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ANNUAL MAGAZINE | 2021



Educating in the Pandemic New Membership Details | Legislative Update

Your Advocate, Your Partner, Your The SCEA.

You are never on your own. Only The SCEA gives you access to some of education's most sought-after authorities who provide new and innovative programs you can use in your classroom and in your profession.

With resources that cover classroom management and supports, to more in-depth professional development provided by your local, state, and national affiliates— you have a team supporting you!

Whether you need help with an issue in your District Office or the Statehouse, only The SCEA gives you access to the collective voices of thousands across the state and millions throughout the country.

The SCEA is your lifeline. The SCEA gives you access to skilled staff assistance that provides doorstep service in your area as well as access to a member's only help desk that is staffed by your professional advocate.

Members can access the help desk at thescea.org/gethelp.

Membership means less worrying from you and more action from us. **The SCEA is in your corner!**

Being an educator isn't a job, it's a calling. It's also personally rewarding and professionally demanding. That's why The SCEA strives to provide you with the support you need to be great at what you do.

Check out our web site throughout the year to see what the new The SCEA has in store. Visit us at **www.thescea.org**.

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TOP 10 REASONS TO BELONG



Support and Relationships



Influence and Power



Protection and Advocacy



A voice at the table

There is power in numbers. Belonging to The SCEA amplifies your voice and gives you significant influence over the decisions that affect you, your students, and your community. Whether you advocate for changes at your school or worksite, speak at school board meetings, support increased pay and secure public school funding, or lobby your locally-elected officials, The SCEA is there to support you.



Increased pay and benefits

The SCEA prepares its members to professionally and effectively advocate for professional pay, health care, and retirement security, so a career in education remains a viable profession.



Improved professional practice

The SCEA helps you advocate for high-quality professional development and increased collaboration time so you can improve your practice. Elevate your career with our online and in-person professional learning opportunities open to all members, both certified and classified, to sharpen your skills and help you do what you love.



Nationwide community of educators

As a member of The SCEA's 3.2 million member network, you belong to your local association, state association (The SCEA), and national association (National Education Association). The SCEA is your way to connect with like-minded colleagues across the district, state, and nation who network together to better students' lives.



Improved working and student learning conditions at your work site

The SCEA empowers educators to advocate for smaller class sizes, less standardized testing, input into the curriculum, and safe buildings, to name a few. Improved working conditions mean a better learning environment for your students.



Positive change at your work site

The SCEA can help you work with administrators as a partner and collaborate with parents and community organizations to resolve issues at your school. As an education professional who works with students, you can work with administrators to solve problems together.



Enhanced rights

Each member of The SCEA receives \$3 million in professional liability insurance for workrelated issues, and our attorneys handle these issues at NO COST to members! Members also have access to our member advocacy professionals to get doorstep assistance regarding current education laws, school board policies, contracts, and more.



Commitment to social justice

Membership means joining forces with fellow educators to make a difference in students' social justice and equity issues. The SCEA offers the training and strategies needed to help achieve equity in your schools and your communities.



Free college benefit

The SCEA offers members and their families the opportunity to earn their Associates and/or Bachelors degree online with no out-of-pocket cost. The program is open to active and retired members of The SCEA, their spouses, children, financial dependents, siblings, parents and grandchildren.



Member benefits

Save money and earn cash back with NEA's Member Benefits program that offers extensive member-only benefits and discounts. Members of The SCEA have saved hundreds to thousands of dollars each year!

Reach out today to learn more and join online:

membership@thescea.org | 803.551.4141







The SCEA is taking back the narrative and transforming public education."

FROM THE PRESIDENT

hen the school year began, educators in South Carolina were confronted with continued uncertainty and instability. The return to school brought unanswered questions, apprehension, and fear about safe teaching and learning conditions with COVID. In 2020/2021. South Carolina educators also faced disregard and disrespect through a step increase freeze, a push for face-to-face instruction as the pandemic surged, and a Governor who refused to follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance by prioritizing educators for vaccination while colleagues and communities fell ill and died from the virus.

However, South Carolina's educators worked to ensure learning never stopped and lifted their collective voices to ensure educators were never silenced.

