



SC HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS IN EDUCATION

TRANSFORMING AND MODERNIZING

South Carolina's Education System for the 21st Century



"South Carolina schools rank last in education, yet 24th in per-pupil spending.

It's time to take big, bold actions to make transformative changes and modernize the way we educate our students."

- Speaker Jay Lucas

INCREASE TEACHER COMPENSATION

- Increase the salary for first-year teachers to a minimum of \$35,000 (a 9% increase) next school year and provide an across-the-board pay raise for all other teachers.
- Replace the current teacher pay schedule with a career band system that rewards teachers with promotions and raises based on duties and performance.
- Incentivize effective teachers to work in schools with unsatisfactory ratings by providing tuition-free college for their children and travel reimbursements when traveling more than 25 miles to teach in an underperforming school.
- Encourage local businesses to hire teachers during the summer by providing a \$2,000 business tax credit.



ENHANCE "READ TO SUCCEED" PROGRAM

- Get more money to the classroom so teachers have the resources they need to effectively teach reading.
- Strengthen the 2014 Read to Succeed Act to end the practice of social promotion for third-graders who can not read and provide help for students who struggle with reading while in Kindergarten, first, and second grades.



PROVIDE TRANSPARENCY AND IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY

- Require better reporting of student progress to parents, and accessible information regarding teacher satisfaction and school progress.
- Direct the 'Zero to Twenty' committee to monitor and recommend ways to modernize our education system with a focus on students and teachers.
- Adopt a model ethics policy, enforce stricter ethics rules and require local school board members to undergo training.
- Eliminate unnecessary testing to allow more time for classroom instruction.



RENEWED FOCUS ON WORKFORCE READINESS

- Enhance schools of innovation, expand computer science courses, and build better technical education centers so students are better trained for the workforce.
- Open lottery scholarships for students to get an industry certificate at technical colleges.
- Require a common admission score for acceptance to technical colleges, and require remediation to take place in the high schools.
- Realign career pathways with the needs of successful industries in our state.



MAKE SCHOOL DISTRICTS MORE EFFICIENT

- Require school districts with fewer than 1,000 students to consolidate with neighboring districts and require the Superintendent to create a plan for consolidating underperforming and inefficient districts.
- Dissolve districts that underperform for 4 consecutive years and move the schools to other districts, the Transformation District, a charter school, or management operator.

