor Nikki Haley gave her first State of the State address this week and announced \$120 million in targeted cuts with over \$700 million more to come to make up the projected \$840 million budget deficit. Included in the Governor's list during this speech were eliminating state funding of ETV (\$9.5 million) and the Arts Commission (\$2.3 million).

Jackie B. Hicks, president of The South Carolina Education Association, released the following statement in response to Governor Haley's State of the State Address:

The SCEA applauds the governor's intention to make economic development and job creation her highest priority, and we heartily agree that education is the state's most important duty to our children. We praise her call to reduce the rate of recidivism in our prisons and to develop a better school funding formula. We respectfully submit that investing in education is the fastest and best way to achieve all these important goals. Click [here](#) to read the entire statement.

State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais this week presented a list of cuts and new funding requests to the Ways and Means Public Education and Special Schools subcommittee. Included in his recommendations are \$107 million in targeted cuts by eliminating, suspending or reducing 25 programs. In addition, Supt. Zais recommended \$36 million in new funding requests for three programs, resulting in \$71 million in cuts from the State Department of Education's \$2.4 million base budget.

The proposed cuts are:

- É Junior Scholars-\$106,790(program elimination)
- É ADEPT(teacher evaluation system)-\$1.7 million(program elimination)
- É High Schools That Work and Making Middle Grades Work-\$1.6 million(program elimination)
- É Nursing program-\$471,049(program elimination)
- É School Lunch Program(aid to school districts)-\$300,239(reduction to statute)
- É School Facilities(building maintenance to school districts)-\$10 million(program elimination)
- É SAT/ACT Improvement and High School Redesign(PSAT/PLAN tests and instructional materials)-\$280,714(program elimination)
- É Character Education(funding to districts)-\$176,988(program elimination)

ÉTechnical Assistance and Support to Below Average & Unsatisfactory Schools-\$29 million (reduction of 50%)

ÉPalmetto Gold & Silver Awards Program-\$2.3 million(currently suspended-program elimination)

ÉArts Curricula Instruction(grants and professional development for arts instructors)-\$1.1 million(program elimination)

ÉK-12 Technology Partnership)-\$10 million(suspend)

ÉInstructional Materials(textbooks)-\$12 million(suspend)

ÉOffice of School Leadership(professional development for school administrators)-\$673,154(program elimination)

ÉTeacher Quality Teacher Recruitment(CERRA)-\$656,459(15% reduction)

ÉHolocaust (visual library)-\$31,174(program elimination)

ÉWriting Improvement Network-\$215,013(program elimination)

ÉSC Geographic Alliance(partnership with National Geographic)-\$183,375(program elimination)

ÉSchool Improvement Council-\$22,465(reduction)

ÉCenters of Excellence(professional development for teachers)-\$537,526(program elimination)

ÉEducation Oversight Committee Public Relations-\$25,266(15% reduction)

ÉState Department of Education(administration)-\$235,842(15% reduction)

ÉStudent Health and Fitness Act of 2005-\$4 million(15% reduction)

ÉEducation and Economic Development Act(EEDA)-\$4 million(15% reduction)

ÉConsolidated Funds(graduation credits increase, guidance counselors, resource officers, school nurses)-\$3.2 million(15% reduction)

The proposed funding requests are:

ÉSouth Carolina Virtual Learning Program(additional teachers)-\$687,500

ÉTransportation(additional funds for fuel)-\$25 million

ÉNational Board Certification Program-\$10 million

Committee reports

House K-12 Education subcommittee

H.3241 (Owens-Pickens) Charter schools bill

Action-Favorable with amendments.

The bill was amended to eliminate the 2% administrative requirement from local funds and allows the state treasurer to be reimbursed for costs associated with administrating the revolving loan program. Jackie B. Hicks, President of The SCEA, testified at the subcommittee hearing and expressed the association's position that teachers in the S.C. Public Charters schools be provided the same opportunities for career stability(i.e. annual and continuing contracts) as traditional public schools. **Next step-Full Education Committee**

House Judiciary

H.3003 (Clemmons-Horry) Voter ID

Action-Favorable

H. 3003 would require a photo ID for anyone voting in an election in South Carolina and passed by a 13-7 vote. The bill would allow those currently without a state driver's license to get a free photo identification card from the Department of Motor Vehicles. **Next step- House of Representatives floor debate**

House Judiciary Special Laws Subcommittee

H.3041 (J.R. Smith-Aiken) School Bond Elections

Action-Favorable

H.3041 would require all school bond elections to be held at the same time as general elections.

Next step-Full Judiciary Committee

Bills in the spotlight...

S.414 (Grooms-Berkeley)-Educational Opportunity Act (tuition tax scholarship program for independent schools)

H.3407 (Herbkersman-Beaufort) -Educational Opportunity Act (tuition tax scholarship program for independent schools)

Remember to use <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/> for more information on a bill.

ACTION FOR THIS WEEK...

Let us know what you think about the proposed budget cuts from the Superintendent of Education Mick Zais and Governor Nikki Haley by sending me an email at

jlawson@thescea.org .

To find out more about The SCEA or join our efforts to protect children and public education, visit our website at www.thescea.org

The SCEA-Protecting and defending children and public education in South Carolina

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