Through it all, The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA) was there with you as we worked together to educate, organize, advocate, and lead at all levels. The SCEA and members spoke up and out to make sure that promises made to educators were honored—to make sure our stories were told not about us but by us. The SCEA and members walked a step further in our movement for the schools South Carolina students deserve in our virtual summer leadership training, education advocacy leadership training, advocating for a safe return to schools, a strong Back-to-School season to grow our movement and build power for the future of our students and our profession.

This transformational work is just beginning.

You likely have already noticed the strong branding and social media presence of your Association as you returned to school.

The new The SCEA logo echos back to our powerful history. Our member-driven campaign ensures your voices are heard, your perspectives are seen, and your stories define the narrative on public education in our state.

This year, we invite you to engage with The SCEA. To invest and engage in this work as part of our collective voice and collective power.

There is no doubt you will rise to this challenge because there is nothing we cannot do when we join together to work for the public schools that South Carolina students deserve!

Sherry East

Sherry East The SCEA President



The SCEA is going to lead this fight to win for public education."

Everyone is doing their part in this movement. The next step for people who are not yet members of The SCEA is to become members today.

Can we count on you this Fall to invite three of your colleagues to be part of this movement? Reach out today and personally invite them into membership at www.thescea.org!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

he conclusion of one of the most bizarre school years of my career came with a mix of emotions relief, fear, stress, but most of all pride.

Pride came from seeing the unrelentless perseverance that our educators demonstrated to ensure South Carolina students received a high-quality public education — even in the face of the pandemic.

Our educators sacrificed their safety, endured brutal working conditions, and faced an uncertain future so that their students would have the best possible learning conditions, albeit far from ideal.

During these challenging times, The SCEA and local affiliates have stepped up to support and protect our members and advocate for our students.

Through this work, we ensured that South Carolina legislators kept their promises to restore step increases. We worked with lawmakers to prioritize educators on vaccine distribution, and we held off other attempts that attacked public education. Leveraging this collective power, The SCEA is leading the way to amplify educator voices in state-level decisions about how schools will function safely in a post-pandemic environment.

Now is not the time to take our foot off the pedal, but rather a time to involve more people in our movement.

This is a historic moment for public education in South Carolina. The SCEA has an opportunity, and obligation to protect public education from those who are undermining it and to put in place new policies that will work for students, school employees, communities, and South Carolina's future.

The SCEA is going to lead this fight to win for public education.

Belonging to The SCEA is not just about what you get when you are a member. It is about what the whole state gets when we are all members. It is about what students get when The SCEA leads all public education supporters to victory to ensure that South Carolina delivers everything that students and educators deserve.

Todd Jaeck

Todd Jaeck Executive Director





We believe empowered educators spark the minds of those who will effect positive change in the world.

South Carolina's Organization of Remarkable Educators (SCORE) is a unique community within The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA)

supporting early career educators in their first 10 years of their career. This statewide network engages and empowers educators to become successful, active and visible in their profession and community through collective action.

SCORE Supports Early Career Educators Through:

Leadership Development

Professional Growth

Peer-to-Peer Support

SCORE cultivates leaders to collectively advocate for meaningful and positive change for students and communities by building leadership skills that equip members to inspire others, be more confident in their profession and be a strong voice for their students.

SCORE gives early career educators access to some of the most sought-after authorities in education who provide new and innovative programs that members can use in their classrooms. Members have access to valuable resources in classroom management, lesson planning, and other support for the skills they want to pursue.

SCORE provides opportunities to connect and support one another through regional events, working with school districts and reaching out to aspiring educators at colleges and universities. Every student has the basic right to a great public education. That's why SCORE supports early career educators who grow tomorrow's inventors, thinkers, artists and leaders.



YOUR VOICE. OUR POWER. THEIR FUTURE!

membership@thescea.org | 803.551.4141



The SCEA Retired

We work to make sure that retired public school employees continue to get the best benefits during their retirement years.



Sharing experience, talents, and skills as mentors to ensure public education thrives

Producing leaders of change through education and encouragement."

For more information, visit: www.thescea.org/retired







INSIGHTS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION LEADERS

Vice President Dena Renee Crews



Who are you? Members of The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA) are essential and resilient.

Essential. Absolutely necessary. Extremely important.

When the pandemic hit, educators and public schools were essential. We were essential to continuing student lessons, meals, and Wi-Fi. Educators were seen as heroes. We were celebrated, honored, and valued for the first time in many years.

How quickly things

changed when it was time to return to school in the fall. Concerns for student and community safety were attacked. Educators were no longer celebrated, honored, or valued.

