



*from* the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee  
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## For Immediate Release

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# EOC policy and budget recommendations student- and teacher-centered

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The EOC held a full meeting today at 1:00 p.m. at the Blatt Building in Columbia. Recommendations to the budget were made at this meeting.*

**Columbia** – Today, South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) members adopted budget recommendations for the 2013-14 fiscal year. Guided by a student-centered, performance-based funding model, the recommendations are based on the needs of students and preparing them for success in a career or in postsecondary education.

Committee members annually make recommendations for the spending of Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds, which are generated by the penny sales tax. In November, the Board of Economic Advisors projected that the EIA will generate \$606 million in total revenues in fiscal year 2013-14, an increase over \$15 million from the current base funding.

“These funds should be targeted to students and appropriated with their overall success in mind,” said Dennis Drew, chairman of the subcommittee that brought initial recommendations to the full committee Monday. “During our deliberations and public hearings, we focused on the needs of students and equipping leaders in the classroom to prepare students for success in a career and in college”

In addition to parent engagement and quality teaching, leadership is a key factor in a child's success. Drew noted that one of his favorite definitions of a leader is “someone whose actions have the most profound consequences on other people's lives, either good or bad, sometimes forever and ever.” Leaders provide direction and meaning; generate and sustain trust; display a bias toward action, risk-taking and curiosity; and are purveyors of hope. According to Drew, “if innovation and transformation of the learning environment in schools is to occur, South Carolina needs more district and school leaders and more support for teachers --the leaders of our schools and classrooms. South Carolina needs more creative, passionate, energetic and skilled leaders who can look at the elephant at different angles.”

The recommendations, which now head to the General Assembly and the Governor for consideration during next year's legislative session, include:

- **Students: Increase funding for Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)**  
The committee recommended an increase in funding for the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP) since more at-risk students are participating in the program. In

addition the EOC recommended additional funds for instructional materials to guarantee that students and teachers have the textbooks that are aligned with our state standards.

- **Leaders: Increase funds for Teach for America and the Teaching Fellows Scholarship Program**

EOC members recommended a \$1 million increase in EIA funds for Teach for America South Carolina, a selective program that places high-achieving individuals in high-poverty schools for at least a two-year appointment. The increase would allow the number of corps members in South Carolina to increase from 111 to 265 by the year 2014. A recommended increase of \$500,000 was made for the Teaching Fellows Program, which would enable 175 scholarships to be awarded to talented SC high school seniors as well as \$2 million for teacher loans.

“Leadership at the school and classroom levels is critical to sustained student improvement as well as innovation and transformation of the learning environment,” said Drew.

Drew also pointed to the need to engage the State Superintendent of Education in a discussion of ways to develop and empower effective leaders in schools and districts.

“Leadership involves the classroom, the school building, the district office, and the local school board,” noted Drew.

- **Technology: Convene a panel to determine SC’s current and future technology needs**

As our opportunities to use technology in schools and classrooms increase, the need for software, hardware, and connectivity goes up as well. However, we must also address the lack of connectivity in our rural areas of the state where children may receive an iPad or Chrome book at school but not have the ability to use the technology when they get home. The EOC recommends the Governor and General Assembly convene a panel to address the issue of SC’s current and future technology needs which will directly impact the ability of South Carolina to have a skilled workforce in the future.

The EOC was also able to document \$18 million in savings from the National Board Program for the Professional Teaching Standards Certification program.

“Fewer teachers in South Carolina are applying for and receiving the supplement for having earned the National Board certification,” said Drew.

According to Drew, supporting teaching and learning experiences for all children should be the top priority of the education system.

*The SC Education Oversight Committee is an independent, non-partisan group made up of 18 educators, business persons, and elected leaders. Created in 1998, the committee is dedicated to reporting facts, measuring change, and promoting progress within South Carolina’s education system.*

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