



Legislative Update Week 4
Feb. 5, 2022

Top 3 Things to Know

1 Vouchers - Fighting on two fronts. The Senate Education Subcommittee met for a 4th time to discuss voucher bill [S.935](#). Several amendments were proposed, including changes in program responsibility, funding sources, eligibility requirements, and more. A 5th meeting will likely take place next week, but has not yet been scheduled. [Read the full S.935 discussion summary here](#) and [don't forget to take action!](#) The new House voucher bill, [H.4879](#), is scheduled for a Subcommittee meeting this coming week on Feb. 8.

2 Honesty in Education - Several House bills that seek to that pit parents against educators. House Education & Public Works Committee. [H.4325](#), [H.4343](#), [H.4392](#), [H.4605](#), and [H.4799](#) on their surface claim to focus on banning "Critical Race Theory" but in actuality impose top-down censorship policies about topics not part of the SC education standards. **It's important to note that the next hearing on this bill, during which the public will be able to make comment, has been moved to the afternoon of Feb. 16 after the House adjourns.** To put your name on the list to make comment, contact Executive Assistant Ginger Lee [by email at GingerLee@schouse.gov](mailto:GingerLee@schouse.gov) or call 803-734-3053.

3 Open Enrollment - This week [S.544](#), a bill that would create Open Enrollment program for all South Carolina's schools was discussed in the Senate Education Subcommittee. [The full discussion summary is linked here](#). Many questions regarding funding, including impact to districts who may lose students, potential fiscal and enrollment uncertainty, and transportation concerns were discussed by both Subcommittee members and testifying organizations.

[Check out the Week Ahead with Legislation and Meetings of Interest!](#)

Use Your Educator Voice!

👍 Cheers - Rep. [Cobb-Hunter](#) (Orangeburg) introduced [H.4892](#), a bill that expands and simplifies the South Carolina Teacher Loan Forgiveness program. [H.4892](#) would make changes to the current program through the [South Carolina Student Loan](#)

[Corporation](#) required by [Section 59-26-20 of the South Carolina Code](#). Under this proposed legislation, eligibility for loans that can be forgiven up to 100% is simplified so that teachers need only teach in a South Carolina public school, regardless of content area or the geographic area in which they teach. Reach out to Rep. [Click here to thank Rep. Cobb-Hunter for introducing this legislation.](#)

Senators not sponsoring harmful voucher bill [S.935](#).

[Use this link to check out whether your Senator is one of the Senators not sponsoring S.935 and to send an email thanking them for not sponsoring and urging them not to support the bill.](#)

The Senate Education Full Committee gave a favorable report to S.946, a bill introduced by [Senator Goldfinch](#) (R, Georgetown) for unencumbered time for teachers. The SCEA has played a critical role in advocating for this legislation to be introduced, amended to be favorable, and Unencumbered Time is a key part of [our Legislative Agenda](#).

[Click here to thank the Committee](#), and be sure to [reach out to your state senator to urge them to support S.946!](#)

 **Jeers - Twenty out of 29 Republican Senators** are sponsoring [S.935](#) **Education Scholarship Account Vouchers.**

[Use this link to check out whether one of these 20 Republican Senators is your state Senator, and to let them know you are disappointed in their support for S.935, a bill that harms public schools.](#)

[Rep. Elliott \(Greenville\)](#) added his name to sponsor harmful voucher bill [H.4879](#) .

At this point in the process, all House members need to hear from you. Send your Representative an email to let them know you do not support private school vouchers and not to support [H.4879](#). ([Not sure who your Representative is? Use this link!](#))



Above: This week The SCEA livestreamed the Senate Education Subcommittee's discussion of **S.935** to make sure you have access to the information you need. [Watch the full discussion here!](#)

During the fourth discussion of S.935, several amendments were proposed ([Read the full S.935 discussion summary here](#)). The Subcommittee carried over the discussion to a fifth meeting (not yet scheduled).

No public comment was taken. However, testimony is not the only way to make your voice heard on this important issue.

You can help get the word out about this harmful legislation and the severe consequences it could have for public schools by [sharing on social media](#) and, most importantly, [writing to the members of the Senate Education Subcommittee now](#).

Click below to send your email to all five Senators on the Subcommittee!

Email the Senate Education Subcommittee Now!



Contact your elected officials at any level on any issue.

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Do you believe every South Carolina student deserves a great public school?

including email, phone number, and even their Facebook or Twitter.

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Take the Pledge!

The Week Ahead

[Click here for a look at the meetings scheduled for next week](#) on bills of interest to education.

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