



The School District  
of Greenville County  
*Board of Trustees*

November 28, 2013

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senate  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

On behalf of Greenville County Schools, we implore you to support legislation to rescind sequestration and protect our students and schools from the more than 8.2% cut to federal funds that we will face effective January 2, 2013 without your leadership.

While the federal government continues to mandate educational programs to state and local school districts, it has yet to meet its responsibility to fund these commitments. In fact, for FY2011, K-12 programs were already cut by more than \$835 million.

States and local districts simply cannot absorb these cuts and continue to provide high quality services to students. Without your help, our most at-risk students, who are served with these federal funds, will suffer. In fact, the negative impact of sequestration on education programs is an estimated \$3.5 billion to \$4.1 billion. This includes an estimated \$1.2 billion cut to Title I grants which serve our most disadvantaged students, and an estimated \$900 million cut to special education under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* for the 2013-14 school year. Currently, Congress funds less than 20% of the 40% federal obligation which they set with passage of IDEA.

It has been said that civilizations will be judged by how they treat the weakest among them. Please do not support balancing our Nation's budget by cutting funds across the board without setting priorities and protecting those programs that serve children and families already suffering from poverty or disabilities. As a state and community, we expect and deserve more from our elected officials.

Sincerely,

Roger D. Meek  
Chairman