



Week 10: March 12 - March 14



The SCEA President Sherry East with Representative Russell Ott at the South Carolina State House.



Budget and Education Provisos

This week, the House focused predominantly on the budget, [H.5100](#). The budget passed [104-15](#), with several members of the Freedom Caucus voting against the budget.

As it currently stands, the budget includes raising starting teacher pay to \$47,000, extending the step schedule five years so that it ends at 28 steps instead of 23, and keeps the existing 5 lanes on the salary schedule for bachelor's, bachelor's +18, master's, master's +30, and doctorate:

Figure 1

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

YEARS EXP	BACHELORS DEGREE	BACHELORS DEGREE + 18 HOURS	MASTERS DEGREE	MASTERS DEGREE +30 HOURS	OR 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

Note: The picture says "draft," but this is the version that was passed in the budget. We have shown this table because it is the most easily readable version of the salary schedule.

The 2024-2025 budget increases per-pupil spending to \$18,026, which is \$471 higher than last year. It adds \$30 million to State Aid to Classrooms. It also designates \$20 million towards school safety upgrades, \$35 million in lottery funds for leasing/purchasing of school buses, \$24 million to cover increased expenses for First Steps, \$40 million for instructional materials, and \$10 million for the Palmetto Math Project.

The budget is currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

You can view all the education budget provisos [here](#).

Proviso 1.79: Partisanship Curriculum

This is the same budget proviso that has been in place for the past few years regarding censorship. This proviso includes many of the core elements of censorship bill H.3728 bans state funding from being used to “provide instruction in, teach, instruct, or train” any school employee or student on the following concepts:

- “An individual, by virtue of race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.”

- “An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of their race or sex.”
- “An individual, by virtue of race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of their same race or sex.”
- “An individual should feel...psychological distress on account of their race or sex.”
- “Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by members of a particular race to oppress members of another race.”

Typically, once a proviso is placed in the budget, it remains in the budget unless it is explicitly removed, which is why we have seen this proviso return year after year. However, it only applies to state funding and is not as far-reaching as a censorship bill would be.

Proviso 1.49: Interscholastic Athletic Associations

Budget proviso 1.49 establishes rules regarding private and charter schools for interscholastic athletic associations. School districts are preventing from giving money to interscholastic athletic associations that do not guarantee that private or charter schools have the same rights and privileges as all other members of the association. It prevents private and charter schools from being expelled from or having membership withheld from an association purely because it's a charter/private school.

It also prevents districts from giving money to associations that do not allow homeschool athletes to participate.

Voucher Lawsuit

[Rep. Russell Ott](#) (Calhoun) and [Rep. Neal Collins](#) (Pickens) both attended oral arguments for our lawsuit challenging the recently-enacted voucher lawsuit and have expressed support for our position that this voucher program is unconstitutional.

If you would like to thank the Representatives for supporting our position, you can send a message to Rep. Ott [here](#). You can send a message to Rep. Collins [here](#).

S.245: Booster Clubs

On Monday, the Governor signed [S.245](#). This bill prevents individuals with specific criminal convictions from serving as financial officers for a public schools' booster club. It also requires booster clubs to register with their school district

annually.

S.418: Read to Succeed Standards

On Thursday, Governor McMaster signed [S.418](#) into law. 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.

School District Reapportionments

This week, the Senate gave third reading to two school district reapportionment plans:

[H.5153](#) would restructure Anderson District 2 by replacing the existing two multimember districts with four single-member districts. School Board members must reside in the district they wish to represent and will serve four-year terms.

[H.5168](#) changes the Kershaw County school board district lines and numbers to reflect population growth and changing demographics.

On Monday, Governor Henry McMaster signed the following school district reapportionment plans:

[S.738](#) changes the Clarendon County school board district lines and numbers to reflect population growth and changing demographics. It took effect on Monday.

[S.782](#) changes the Jasper County district lines to reflect population and demographic changes. It was signed by the Governor and took effect on Monday.

[H.4868](#) changes the Florence School District 3 single-member school board district lines to reflect population and demographic changes. This does not change the external boundary lines of the district. This bill was signed by the Governor and took effect on Monday.

[H.4876](#) changes the filing rules for Dorchester County District 4. It requires that board members must be residents of the single-member district that they are elected to represent. It also changes the filing requirements so that candidates file a statement of intention of candidacy with the Dorchester County Board of Voter Registration and Elections.

[H.4892](#) changes the Anderson County District 1 lines to reflect population and demographic changes. It makes similar changes to the Anderson County Board of Education.

S.1046: Judicial Merit Selection Commission

This week, the Senate passed [S.1046](#) in a 41-0 vote. This bill reforms the current appointment process for appointments to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission (JMSC) after concerns were raised about lawyer-legislators having a say in appointments.

This bill reduces the number of JMSC members from 10 to 9 and allows the governor to appoint two members. The Speaker of the House and President of the Senate each pick one member, and then one member each is selected by the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, the South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Commission on Indigent Defense, and then the final member is selected by the South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice. The Chief Justice's appointee must be a former state or federal member of the bench.

It also prevents active solicitors, public defenders, and current lawyer-legislators from serving on the JMSC.

You can find more information on S.1046 [here](#).

Education Bills That Moved This Week

[SB245: BOOSTER CLUBS](#)

(Kimbrell, J)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-17-170 SO AS TO PROHIBIT PERSONS WITH CERTAIN CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS FROM SERVING AS PUBLIC SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB FINANCIAL OFFICERS, TO PROVIDE SUCH BOOSTER CLUBS ANNUALLY SHALL REGISTER WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OR CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER OF ITS SCHOOL, AND TO PROVIDED RELATED POWERS AND DUTIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS AND CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS. - RATIFIED TITLE

- 3/11/2024 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
 - 3/14/2024 - Act No. 112
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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.

[Wed 3/20 9:00 AM in Gressette Room 207](#)

[H 4700](#) (South Carolina Social Media Regulation Act)

[Thu 3/21 9:00 AM in Blatt Room 433](#)

[H 4702](#) (Computer Science Education Initiative Act); [H 4703](#) (South Carolina Stem Opportunity Act); [H 5245](#) (Charter School Enrollment Preferences)

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.

[H. 5266: Charleston County School District](#)

Wetmore

Representative Spencer Wetmore (D-Charleston) introduced legislation to revise the dates which a candidate for Charleston County School District Board of Trustees must affirm, in writing, that he meets, or will by the time of the election, the qualifications for the office.

This bill was referred to the Charleston Delegation.

[H. 5267: Saluda County School Board, Reapportioned](#)

Forrest

Representative Cal Forrest (R-Saluda) introduced legislation to reapportion election districts from which certain members of the Saluda County School District must be elected, provide demographic information, and make conforming changes.

This bill was referred to the Saluda Delegation.

[S. 1160: School Mapping Data Program](#)

Hembree

Senator Greg Hembree (R-Horry) introduced legislation to create the school mapping data program within the State Department of Education for the purpose of facilitating efficient emergency responses in public schools by public safety agencies. This bill provides requirements for school mapping data, including compatibility with certain software programs and verifiable accuracy. Each school district would be required to pay an annual maintenance fee to update their school map that may not exceed \$650 for each school.

This bill was referred to the Senate Education Committee.

[S. 1165: Child ID](#)

Shealy

Senator Katrina Shealy (R-Lexington) introduced legislation to require the Department of Education to provide all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools inkless, in-home fingerprint and DNA identification kits to be distributed to the parent or legal custodian of any K-12 student.

This bill was referred to the Senate Education Committee.

