

## 2015 Legislative Summary

### Investments in Education Accountability and Improvement

The General Assembly in the state budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 expanded its focus on: (1) increasing the base student cost; (2) improving student reading proficiency; (3) addressing technology needs; and (4) recruitment and retention of teachers.

**Education Finance Act (EFA)** – The EFA is funded with a base student cost of \$2,220, an increase of \$100 above the prior year’s funding level.

**Reading** – The legislature funded key components of the Read to Succeed legislation at increased levels:

- Summer Reading Camps at \$7.5 million, an increase of \$1.5 million
- Reading Coaches at \$34.4 million, an increase of \$4.9 million
- Funding of Reach Out and Read at \$1.5 million to serve all Medicaid enrolled children. The program trains doctors, nurse practitioners and other medical professionals to work with families on importance of and techniques to read aloud with their child. The program also provides medical staff with age-appropriate books to give to the child at the visit.
- Funding of Save the Children at \$1.3 million to expand early child visits focused on literacy in rural and underperforming school districts. The program currently serves over 6,000 children in 15 communities in 6 counties. The Early Steps to School Success Program assists children from birth to age 5 and their parents with developing skills and knowledge to succeed. The Literacy Programs provides children in kindergarten through grade 6 with additional support.

**Technology** – The General Assembly addressed technology needs in schools accordingly:

- Funded connectivity at \$12.3 million, an increase of \$1.2 million
- Continued funding out of lottery revenues \$29.3 million for technology to improve external and internal connections and develop one-to-one computing initiatives
- Professional development for teachers in the use of technology in instruction at \$4.0 million

**Teachers** – Nationally and in South Carolina, there is a decline in the number of individuals pursuing teaching as a career. Consequently, the General Assembly created the following to begin to address the issue:

Teacher Salary Schedule Structure Study Committee - The Department of Education is required to convene stakeholders to examine and make recommendations by November 15, 2015 regarding changes to statewide minimum state teacher salary schedule.

Rural Teacher Recruiting Incentive – An additional \$1.5 million was appropriated to the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) to develop incentives including, but not limited to, salary supplements, education subsidies, professional development, and mentorship to be provided to classroom educators that offer instructional services in districts that have greater than a 12% average annual teacher turnover rate. The incentives and implementation are to be developed in consultation with the State Department of Education and the Education Oversight Committee.

Teacher Pipeline - CERRA, in concert with the Commission on Higher Education, the Department of Education, and the EOC, will conduct a study to identify and project the number of additional teachers needed annually in public school classrooms for grades K5 through 12, for school years beginning 2017 through 2027. The purpose of the study shall be to: (1) provide specific data and projections on the number of teachers expected to be needed as compared to the number available, by Subject Areas Taught as indicated in CERRA's annual Supply and Demand Report, and with a focus on critical need subject areas; (2) determine whether, individually and collectively, teaching programs at applicable institutions of higher learning in South Carolina have the capacity and infrastructure to fulfill projected needs in item (1); and (3) provide data for general use in estimating the fiscal impact of any new or revised programs being considered to incent more talented individuals to enter teacher training programs and more highly qualified teachers to remain in the profession for longer periods of time

**Statewide Assessment** - The legislature appropriated an additional \$7.3 million to the Department of Education to cover the cost of WorkKeys, which is administered to all students in grade 11 and additional costs related to implementation of Acts 155 and 200 of 2014. The Department of Education will issue a request for proposal for assessments for college readiness in grade 11 and for summative assessments in grades 3 through 8 in English language arts and mathematics. Per the proviso, the EOC has already formally submitted recommendations to the State Board and Department on the issue.

**Early Childhood Education** – The full-day 4K program for at-risk children will expand from 60 to 64 school districts in 2015-16. The districts of Anderson 2, Anderson 5, Greenwood 52 and Kershaw now have a poverty index of 70% or greater and children residing in these districts are eligible to participate in the program in either a private center or public school. The General Assembly also directed \$2.0 million in available funds for the program to expand high-quality early childhood programs in the state through a competitive grants process administered by the EOC.

**EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPROPRIATIONS SINCE FY12\***

<b>EAA ITEM</b>	<b>FY12</b>	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>
Technical Assistance	6,000,000	5,250,000	6,000,000	8,800,000	8,800,000
External Review Teams					
Assessment	21,665,119	24,761,400	24,761,400	27,261,400	34,561,400
Formative Assessment	3,096,281				
Professional Development	6,515,911	5,515,911	5,515,911	5,515,911	5,515,911
Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards **	2,230,061				
Report Card Printing & Development	722,385				
Power Schools/Data Collection	5,000,000	5,000,000	7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000
Education Oversight Committee/ SC Autism Society (\$500,000)	1,193,242	1,193,242	1,293,242	1,643,242	1,793,242
SCDE Personal Service	1,236,436	1,236,436	1,236,436	1,236,436	1,236,436
SCDE Other Operating	1,174,752	1,174,752	1,174,752	1,174,752	1,174,752
Students at Risk of School Failure ***	136,163,204	136,163,204	136,163,204	79,551,723	79,551,723
<b>TOTAL EAA:</b>	<b>\$184,997,391</b>	<b>\$180,294,945</b>	<b>\$183,644,945</b>	<b>\$132,683,464</b>	<b>\$140,133,464</b>
<b>OTHER SUPPORTING PROGRAMS:</b>					
K-5 Reading, Math, Science & Social Studies ****	29,491,798	29,491,798	27,891,798	27,891,798	
6-8 Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies ****	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	
High School Reading	729,340				
Young Adult Education (30% of Adult Education)	4,072,121	4,072,121	4,072,121	4,072,121	4,522,121
Reading	6,542,052	6,542,052	6,542,052	6,542,052	6,542,052
Summer Reading Camps			1,500,000	6,000,000	7,500,000
Aid to Districts	68,250,835	37,736,600	37,736,600	37,736,600	37,386,600
Reading Coaches				29,483,100	34,444,378
<b>TOTAL OTHER:</b>	<b>\$111,086,146</b>	<b>\$79,842,571</b>	<b>\$79,742,571</b>	<b>\$113,725,671</b>	<b>\$90,395,151</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$296,083,537</b>	<b>\$260,137,516</b>	<b>\$263,387,516</b>	<b>\$246,409,135</b>	<b>\$230,528,615</b>