But educators did what we always do. We were resilient.

Those who went back face-to-face masked up and did what was necessary to keep schools and communities safe.

Despite the difficulty, educators continued to work for the sake of our children, creating new ways of teaching and reaching out. We were and are resilient.

This school year, as we move forward with the same resiliency, I urge you to never doubt that you are essential.

The SCEA continues to advocate with local school districts and the state legislature to remind them just how essential we are.

We continue to push for safe school environments and improved salaries. Why? Because our students and *you* are essential.

Bernadette R. Hampton



I'm asked often about the benefits of membership in The SCEA, and I'm always pleased to describe how membership both strengthens our profession and improves the lives and livelihoods of each member, personally and professionally. As we find ourselves beginning a third-consecutive school year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, there's no better time to consider those benefits than now.

It is always true that the more people who work together behind shared goals and values, the more quickly and completely those goals can be achieved.

As The SCEA works to protect and strengthen the profession we inherited from our mentors, our effectiveness will always be a direct result of the willingness and interest of educators to unite in that common purpose.

At the same time, the variety of programs and benefits that The SCEA provides to members enhances their lives both personally and professionally.

From professional

development and leadership opportunities at the local, state, and national levels to the myriad of personal benefits that save money for educators and their families, protect investments, and even return income to educator's pockets, the offerings of The SCEA and NEA Member Benefits are unparalleled.

To find out more about how membership in The SCEA pays for itself, just ask career-long members of The SCEA or visit us at www.thescea.org

The SCEA Executive Board Members 2021-2022

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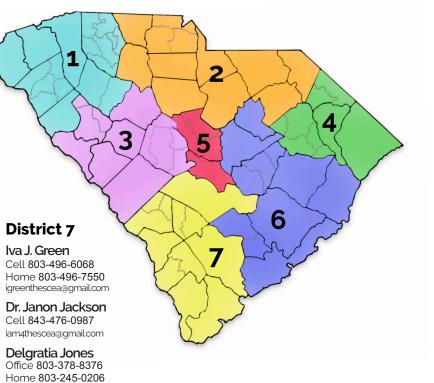
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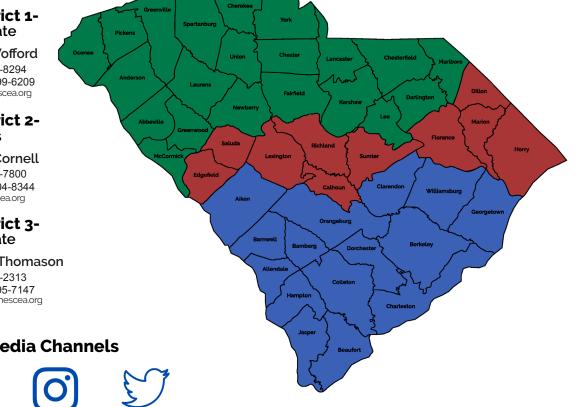
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Complete the inquiry form at: FreeCollegeSCEA.org



Apply to Eastern Gateway Community College and submit proof of high school or GED completion



Complete FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov (school code 007275)

Note: Any available federal grants will be used toward your tuition, fees and e-books at EGCG. As long as your file is complete, The SCEA Free College benefit will coverthe rest. And even if you don't qualify for any grants, a scholarship will cover the entire amount.





We believe empowered educators spark the minds of those who will effect positive change in the world.

The Student South Carolina Education Association (The Student SCEA) is a unique community within The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA) supporting undergraduate and graduate students as they prepare for careers in education. This community is active on college and university campuses across the state, providing members with the support they need to complete their education training and empower them to be active, successful and visible members of the profession.

The SCEA supports Aspiring Educators through:

Support and Relationships

Influence and Power

Protection and Advocacy **Connecting** with other Aspiring Educators who understand that balancing a course load with a workload can be overwhelming. The Student SCEA members are supported by a network of aspiring educators in teacher preparation programs who are facing the same challenges and finding ways to overcome them. Opportunities to build relationships and get support through workshops and conferences are offered throughout the year. Students belong to a caring community of likeminded colleagues and receive additional support from The SCEA's Early Career Educator Network – The South Carolina Organization of Remarkable Educators (SCORE).

