



**The School District
of Greenville County**
Board of Trustees

April 23, 2014

The Honorable Tom Corbin
South Carolina State Senate
1139 Bailey Mill Road
Travelers Rest, South Carolina 29690

Dear Senator Corbin:

As members of The School District of Greenville County Board of Trustees, we urge you to support increased funding for the Education Finance Act. We also ask that you oppose adopting or funding any new educational initiatives until the State meets this basic obligation to our students and schools.

As members of the Greenville County Senate Delegation, many of you share this belief and are working diligently to gain support for these ideals within the Senate. We greatly appreciate your efforts and hope this letter will give you encouragement as you work to convince your colleagues.

In 1977, the State General Assembly adopted the Education Finance Act, (EFA), which establishes a minimum per pupil amount of state funding for school districts. The General Assembly last met its obligation to fully fund this foundation program in 2008-2009. In fact, in FY 2013-2014, the Legislature provided less than 80% of this required funding. Furthermore, it is still far less than the funding level in 2008-2009 even though the State's revenue has recovered to those levels.

The State's failure to meet this required funding formula forces local school boards to raise taxes to pay for the state mandated teacher salary increase and other educational necessities. Furthermore, as a result of the General Assembly's adoption of Act 388, it is our local businesses that are forced to bear the brunt of this expense. The citizens of South Carolina demand and deserve better.

It has been said that, "When politics are used to allocate resources, the resources all end up being allocated to politics." The General Assembly must find the will to fully fund its statutory obligation to the EFA and resist the temptation to allocate its scarce resources to new, politically popular programs if we hope to have the stable funding necessary to move our public education system forward and to enjoy economic prosperity throughout our State. Time won't wait as children grow fast. Please act now.

Sincerely,

Charles Saylor
Chairman

Copy: *Greenville County House Delegation Members*