



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

January 27, 2015

The Honorable Wendy K. Nanney
South Carolina House of Representatives
124 Birnam Court
Greenville, South Carolina 29615

Dear Representative Nanney:

We, The Greenville County School Board of Trustees, urge you to continue to actively support funding for the following programs in the 2015-2016 State General Appropriations Act.

Increased Funding for the Education Finance Act

In 1977, the State General Assembly adopted the Education Finance Act, (EFA), which establishes a minimum per pupil amount of funding for school districts. Regrettably, The General Assembly has not met its statutory obligation to fund this foundation program since 2008-2009. The State's failure to meet this basic obligation for our children's education needs, despite collecting revenue at or above the levels prior to the recession, is unfortunate and unfair to our students. The General Assembly must make a significant increase to the EFA this year if we are going to ever realize the great untapped potential of our children and keep moving our District and State forward. Our children should not have to wait another year. We know you share our concerns and will work diligently to meet your statutory commitment and make public education in South Carolina a priority.

Increased Funding for School Buses

In 2007, the State General Assembly adopted a school bus replacement cycle that would ensure that school buses would be replaced after 15 years of use. Today, almost half of the buses carrying school children each day in Greenville County exceed 15 years of age and many surpass 20 years of age. Too many of our children are late to school or home each day because of bus breakdowns and mechanical failures. This results in the loss of valuable instructional time for some of our most vulnerable students. Our State can and must do better. Please make school

bus transportation for all children a priority in the 2015-2016 State budget and fully fund the 15 year school bus replacement cycle.

Flexibility, Flexibility, Flexibility- One Size Does Not Fit All

Funding for programs and or positions that is overly prescriptive and mandates that all districts provide exactly the same services restricts innovation and makes meeting individual student needs extremely difficult. Program and curriculum decisions are made best when they are made locally. Please ensure that every program and or proviso in this year's budget allows for the maximum local authority and flexibility.

In addition, please do not support any new partially funded or unfunded mandates or regulations. We simply cannot afford them.

We greatly appreciate your service to our School District and the citizens we all represent. We are proud of our schools, teachers, students and parents. With your help and support for these important issues, we are confident that we can continue to provide the excellent schools and programs our citizens demand and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa H. Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa H. Wells
Chair