

# ***District One Schools***

*P.O. Box 218  
Campobello, SC 29322*

*Spartanburg County*

*Telephone (864) 472-2846  
Fax (864) 472-4118*

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May 27, 2014

Mr. Ted Pitts  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Governor

Dear Mr. Pitts:

South Carolina House Joint Resolution 5253 was introduced on 2014-05-14 and was amended on 2014-05-21 to include the governing body of Spartanburg County School Districts. As Superintendent of Spartanburg School District One and chairman of the governing body of Spartanburg County School Districts, I feel it is necessary for Governor Nikki Haley to be aware of the reasons why this bill was initiated and the courses of action taken by all Spartanburg School Districts to comply with the existing law.

Due to the unusually harsh winter of 2013-2014, Spartanburg County Schools missed several school days. Each Spartanburg School District created and implemented a plan based on the legal requirement for make-up days. In order to be compliant with the law, the make-up plan for the seven school districts in Spartanburg County has students returning for a half-day (3 hours allowable, under state law) on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This day falls on a Monday after all high school graduations have already been completed, after exams have been administered, and other school functions completed.

The plan for make-up days was released by each school district to their respective communities and was met with a chorus of concerns from parents citing disruption of summer plans, inconvenience of day care, and waste of tax dollars to run buses and facilities.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Representatives Chris Murphy and Jenny Horne filed a special bill in the House of Representatives that would waive the required make-up days. Senator Sean Bennett sponsored and supported this legislation in the Senate.

We are hopeful that this situation can be addressed on behalf of our families and teachers. Parents and staff will be notified immediately of the outcome of this action. Please contact us if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Ronald W. Garner, Superintendent Spartanburg School District One  
Chairman, Superintendents of Spartanburg County Schools

