



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2018

CONTACT: Skot Garrick
803-237-4065 or sgarrick@thescea.org

The South Carolina Education Association to Hold Lobby Day at SC State House on June 27 to Discuss Equitable Funding for Public Education

(COLUMBIA) The South Carolina Education Association will have leadership representatives and members in the SC Statehouse lobby to speak with lawmakers on public education funding concerns when South Carolina Legislators reconvene TODAY, Wednesday, June 27 at noon to finalize the state budget.

Both the SC Senate and House Representatives will convene at noon in their respective chambers in hopes of finalizing and voting on the 2018-2019 budget. Prior to convening, each legislator will receive individualized letters crafted by The SC State Employees Association and The SCEA on the crucial need to equitably fund public education and state services.

Throughout the 2018 legislative session, The SCEA has voiced its support for public education policy priorities, such as increasing starting teacher's salaries, providing across-the-board pay increases for all education professionals and fully funding the Education Finance Act formula.

The SCEA understands the complex process of finalizing a budget and is supporting the following from the approved Senate or House budgets:

- \$60 increase in base student costs (covers 2% step increase for teachers)
- 1% across the board raise for teachers
- Starting salary to \$32K for first year teachers
- NBCT new applicants extended one year to 7/1/19
- \$10K cap removed for all SCRS and PORS retirees to return to work
- Rural teacher recruiting incentives for districts with greater than 10% average annual teacher turnover
- No increase in health premiums
- Wellness check-ups included in health premiums

Members of the media will have the opportunity to meet with The SCEA leadership and members in the lobby of the Statehouse TODAY prior to beginning of the budget sessions at noon to discuss these crucial public education concerns and our continued commitment to working with lawmakers to ensure implementation of public education policy that will best benefit our schools, educators and students.

###