

## STATEHOUSE REPORT

The budget received 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the House of Representatives on March 12th and it was sent to the Senate. Here are the highlights for public education:

- \$213.4 million for a \$3,000 per teacher salary increase
- \$10.3 million to increase the Base Student Cost by \$11 per pupil to \$2500
- \$25.5 million for school bus lease and purchase
- \$10 million for School Resource Officers
- \$2.6 million for the SC Virtual School Program
- \$247,300 for Office of School Facilities
- \$60 million for capital improvements for rural school districts
- \$76.5 million for instructional materials
- \$568,000 for Regional Computer Science Specialists
- \$45.8 million for public 4K education
- \$5 million for charter schools
- \$700,000 for Computer Science Certification and Professional Learning
- \$3 million for Industry Certifications

### *Bills to Watch:*

**S. 419 (SC Career Opportunity and Access for All Act)** by Senators Hembree and others: The bill passed the Senate and was sent to the House. Numerous amendments have been passed. See the amendments adopted below:

An amendment adding education to the list of majors (science and mathematics) eligible to receive a \$2,500 tuition scholarship enhancement.

#### *Part of PSTA's Legislative Agenda*

An amendment requiring all kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers to be provided at least 30 minutes of duty-free time on each regular school day.

#### *Part of PSTA's Legislative Agenda*

An amendment that reinstates the National Board for Professional Teaching salary supplement.

#### *Part of PSTA's Legislative Agenda*

An amendment that abolishes the Education Oversight Committee devolves its functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities to the Department of Education.

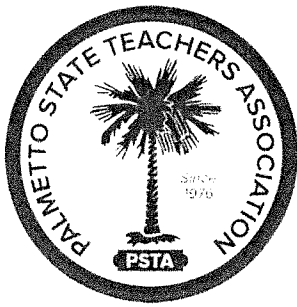
An amendment that requires a principal to provide any teacher who is responsible for instructing a student who is removed from the general education setting for more than forty percent of the day at least thirty minutes of unencumbered time for each regular school day.

An amendment that changes the start date for school districts, sets a restriction of no more than a five-week break for a year-round calendar, and mandates that exams must be given before any scheduled December break.

An amendment that specifies that coaching is not an extracurricular activity and that teachers may not be assigned an extracurricular activity unless it is considered a natural extension of the scope of their classroom duties.

An amendment that adds kindergarten, first, and second grade to the previously required third grade summer reading camps that each district must offer as an intervention for any student who is substantially not demonstrating proficiency in reading.

An amendment that specifies that students who are promoted due to a parent appeal will NOT have the student's academic performance factor into the performance evaluation of the 4th-grade teacher.



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An amendment that specifies that SCDE must pay the fees and costs associated with a first-time teacher's certification so as not to exceed \$500. Additionally, it increases the teacher supply reimbursements from \$275 to \$550.

An amendment that requires school boards to adopt a streamlined template for teachers to use when preparing student learning objectives (SLO).

An amendment that deletes the newly adopted portfolio language and reverts back to the portfolio language currently in statute.

An amendment that expands the state-funded 4K program to every district in the state.

**H. 4761 (Read to Succeed Rewrite)** by Reps. Lucas and others: This bill amends the Read to Succeed Act with the language from H. 3756, the "South Carolina Career Opportunity and Access for All Act". The bill received third reading in the House and now resides in the Senate Education Committee. Highlights of the bill include:

- Specifies that SBE must use a methodology for choosing literacy assessment that ensure the instruments are valid and reliable.
- Defines deficiency as a normative score that places a student in the bottom 25th percentile on the literacy assessment.
- Specifies that SCDE will hire reading coaches for school having one-third or more of its third-grade students scoring at the lowest achievement level on the statewide summative ELA assessment (effective date is the beginning of the 2021-22 school year).
- Exempts teachers, administrators, and other certified faculty and staff from having to earn the literacy teacher add-on endorsement to maintain certification if they are not educating or serving students.
- Creates the SC Reading Panel composed of 10 members appointed by the SBE upon recommendations of the State Superintendent charges with reviewing selecting and summarizing for dissemination basic research on reading, reading growth, reading assessments, and reading instruction.

**S. 556 (Voucher Bill)** by Senators Massey and others: This bill removes the state portion of a pupil's funding from the student's school district and allocates it to a scholarship account. The funds in the scholarship account may be used to pay for educational expenses including private school tuition. The bill limited to 5% of eligible students in the first year of enactment (\$222,577,900 from public funding) and 10% in the second year (\$457,169,000 from public funding). It is not capped in the third year. The bill passed the Senate Education subcommittee is scheduled to be debated in the full Senate Education Committee on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Senator Massey plans to introduce an amendment when the committee meets again.

- The amendment will specify that the scholarship will be available for K-12 students. Initially it will be administered for students in K-8 the first year and then each year thereafter a high school year will be added.
- The enrollment will be capped the first year at 2,000 students and full implementation will be capped at 10,000 students.
- The first year the scholarship would be \$6,600 (average state allocation per student) with an inflation factor built in for subsequent years.
- Eligible students would be special needs students with and IEP and students who qualify for Medicaid or whose family is at 185% poverty.
- Students receiving scholarships can use the funds to enroll in private schools, charter schools, or public schools across district lines.
- The Department of Revenue would be required to administer the program through an on-line portal with approved vendors denoted.
- The funds may be used for therapeutic services so they could be used for students who wish to remain in their zoned schools.

- Schools enrolling students will be required to administer the state testing program for grades 3-8 or a nationally normed test.
- Engagement of parents will be required with them signing a contract outlining the degree of involvement required.

**H. 4760 (Statewide Assessments)** by Reps. Lucas and others: This bill limits the number of formative assessments that students may take during a year to three, removes social studies from the statewide assessment program, and requires that districts provide additional information (Lexile and Quantile) pertaining to the results of formative assessments to parents. This bill received second and third readings in the House and has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.

**H. 4753 (Teacher Bill of Rights, 30 Minutes Unencumbered Time, Income Tax Credit)** by Reps. Lucas and others: This bill contains a Teacher Bill of Rights outlining those things that public education teachers should be able to expect. Additionally, it includes a section requiring that all teachers receive 30 minutes daily of unencumbered time. The bill also provides an income tax credit for those teachers who teach and live in a Tier IV county. The credit would be equal to the property taxes paid on their home. This bill received third reading in the House and was referred to the Senate Education Committee.

***Regulations to Watch:***

**Regulation 4918** – The changes to this regulation are intended to change the annual ADEPT Plan due date and to give districts more flexibility in assigning contract levels to newly hired teachers with previous teaching experience. The regulation received a favorable report in the Senate Education Committee.

**Regulation 4920** – The changes to this regulation modifies references to the teacher certification office and removes a renewal credit requirement of a graduate level course for certified educators without a master's degree. The regulation received a favorable report in the Senate Education Committee.

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