



# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## Talking Points

TO: Governor Nikki Haley  
FROM: Superintendent Mick Zais  
SUBJECT: Legislative Agenda, 2013  
DATE: March 19, 2013

### I. Unify accountability systems:

#### A. Federal system:

1. Federal standards imposed: "No Child Left Behind"
2. Waiver of 2012.

#### B. State system:

1. Administered by the Education Oversight Committee.
2. Unclear categories and measures.

### II. Take over persistently failing schools:

#### A. Current options for persistently failing schools:

1. Provide technical assistance.
2. Replace the school's principal.
3. Assume management of the school.

#### B. What a "School Transformation District" looks like:

1. Modeled after districts in LA, TN, and MI.
2. Like the SC Charter School District, independent of the SCDE and SCBE.
3. All dollars, local, state, and federal, follow the child.
4. Operated like charter schools
5. Held to existing state and federal standards.

- | III. Expand the SC Virtual School Program [\(H.3752\)](#):
  - A. Operated by the SC Department of Education.
  - B. Served 12,000 students last year.
  - C. Current law limits a student to three courses a year, twelve total.
  - D. Propose:
    - 1. Lifting the cap on the number of courses a student can take.
    - 2. Lifting the limit on the number of courses.
  
- | IV. Support Gubernatorial appointment of the State Superintendent [\(S.53\)](#).
  
- V. Convert the required number of school days and teacher professional development days to an equivalent number of hours.
  
- | VI. Pass the “Teacher Protection Act.” [\(S.44 and H.3351\)](#)
  
- | VII. Make it easier to close failing charter schools. [\(likely amendment to H.3472\)](#)
  
- | VIII. Support school choice legislation [\(S.279\)](#).