



***Week 7: February 20 - February 22***



*The SCEA President Sherry East with Senator Mia McLeod.*



## **House Recess and Budget Updates**

Although the full House was not in session this week, the House Ways & Means Committee did meet to continue working on the budget. They have approved a list of provisos regarding education funding, which you can view [here](#). The Committee has also put together a spreadsheet outlining education funding in the proposed budget so far, which you can view [here](#).

On Wednesday, the Ways & Means Committee released a proposed update to the minimum statewide salary schedule, which would raise the starting salary to \$47,000. Unlike the Governor's proposal, this salary schedule starts with bachelor's degree and includes pay increases for bachelor's +18, master's, master's +30, and doctorate degrees. You can view the full salary proposal below:

Figure 1

FY 2024-25 W&M DRAFT MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE (as of 2/1/24)

YEARS EXP	BACHELORS	BACHELORS	MASTERS	MASTERS	DR
	DEGREE	DEGREE + 18 HOURS	DEGREE	DEGREE +30 HOURS	DEGREE
0	\$47,000	\$47,500	\$51,000	\$52,500	\$55,000
1	\$47,250	\$47,750	\$51,250	\$52,750	\$55,500
2	\$47,500	\$48,000	\$51,500	\$53,000	\$56,000
3	\$47,750	\$48,250	\$51,750	\$53,250	\$56,500
4	\$48,000	\$48,500	\$52,000	\$53,500	\$57,000
5	\$49,000	\$49,500	\$53,000	\$54,000	\$57,500
6	\$49,500	\$50,000	\$53,500	\$54,500	\$58,000
7	\$50,000	\$50,500	\$54,000	\$55,000	\$59,000
8	\$50,500	\$51,000	\$54,500	\$55,500	\$60,500
9	\$51,000	\$51,500	\$55,000	\$56,000	\$62,000
10	\$52,000	\$52,500	\$56,000	\$57,000	\$63,250
11	\$52,500	\$53,000	\$56,500	\$58,000	\$64,500
12	\$53,000	\$53,500	\$57,250	\$59,000	\$65,750
13	\$53,500	\$54,000	\$58,000	\$60,000	\$67,000
14	\$54,000	\$54,500	\$58,750	\$61,000	\$68,250
15	\$54,500	\$55,000	\$59,500	\$62,000	\$69,500
16	\$55,000	\$55,500	\$60,250	\$63,000	\$70,750
17	\$55,500	\$56,000	\$61,000	\$64,000	\$72,000
18	\$56,000	\$56,500	\$61,750	\$64,500	\$72,500
19	\$57,000	\$57,500	\$62,750	\$65,000	\$73,000
20	\$57,500	\$58,000	\$63,250	\$65,500	\$73,750
21	\$58,000	\$58,500	\$63,750	\$66,000	\$74,500
22	\$58,500	\$59,000	\$64,250	\$66,500	\$75,250
23	\$59,000	\$59,500	\$64,750	\$67,000	\$75,750
24	\$59,500	\$60,000	\$65,250	\$67,500	\$76,000
25	\$60,000	\$60,500	\$65,750	\$68,000	\$76,250
26	\$60,500	\$61,000	\$66,250	\$68,500	\$76,500
27	\$60,750	\$61,250	\$66,500	\$68,750	\$76,750
28+	\$61,000	\$61,500	\$66,750	\$69,000	\$77,000

Each of the budget provisos, including this working salary schedule, still must go through the full House, then the Senate Finance Committee—which means they are still a long way from being finalized.

If you would like to contact the House to give feedback on proposed budget items (such as the proposed pay schedule), click the link below to contact your Representative. (You will need to input your address and then click the envelope icon next to your Rep's name.)

[Click Here to Contact Your Representative](#)

## H.4624: Gender-Affirming Care

On Wednesday, the Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee held yet another hearing on [H.4624](#).

Most of this bill pertains to medical care and seeks to ban minors from receiving “gender-affirming care.” It also bans Medicaid from reimbursing for gender-affirming care provided to individuals under the age of 26.

