



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

August 26, 2014

The Honorable Barry Bolen
Chairman
South Carolina State Board of Education
133 Congaree Park Drive
West Columbia, South Carolina 29169

Dear Mr. Bolen:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Greenville County Schools, I implore the State Board of Education (SDE) to act quickly and grant local School Districts the maximum flexibility allowed by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards for school fundraisers. School fundraisers at many of our schools are essential to provide the quality of co-curricular services our students and their families deserve and demand.

Greenville County has long been a leader in the fight against childhood obesity. We actively promote healthy food options for students and implemented a new culinary menu incorporating scratch cooking and more fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains prior to the adoption of the new Federal standards. In fact, our Food and Nutrition Services program has been recognized nationally with the prestigious Golden Carrot Award from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine for its innovative efforts to provide healthier school lunches for our students.

Clearly, our strong support of the flexibility to set exemptions for school fundraisers as allowed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in no way diminishes our commitment to strong nutritional standards for our students. We believe fervently, in fact, that the flexibility allowed by the standards is an important and responsible component of the guidelines. Any further delay in the adoption of these exemptions is detrimental to both our schools and students.

Please act with great haste to adopt the maximum number of fundraising exemptions allowed and permit us to determine what is appropriate for our local communities.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Saylor
Chairman

*Copy: Board of Education Members
State Superintendent of Education*