



Legislative Update Week 14

April 16, 2022

Top 3 Things to Know

1 Senate Raise Recommendation Falls Short - The Finance K-12 Subcommittee met Monday to consider provisos related to K-12 Education prior to the full Senate Finance committee on the budget this week.

- [Monday's subcommittee meeting summary can be found here.](#)
- [All of the subcommittee proviso recommendations can be found here.](#)
- [Tuesday's Finance Committee summary can be found here.](#)
- [Wednesday's Finance Committee summary can be found here.](#)
- [The SCEA live-tweets of the raise discussion on Wednesday can be found here.](#)

Unfortunately, the Senate proposal falls far short of the raises that all South Carolina educators and school staff deserve. In fact, the Senate recommendation only raises the state minimum salary to \$38,000 rather than the House's recommended \$40,000.

Only [25 districts](#), or about a third, would be required to give any raises under senators' plan since they already pay at or above the \$38,000 starting point.

The SCEA believes that historic crisis must be met with historic solutions. [Act now to urge your legislators to vote to provide funding for raises for all of South Carolina's educators and staff on the frontlines of our Public Schools, no matter where they work, what position they hold, or what stage they are in of their career.](#)

2 Changes to the Funding Formula - The other recommendations from the finance committee on K-12 education would make ill-advised changes to the education funding formula through a proviso rather than the full legislative process.

In a year in which our state has an unprecedented level of funding available to increase and fully fund base student cost. The new formula no longer requires the determination of the true cost to educate a child in writing the budget and also reduces funding weighting for Career/Tech/Vocational courses, eliminates of the the funding weighting for Dual Credit courses, and now requires 25% local match for local school districts to receive Education Improvement Act (EIA) funding.

It is worth noting that the match requirement in particular mirrors some of the most inequitably, locally-burdened funding models from other states in the country.

Unfortunately, an amendment that would slow down these rushed changes in the funding formula and that would have guaranteed all teachers a \$2500 raise was tabled. [You can take action now to let your Senator know that you disapprove of these recommendations prior to the budget being debated on the Senate floor in two weeks.](#)

3 *Read to Succeed Bill* - The Senate Education Subcommittee met this week to discuss [H.3613](#), a bill that would make changes to the Read to Succeed program.

The SCEA President Sherry East and member Barbie Ross testified about the educator experience in the Read to Succeed program and the changes educators need. [A full meeting summary can be read here.](#)

Don't forget that with any legislation or issue, you can reach out to your elected official by phone, email, or even social media [using this tool!](#)

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



Above: The SCEA President Sherry East and member Barbie Ross testify on H.3613.

Use Your Educator Voice!

👍 Cheers - Senator [Mike Fanning](#) for proposing an amendment that would have given all educators in South Carolina a guaranteed \$2500 raise and slowed the ill-advised changes to the state school funding formula.

Senators [Johnson](#), [Jackson](#), [McElveen](#), [Scott](#), and [Setzler](#) for expressing concerns and frustration with the way the funding formula changes were proposed in a proviso and for expressing that educators are still not getting the raise they deserve. [Reach out to your Senator now to let them know ALL educators and school staff deserve a raise!](#)

The Senate Education Subcommittee on H.3006 with Senators [Grooms](#) and [Rice](#) for voting to give a favorable report to a bill that would no longer allow students' families to be taken to collections over school-lunch debt, as well as eliminating some forms of meal-shaming. [You can urge your Senator to vote YES on H.3006 by finding their email here!](#)

👎 Jeers - Senator [Bennett](#) for moving to table the amendment that would have ensured all educators get a \$2500 raise and that would allow for more voice and deliberation in changing the school funding formula.

Senator [Cromer](#) for stating that he believes districts should be able to choose to give raises to some teachers and not others.

[Reach out to your Senator now to let them know ALL educators and school staff deserve a raise!](#)

🔴 Take Action! 🔴



South Carolina's schools are facing an unprecedented educator and school staff shortage crisis that only deepens by the day.



When the House returns from furlough on April 19th, the Ways and Means Committee will begin discussion on voucher scheme S.935.

Students deserve to have fully staffed schools & a highly qualified educator every classroom.

Legislators need to fund it.

Urge your Senator and Representative to [fund raises for ALL](#) South Carolina educators and schools staff.

Advocate for raises for ALL!

And while H.5183 did not meet the crossover deadline, elements of this harmful anti-truth censorship bill H.5183 may find its way into other legislation.

These are blatant attacks on South Carolina's Public Schools and the over 96% of students who attend them.

Tell Your Representative to Stand Up for Public Schools!

Reach out to your Senator

The House recently passed H.4608, a bill that would prohibit transgender students from participating in student sports. The bill is nearly identical to measures that were rejected six times in the 2021 legislative session. The bill now heads to the Senate.

Rather than prioritizing raises for all educators and staff, working to address the staff shortage crisis, or to improve working conditions, legislators have chosen to prioritize H.4608. Contact your Senator now to share how you feel.

Email your Senator Now!

National Action Alert!

We have an opportunity right now to support the U.S. Department of Education's plan to cut federal grant opportunities from for-profit charters. For too long these corporate interests have wedged themselves into our communities and taken precious resources that our students, schools, and colleagues have needed.

Send a comment to the department in support of this action today and urge them to hold charter schools accountable. [This link provides more information about the public notice and an editable message for you to include.](#)

👁️ Legislation to watch 👁️

[S.946](#) the unencumbered time bill has been assigned to the House Education and Public works committee. Stay tuned to The SCEA updates for action to take soon!

The Week Ahead &

Want the latest on federal

Legislation of Interest

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



Contact your elected officials at any level on any issue.

Click this button to find their contact information, including email, phone number, and even their Facebook or Twitter.

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legislation?

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

Make sure your state Senator & Representative know that Public Education issues will have most impact your decision as a voter.

[Take the Pledge!](#)