\* Includes all recurring and nonrecurring General Fund, EIA, and lottery revenues but excludes federal funds for testing. Line items in italics denote the suspension of the entire program or a portion of the program for other purposes (writing assessment suspended in grades 3, 4, 6 and 7; suspension of report card printing; etc.). All line item appropriations for the EOC were consolidated, and appropriations for data collection and unique student identifier were consolidated into PowerSchool.

\*\* For FY11 and FY12, the funds appropriated for the program were either suspended or reallocated.

\*\*\* For FY15, \$59.6 million was reduced from the Students at Risk of School Failure appropriation because a poverty index was added to the EFA.

\*\*\*\*For FY16, these funds were allocated through the EFA.

## Legislation Impacting Public Education and Accountability

### **Bills Enacted:**

#### **Act 21 (R.40, H.3890) – School Make-Up Days**

The act takes the General Assembly out of making decisions about missed school days. The act requires districts to designate at least three days in the school calendar for make-up days in the event of inclement weather or other occurrences. If those days have been used or are no longer available, a local school district board of trustees may lengthen the school day, may operate on Saturday or may waive up to 3 days. The State Board of Education may waive the requirements of make-up days beyond the three days forgiven by a local school board, not to exceed three additional days. By July 1 annually the State Department of Education will provide the legislature with a detailed report from each district on the number of days missed, days made up and days waived.

#### **Act 24 (R.45, S.154) – Interscholastic Activities**

The act allows the State Board of Education to grant a waiver allowing a student to participate in interscholastic activities if the student's ineligibility is due to a long-term medical condition.

#### **Act 52 (R.83, S437) – James B. Edwards Civics Education Initiative**

The law requires students to take the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services during the course of their high school curriculum, specifically the U.S. government course. Schools must report the percentage of students passing the test to the Education Oversight Committee for inclusion on the school report card. The requirement begins with students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade beginning the 2016-17 school year.

#### **Act 66 (R.113, H.3882) – School Bus Drivers Exam**

The law conforms the requirements that a school bus driver must have a physical examination to the requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. Previously, the examination had to be conducted exclusively by a physician, nurse practitioner or a physician assistant. The change allows chiropractors to complete the physical exam.

## EOC WORK IN PROGRESS

Copies of previous work can be obtained from [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov)

### Standards and Accountability:

Consolidation of Federal and State Accountability System Ongoing

The law requires the EOC to recommend by the fall of 2016 a new accountability system that merges the state and federal report card systems.

Family Friendly Standards January 2016

The EOC in collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Education will update SC Family Friendly Standards in English language arts and mathematics.

Release of 2015 State District and School Report Cards November 2015

EOC has already approved a revised format for the report cards.

### Evaluation:

District Efficiency Reviews June 2015

The EOC published results of four independent analyses of district efficiency reviews of Barnwell 19, Clarendon 1, Lexington 4 and Dorchester 2.

Annual Review of EIA-Funded Programs and Initiatives Fall 2015

EOC will make recommendations for Fiscal Year 2016-17 to Governor and General Assembly.

After-School and Community Partnerships Fall 2015

The EOC will document and evaluate the partnerships and the impact of the partnerships on student reading.

Full-day 4K for At Risk Children January 2016

The EOC will conduct an annual evaluation of the program. In addition, in August of 2015 the EOC will release results of analysis of the early readiness assessments from school year 2014-15.

Annual Evaluation of SC Teacher Loan Program and Parent Survey June 2016

The EOC will report on the progress, challenges, and impact of the SC Teacher Loan Program on recruiting teachers into the teaching profession and the results of the annual parent survey.

TransformSC June 2016

The EOC, in collaboration with the Riley Institute at Furman University, will continue to evaluate the three innovative education models being implemented.

Community Block Grant Summer 2016

The evaluation of community block grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2014-15 will be released.

### Public Reporting and Engagement:

Public Awareness Campaign Fall 2015

The EOC will implement a public awareness and engagement plan focused on a reading contest aligned to the Big Game – Clemson v. USC.

Student Reading Success Activity Guide August 2015

The guide, designed to help families, caregivers, tutors and teachers working with children in kindergarten through grade 3, was provided to all summer reading camps and will be provided to all schools serving students in K-grade 3 this fall.