Originally, this bill required educators to out transgender and nonbinary students, even if doing so puts the student at risk of abuse or homelessness. That provision was taken out in the House, but the subcommittee approved an amendment to put that language back into the bill. You can view that amendment in full [here](#).

The SCEA is deeply concerned that H. 4624 would prevent a safe environment for educators to effectively communicate with students. During public comment in both chambers, doctors, transgender individuals, educators, and parents of transgender children spoke about the extreme harm this bill would cause.

Our Center for Educator Wellness and Learning (CEWL) hosted a [livestream discussion](#) about this bill, gender affirming care, and the negative impacts this will have on LGBTQ+ people in South Carolina.

The subcommittee favorably reported the bill and it now goes to the full Senate Medical Affairs Committee. Click the link below to tell the Senate Medical Affairs Committee to oppose this bill.

[Click Here to Email the Committee](#)

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## The SCEA Lobby Day 2024

There’s still time to register for The SCEA’s annual Lobby Day on Wednesday, February 28. Join fellow active, aspiring, and retired members to advocate for our students, our schools, and our profession at the South Carolina Statehouse!

Lobby Day brings members from across the state together at the state capitol to discuss legislative priorities with elected officials. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to make your voice heard.

Click the link below for additional information and registration.

[Click Here to Join Us for Lobby Day](#)

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## S.418/S.905: Read to Succeed

The Senate passed [S.418](#) with a 41-2 vote on Wednesday. This bill eliminates Read to Succeed requirements for educators who are not directly involved in teaching early literacy. It also directs educators to use the “Science of Reading” approach to teach literacy and reading, requires that third graders who cannot demonstrate reading proficiency be held back, and extends summer reading camps so they start earlier than third grade.

The bill now goes back to the House for approval.

Please contact President East at [seast@thescea.org](mailto:seast@thescea.org) if you have any feedback.

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## State-level Candidate Filing Deadline

Filing for state-level candidates begins on March 1 and closes on March 30, 2024. As a reminder, the full House and the Senate are up for reelection this year.

The SCEA will monitor candidate filing and provide more information about candidates and upcoming elections as they get closer.

In the meantime, you can learn more about upcoming elections at [www.scvotes.gov](http://www.scvotes.gov)

Unsure of who your legislators are? Use our handy [legislator lookup tool](#) to find your elected officials!

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## H.4374: Social Studies Curriculum

[H.4374](#) is a bill that would change the way that social studies curriculum is evaluated. This bill was originally introduced in April of last year and directed social studies curricula to take a “traditional approach to history, which emphasizes the importance of leading individuals and key events in shaping the political, constitutional, intellectual, economic, diplomatic, and military history of the United States.”

The bill now includes a provision that requires that anyone responsible for reviewing or revising state standards “may not have a record of promoting political or social issues in classroom instruction, including the presentation of theoretical perspectives that are critical of society and culture as being factual” and “may not have a record of supporting narratives which characterize the founding of the United States, its evolution to a constitutional republic, or the history of the United States in general, as a story of oppression.” This bill also gives State Superintendent Ellen Weaver the authority (“at her discretion”) to remove someone if she feels they have violated these provisions.

The House Education & Public Works Committee held a hearing on this bill on Tuesday, but no action was taken.

[You can read the bill in its entirety here.](#) Please read this bill carefully and send all feedback to President East, [seast@thescea.org](mailto:seast@thescea.org).

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## Paid Student Practicums



The Student SCEA has launched a campaign to push for paid student practicums in South Carolina. Currently, student teaching is unpaid, creating a barrier to entry for aspiring educators who cannot afford to work without pay.

The Student SCEA is advocating for paid student teaching because work should be compensated, and because our teacher shortage crisis is too dire to continue excluding would-be educators who cannot afford to work for a semester without pay.

Visit our Action Center and let us know how you're willing to advocate for paid student teaching!

Tell us How You'd Like to Advocate for Paid Practicums!

