

I. CRITICAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. SCPTA opposes any legislation that would allow public funds to be diverted or allocated to any non-public school.
2. SCPTA supports measures that maintain reliable and stable funding sources to equitably and adequately fund public schools at the state level and preserve the ability of local school districts to go above and beyond the state allocation.
3. SCPTA supports state-funded, universal four-year-old kindergarten in the public schools that is voluntary and prioritized to serve children most at risk.
4. SCPTA supports full funding of a comprehensive plan for the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and replacement of school buses at least every 12 years.
5. SCPTA supports a cigarette tax increase with a portion of the revenue to go toward tobacco use prevention programs in the schools.
6. SCPTA supports legislation to enact more stringent laws and penalties in regards to drug use or possession in South Carolina schools.
7. SCPTA supports the creation of a statewide school facilities infrastructure bank to assist school districts with school building needs.
8. SCPTA supports amendments to the No Child Left behind Act to provide flexibility for school districts to implement NCLB requirements, including permitting alternative methods for determining Adequate Yearly Progress targets and progress for students with disabilities.

II. CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

Funding

- SCPTA supports giving local school districts the authority to set local impact fees to pay for additional infrastructure expenses necessary to support new growth or expansion of existing residential development.
- SCPTA supports legislation to ensure that counties cannot use economic development laws to divert revenue generated for public schools into non-educational programs.
- SCPTA supports legislation requiring lottery proceeds be used to enhance, not replace, K-12 state funding as required by law.
- SCPTA supports legislation mandating lottery proceeds be divided equally between K-12 education programs and higher education programs.
- SCPTA supports full funding for all state and federal education mandates.

Governance

- SCPTA supports legislation mandating non-partisan school board elections and providing fiscal autonomy for all school boards.
- SCPTA supports giving local school boards the authority to approve their school district's annual school year calendar.

2008 SCPTA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Health/Safety

- ❑ SCPTA supports enactment of legislation allowing a portion of the Tobacco Settlement Funds to be used for youth anti-tobacco awareness.
- ❑ SCPTA supports legislation and resources for training necessary to ensure all public schools provide an orderly, safe and drug-free environment conducive to learning.
- ❑ SCPTA supports state funding to provide for a minimum of one full-time nurse in every school.
- ❑ SCPTA supports full state funding for allowing every school district to conduct state and federal criminal background checks for all applicants and to receive the results prior to the offer of employment.

Student Services

- ❑ SCPTA supports a maximum pupil-teacher ratio of 10 to 1 for all resource classes at all grade levels.
- ❑ SCPTA supports a maximum pupil-teacher ratio of 15 to 1 for grades pre-K through 5; 22 to 1 for grades 6 through 8; and 28 to 1 for grades 9 through 12.
- ❑ SCPTA supports full state funding for expanding art education in every school, to include musical instrument instruction beginning in grade four.
- ❑ SCPTA supports the enactment of a more universal grading system that reflects the federal scholarship guidelines.”

Approved November 3, 2007