Working together to make a difference in the lives of students. The four core values of The Student SCEA: Teacher Quality, Community Outreach, Political Action, and Social Justice provide foundations for how we can turn knowledge into power and advocate for students by building meaningful influence through connections with community partners, cooperating teachers, and fellow The SCEA members.

Protection and advocacy by ensuring that student teachers can focus on teaching and learning... knowing that they have **3-million dollars of professional liability protection.** The Student SCEA members may also elect a Board of Directors to advocate at the state and national level for policies and practices that will positively impact teacher preparation programs and aspiring educators by ensuring that they are not only listened to, but also heard!





Would you like to sponsor an aspiring educator's membership in The Student SCEA? We are offering you the chance to sponsor a future teacher and potential association member!

Your sponsorship will provide aspiring educators a student membership in their professional association.

Yes! I'd like to sponsor a student in The Student SCEA program!

SPONSOR OUR STUDENTS

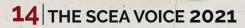
BRONZE: \$15 FOR 1 STUDENT SILVER: \$30 FOR 2 STUDENTS GOLD: \$45 FOR 3 STUDENTS TITANIUM: \$60 FOR 4 STUDENTS PLATINUM: \$75 FOR 5 STUDENTS

If you're interested in setting up a sponsorship now, you can **attach a check** for the number of sponsorships you are willing to contribute. Please mail to: The SCEA ATTN: Membership 421 Zimalcrest Dr. Columbia, SC 29210



"My hope ultimately is for teachers to find their voice in speaking up for their students and their profession as a whole...I think teachers are realizing they have a voice."

Leanna Rossi-Potter President of the Charleston County Education Association and Social Studies Teacher at Wando High School.



Educating through the **Pan(dem)ic**

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Written and photographed by Anna Morales

Through the pandemic, educators in all their forms pushed through the panic to continue providing quality education for children in South Carolina. Now, more than ever, our communities need to understand the integral role that public education and educators play in our society.

Over the past several months, we have spoken with members of The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA) to understand how they persevered as professionals and advocates despite the significant and seemingly impossible challenges of the pandemic. Here, we unmask just a few of our members who exemplify Your Voice. Our Power. Their Future.

"I am an educator because I love what I do. I have a passion for teaching students; education is something that I think every child should have access to."

Local President Elizabeth Humphrey of the Orangeburg County Education Association (OCEA) is one example of how members not only adapted and persevered but used their voices to build the power educators need to make changes students deserve. Starting off as a seventh-grade science teacher, the pandemic called Elizabeth to her new role as a school technologist. Elizabeth has become a better leader by helping teachers with technological learning and professional development through this transition and by taking the reins to lead her local during the most difficult period in education in our collective memory.

Unmasking **Our Members:**



"I am an educator because I love my kids." On her forty-four-foot bus, The SCEA and the Summerville Education Association member Linda Douglass is not only a bus driver but an educator and life-skills trainer. She and her coworkers have come together to continue their service to the community by finding creative solutions for the many roadblocks that the pandemic has presented on the bus.

"It was a learning process, and we learn right along with our kids," Douglass said. "Getting to work earlier, encouraging kids to wear their

masks, and brightening their day with song singing are all examples of this."

Linda describes one experience with a student who struggled to wear his mask.

"One boy on my special needs route would not keep his mask on — one day he told me he was Batman. I searched and I found him a Batman mask. And guess what? He wears his mask now because he's Batman," said Douglass.

Linda clearly demonstrates her love and commitment for her children community through these acts of resiliency and by using her voice to speak out for the health and safety of her students, community, and colleagues at school board meetings.

"I am an educator because I believe each person is a miracle full of unlimited potential and the real key of education is helping everyone realize they are their best teacher. Gaining that proper perspective is the best way to impact and change the world." Lewisville High School English teacher and **Chester County Education Association President** Pete Stone believes the adversity he faced as an educator through the pandemic has crafted him into a stronger teacher. Pete compares his process of transitioning to virtual teaching to maneuvering a physical injury:

"If you're right-handed, and you break your right hand, you have to learn to use your left arm," Stone said.

Pete has helped his students cope with the pandemic by reminding them of the purpose of education: Self-empowerment and realizing their potential. His students' resilience throughout the 2020-2021 academic year only strengthened Pete's confidence in this purpose. Pete's vision for The SCEA is for teachers to develop the strength to speak their perspectives to power. Doing so is not an act of rebellion, says Pete, but rather is a step closer to a more successful society. Only when we use our collective voice to build power can we create a better future for our students.



