



2026 SCPTA

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

April 22, 2026

South Carolina
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®

2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

SCPTA believes in meaningful, research-based national, state and local initiatives with measurable outcomes that close the educational achievement gap for all students.



FULL FUNDING OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SCPTA believes the General Assembly must fulfill its obligation to fully fund all state-mandated educational programs. Schools cannot meet student needs without adequate resources, and funding shortfalls directly impact the quality of education. The state must provide the necessary financial support to ensure every child has access to a well-rounded, high-quality public education.



TUITION TAX CREDITS AND VOUCHERS

SCPTA believes funding for public education must be for public education only. Using taxpayer dollars for private education undermines public schools and reduces resources for the majority of students. State funds should be dedicated to strengthening public education, not subsidizing alternatives.



KEEP SCHOOL BOARDS NONPARTISAN

SCPTA believes school board elections should remain non-partisan to keep the focus on students, not politics. Education decisions should be driven by what is best for children, families, and schools—not party agendas. Keeping school boards non-partisan ensures that all voices in the community are heard and that decisions prioritize student success over political influence.



PUBLIC SCHOOL START DATE

SCPTA supports allowing local school districts the flexibility to set their own school start dates. A one-size-fits-all mandate does not account for the unique needs of each community. Local districts should have the authority to determine a schedule that best supports student learning and academic success.



TEACHER COMPENSATION

SCPTA supports raising teacher salaries to at least the national average to attract and retain high-quality educators. We also advocate for a salary structure that rewards experience, leadership, and performance. Competitive compensation is essential to ensuring strong teachers remain in the profession and continue to positively impact student success.



MORE SCHOOL COUNSELORS

SCPTA supports increasing the number of school counselors to meet the American School Counselor Association's recommended ratio of 1 counselor for every 250 students. We support counselors in their critical role as they contribute to student success by providing academic guidance, mental health support, and career readiness. Ensuring adequate staffing will help address students' social, mental, and academic needs, leading to better outcomes for all.