



## 2011 SCPTA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

### 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 the retention of the existing requirements for school attendance.
3. SCPTA opposes any legislation that would make the position of State Superintendent of Education an appointed position.
4. SCPTA supports state-funded, universal four-year-old kindergarten in the public schools that is voluntary and prioritized to serve children most at risk.
5. SCPTA supports a cigarette tax increase, to the national average, with a portion of the revenue to go toward tobacco use prevention programs and to offset the substantial budgets cuts to education.
6. SCPTA supports legislation to enact more stringent laws and penalties in regards to bullying in South Carolina schools to include cyber bullying.
7. SCPTA supports the Flexible Funding resolution to allow local school districts the ability to ensure the delivery of academic and arts instruction during fiscal year 2011-2012.
8. 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.
9. SCPTA supports amending Section 3, Article XI, of the Constitution of South Carolina to replace the words "minimally adequate education" with the words "high quality education."
10. 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.
11. SCPTA supports the full funding of a statewide school facilities infrastructure bank to assist school districts with school building needs.
12. 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.
13. SCPTA supports legislation to enact more stringent laws and penalties in regards to drug use or possession in South Carolina schools.
14. SCPTA supports funding for the increase of teacher salaries to bring their pay up to the national average.
15. SCPTA supports the improvement of school nutrition and the reduction of childhood obesity by supporting legislation including the Child Reauthorization Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.
16. SCPTA supports and encourages legislation to provide physical education to all grade levels: PreK-12.

## **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 to 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.

### ***Health/Safety***

- SCPTA supports 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 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.
- SCPTA is dedicated to the reduction and prevention of childhood obesity in South Carolina.

### ***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 Kindergarten; 22 to 1 for grades 1 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.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on February 4, 2011. Approved by the General Membership at the Legislative Conference on February 5, 2011.