Headquarters' History

The SCEA Headquarters 1968 421 Zimalcrest Drive Columbia, SC

THE

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

February 1965- SCEA authorizes the building of a new headquarters

October 1965-Contract with architect signed

January 1967- Formal ground breaking

6

March 1967- Building Committee expanded on effect of PEA-SCEA merger 688

April 1968- Building first occupied

September 1968-Formal dedication SCEA DIRECTORS VIEW BUILDING PROGRESS

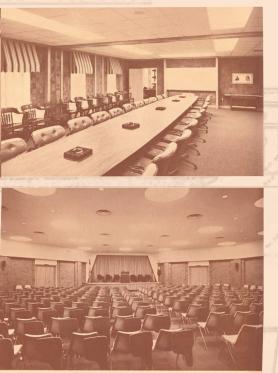


At the formal dedication, Dr. Lois V. Edinger, past President of the NEA gave the dedicatory address to over 400 guests.

Building Farewell

66 This building represents the modern-day pioneers in education. May it ever be a reminder of pride in the past, and an affirmation of faith in the future of children of South Carolina.

The SCEA Auditorium and Boardroom



The SCEA Auditorium

The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA) Headquarters currently sits on 7.4 acres on a slight rise in the southwest quadrant of the intersection of Interstate Highways 20 and 26.

The modern building was designed by Upshur, Riley and Bultman, AIA Architects-Engineers of Columbia, and was Constructed by Charles J. Craig Construction Company of Columbia. It is 31,695 square feet with two wings connected by a main lobby.

The building has served as The SCEA's headquarters for the last 53 years. It is scheduled for demolition in the Spring of 2022, as the area prepares for the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT's) 'Carolina Crossroads' the largest infrastructure project the state has ever seen. Carolina Crossroads will span

Robert S. Moore, Former The SCEA President quoted in 1968

> 14 interstate miles with 43 new bridges, seven reconstructed interchanges, and 132 additional lane miles. It will alleviate the infamous traffic at the 'Malfunction Junction' corridor between I-20 and I-26. The SCEA headquarters will move to 2999 Sunset Boulevard, West Columbia.

> The current building holds significance as the first site for the newly united organization after the merger of the Palmetto Education Association (PEA) and SCEA (South Carolina Education Association) in 1967. This historic merger created what is today known as The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA).

> This also represents the time in The SCEA's history where this unification was a triumph in South Carolina's civil rights progress and had a transformative effect on public education in the state.

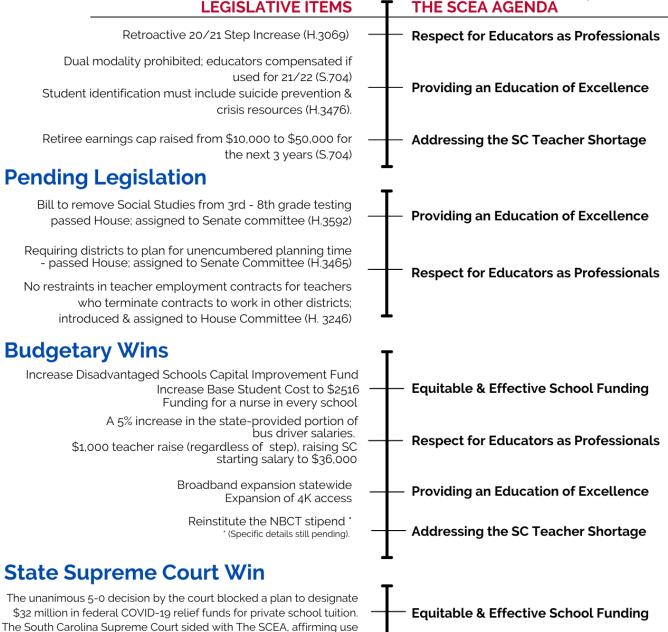


Rendering from Upshur, Riley, & Bultman Architects

The SCEA Legislative Wins 124th General Assembly Mid-term Update

www.TheSCEA.org/advocating-change

Passed Legislation



of public funds for private schools is unconstitutional in SC.

