

The SCEA Legislative Agenda for 2017 PRIORITIES and POSITIONS

Preamble

The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA), through adoption of this legislative program by the Representative Assembly, sets forth the legislative policies of the organization. The lobbying resources of the organization will be used to achieve legislative goals, advance association objectives and monitor the legislature's activities. The SCEA's advocacy efforts will be accomplished through the efforts of the leaders and members of the Local Education Associations. The SCEA is committed to assisting all LEA's and members as they advocate to improve the overall quality of the public education system in South Carolina).

Priorities

The SCEA sets the following five priorities for the 2017 legislative session:

1. To enhance efforts for a safe and professional work environment for all educators, including providing planning time for all teachers at each level. The SCEA will advocate for salary increases that compensate educators making less than \$66K, with a 4 percent increase and those above \$66K, with a 2 percent increase. In addition, we will provide strategies that improve recruitment, mentoring and retention of new teachers and provide professional development that benefits educators; while maintaining the current system of due process rights.
2. To advocate for a teacher evaluation system in South Carolina that includes student growth and multiple measures of educator performance.
3. To support efforts that will end inequities between high and low performing school districts and eliminate similar disparities within the same school districts. In addition, we support the defeat of efforts to develop achievement school districts (ASD) or efforts to remove local control of public schools. To increase accountability for the state's public charter school district and require all multi-school charter contracts to be in alignment with state adopted performance indicators. All multi-school charters must be contained within the public school district and cannot cross district lines.
4. To support a model of restorative justice principles of reconciliation, responsibility, reintegration, respect, relationship-building and restitution ~~for~~ in a school-to-prison pipeline bill. We will oppose any formal or informal policies at the state and local levels that push students, particularly those most at-risk, out of the classroom and into the juvenile justice systems.
5. To advocate for the maintenance of the current pension adjustment (1% or \$500, whichever is greater), while protecting the long term stability of the retirement and healthcare systems. The SCEA also supports a greater focus on equitable healthcare services for all South Carolina educational employees.