

RESOLUTION

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION RE: EDUCATION REFORM BILLS (H.3759 AND S.419)



March 12, 2019

WHEREAS, the Greenville County Schools Board of Trustees recognizes that the strongest contributor to a highly effective public education is the quality of the teacher in the classroom and the quality of the principal helping to provide support to classroom instruction;

WHEREAS, effective local, state, and federal policies help equip teachers, administrators, and school districts with the local support needed to ensure all students succeed;

WHEREAS, this strong educational foundation is at the core of workforce development, economic growth, and improved quality of life for all citizens;

WHEREAS, Greenville County Schools, the largest school district in the state, serving 76,000 students, recognizes that the needs of every District are as varied as the geographical landscape of our state;

WHEREAS, we appreciate the work of state leadership in the Governor's office, the General Assembly, and the South Carolina Department of Education in exploring improved education policy for the entire state of South Carolina, and its 781,000 students statewide; and,

WHEREAS, H.3759 and S.419 provide a patchwork of policy recommendations, including efforts to strengthen existing state education policy as well as introduce policy work from neighboring states, but also provide policies found to be in conflict with local education efforts.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that members of the Board of Trustees of Greenville County Schools calls on the General Assembly to pass legislation that focuses all education policy on six key principles:

1. Ensure that pay for all public school teachers meets or exceeds the Southeastern average for comparable years of experience and education level, and that the General Assembly fully funds this investment, and embed within policy a requirement to adjust pay annually based on this benchmark.
2. Recognize that local control of schools, by duly elected local school board members, is preferable to state or federal mandates and control.
3. Allow high-performing school districts the flexibility to opt out of all state-mandated testing not required in Federal law.
4. Remove unnecessary state-level bureaucracies of political appointees, which are often in conflict with the South Carolina Board of Education, elected State Superintendent of Education, and locally elected school boards.
5. Ensure that the South Carolina Department of Education (in partnership with the South Carolina School Boards Association) provides high-quality school board orientation and trainings, with an emphasis on ethics, data analysis to drive student performance, sound governance, fiscal management, legal issues, board policies, and board best practices.
6. Ensure that the General Assembly remove all unfunded and underfunded mandates from current and future education legislation and regulations.