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## Education Bills That Moved This Week

### **SB839: HOMICIDE BY CHILD ABUSE**

(Alexander, T)

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16-3-85, RELATING TO HOMICIDE BY CHILD ABUSE, SO AS TO INCREASE THE AGE OF A CHILD UNDER THIS SECTION FROM UNDER THE AGE OF ELEVEN TO UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.

- 2/20/2024 - Senate Judiciary, (Bill Scheduled for Hearing)
- 2/20/2024 - Senate Committee recommends passage, as amended Senate Judiciary
- 2/21/2024 – Committee report Senate Judiciary: Favorable

### **HB4624: GENDER REASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES**

(Hiott, D)

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 42 TO TITLE 44 SO AS TO DEFINE GENDER, SEX, AND OTHER TERMS, TO PROHIBIT THE PROVISION OF GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURES TO A PERSON UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS, TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURES, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES; AND BY ADDING SECTION 59-32-36 SO AS TO PROHIBIT PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFF AND OFFICIALS FROM WITHHOLDING KNOWLEDGE OF A MINOR'S PERCEPTION OF THEIR GENDER FROM THE MINOR'S PARENTS, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

- 2/21/2024 - Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee on HB4624, (Bill Scheduled for Hearing)
- 2/21/2024 - Senate Subcommittee recommends passage, as amended, Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee 4-Ayes 3-Nays

### **SB244: SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

(Kimbrell, J)

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59-19-40, RELATING TO CERTAIN SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES, SO AS TO PROVIDE

THAT ELECTIONS FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES MUST BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS THE GENERAL ELECTION IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS.

- 2/21/2024 - Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Selection of Judges, (Bill Scheduled for Hearing)

#### **HB3309: SEIZURE SAFE SCHOOLS ACT**

(GILLIAM L)

A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "SEIZURE SAFE SCHOOLS ACT" BY ADDING SECTION 59-63-97 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEIZURE ACTION PLANS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH PLANS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

- 2/21/2024 – Senate Education Committee (Bill Scheduled for Hearing)

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## **Upcoming Meetings of Interest**

Below are meetings scheduled for next week on bills of interest to you. You can click on the date link to view the agenda and the bill number to see the legislation.

#### **Tue 2/27 in Blatt Room 427**

H 4333 (Mobile Optometry Units)

#### **Tue 2/27 in Blatt Room 433**

H 4649 (Private Security Services in Public Schools); H 4655 (Unstructured and Self-directed Recess in Public Schools); H 4866 (Smart Heart Act)

#### **Wed 2/28 10:00 AM in Gressette Room 105**

H 3295 (Education: Competency-based Education); H 3309 (Seizure Safe Schools Act)

#### **Wed 2/28 10:00 AM in Gressette Room 308**

S 965 (Vaccination Discrimination Prevention Act)

#### **Thu 2/29 9:00 AM in Gressette Room 209**

H 4624 (Gender Reassignment Procedures)

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## **Introduction of Interest**

Below are bills that were introduced that may be of interest to you. We have provided a brief description as well as a link to the full text of each bill. Please review and let us know if you have any comments or concerns.

#### **S. 1092: Rosenwald School Day**

Fanning

Senator Mike Fanning (D-Fairfield) introduced a Senate Resolution to declare February 28, 2024, as "Rosenwald School Day" in South Carolina.

- This resolution was adopted by the Senate.

#### **S. 1093: Interscholastic Sports Competition**

Campsen

Senators Chip Campsen (R-Charleston), Stephen Goldfinch (R-Georgetown), Ross Turner (R-Greenville), Sandy Senn (R-Charleston), Josh Kimbrell (R-Spartanburg) and Larry Grooms (R-Berkeley) introduced legislation to require an appeals process for an alleged rule violation of a voluntary association that establishes and enforces bylaws or rules for interscholastic sports competition for public secondary schools in the State to include the procedural due process protections of the Fourteenth Amendment, including, but not limited to, the right of an alleged rule violator to cross-examine testimony made against the alleged rule violator.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Education committee.