THE SCEA **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**2022

To ensure that all children in South Carolina receive the highest quality education, The SCEA recommends that the General Assembly abide by Article XI of the South Carolina Constitution and pursue the following actions:

ENSURE EQUITABLE & EFFECTIVE EDUCATION FUNDING

- 1. Fully Fund Public Schools
- 2. Fund the Outcome
- 3. Prioritize the Classroom

RESPECT EDUCATORS AS PROFESSIONALS

- 1. Provide Competitive Compensation
- 2. Increase Teacher Preparation Time
- 3. Reduce Burdensome Paperwork
- 4. Produce a Fair and Equitable Contract
- 5. Incentivize Careers in Hard-to-Staff Regions
- 6. Improve Teacher Recruitment & Retention Programs

PROVIDE AN EDUCATION OF EXCELLENCE

- 1. Reduce Standardized Testing
- 2. Measure Student Growth
- 3. Invest in Social & Emotional Learning



Read the Full Agenda:



THESCEA.ORG 19



Let's talk about the issues facing South Carolina's Educators



Blog





Roundtable Discussion

Join the discussion with the **The SCEA Movement**

THE SAC EAA

The Movement





thescea.org/the-movemen

THE SCEA 2021-2022 READ ACROSS AMERICA STUDENT ART CONTEST

CALLING ALL STUDENT ARTISTS

Using the theme "From the Mountain to the Sea," Read With Me students in grades K-12 are invited to create an art poster depicting their own original interpretation of reading across South Carolina. Special Considerations given to artwork that embraces the theme of celebrating a nation of diverse readers.

WIN RECOGNITION & CASH PRIZES

DEADLINE – November 21, 2021 Art must be postmarked to The SCEA 421 Zimalcrest Drive Columbia, SC 29210

The South Carolina Education Association 7th Annual Art Contest Details available soon at www.TheSCEA.org



Your Voice. Our Power. Their Future.



Artwork by Sean Blackshear – 2021 Grand Prize Winner





DEVELOPING YOUR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE WEBINAR SERIES

JOIN YOUR HOSTS:



Albert Jones



Todd Scholl



Kaneale Cornell



22 THE SCEA VOICE **2021**

THURSDAY SEPT 9 7-8pm

Classroom Management Tips for New Teachers

TUESDAY NOV 16 7-8pm Trauma-Informed Basics

TUESDAY JAN 18 6:30-8pm True Colors

THURSDAY MAR 10 7-8pm Flipgrid





THE SCEA **MICRO-CREDENTIALS** Professional Development at your own pace



Only The SCEA offers relevant and meaningful professional learning opportunities that are approved by The South Carolina **Department of Education (SCDE)** for licensure renewal. These micro-credentials allow you to learn at your own pace remotely or at school.

School Districts can now grant renewal credits for these courses, which are FREE to members! SCDE recommends a minimum of 12 renewal credits per earned micro-credential.

What are they? What are popular topics?



Personalized Flexible Sharable **Performance-based**





Classroom Management Teacher Leadership Restorative Practices English Language Learners Assessment Literacy



How can I start?

Visit: thescea.org/mcbank Make an account Browse for topics. Click 'Apply' to start!



JOIN ONLINE TODAY thescea.org



THE SACAEAA The South Carolina Education Association	We're here with you! The SCEA allows South Carolina's public school employees to have a collective voice to work together on issues that matter most. When we stand together we can more effectively advocate to ensure our students have great public
	schools.
Salary & Benefits	Ensure that you're paid what you're worth —including protecting your benefits such as retirement security and health care packages.
Support & Relationships	Get access to a support system of thousands of educators across South Carolina and a network of over 3.2-million members nationwide
Influence & Power	Advocate for educators and students in South Carolina and influence the decision-making right where it's happening, from the local school board to the state legislature.
Protection & Advocacy	Access advice, professional support, and receive doorstep service from the best team of education advocates and legal experts in the state.
Professional Development	Take part in high-quality, professionally curated continuing education, covering everything from classroom management to licensure and evaluations.
Leadership Training	Gain access to robust leadership training courses that will give you the skills to be an effective leader in your school, community, and state.
Free College Benefit	You and your family members can earn college credits, up to and including an associate degree and/or bachelors degree from a public, accredited colleges – with no out- of-pocket costs. Visit thescea.org/free-college-benefit for more information on the degree program.



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The South Carolina Education Association **421** Zimalcrest Drive Columbia, SC 29210 www.TheSCEA.org

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