



# SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

*Reporting facts. Measuring change. Promoting progress.*

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## REVISED AGENDA EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee

Monday, October 29, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Room 521, Blatt Building

- I. Welcome and Introductions..... Dr. Bob Couch
- II. Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2018..... Dr. Bob Couch
- III. Information: EIA 2017-18 Reports & 2019-20 Budget Requests
  - Table of Contents, Part 1: <https://tinyurl.com/y9ekhqra>
  - Table of Contents, Part 2: <https://tinyurl.com/y9cf8jmwf>

### Presentations:

- SC Department of Education ..... Emily Heatwole  
Director, Communications & Governmental Affairs
- Reach Out & Read Carolinas ..... Callee Boulware  
Executive Director
- CERRA Jane Turner  
Executive Director
- Call Me MISTER ..... Dr. Roy Jones  
Director
- Teach for America SC ..... Troy Evans  
Executive Director  
& Vanity Jenkins, Sr. Managing Director, Leadership Development
- Center for Educational Partnerships, USC ..... Dr. Thomas Hodges  
Executive Director

### Lunch

- Patriots Point..... Keith Grybowski  
Director, Education & Camping
- S<sup>2</sup>TEM Centers SC ..... Dr. Thomas Peters  
Exec. Director, SC Coalition for Mathematics & Science
- Science PLUS..... Amy St. John  
Institute Coordinator
- SC Arts Commission ..... Ken May  
Executive Director
- Charter Institute at Erskine..... Cameron Runyon  
Chief Executive Officer
- SC Public Charter School District..... Elliot Smalley  
District Superintendent
- Commission on Higher Education ..... Dr. John Lane  
Director, Academic Affairs
- SC Council on Economic Education..... Amanda Stiglbauer  
Project Manager
- Computer Science 4 South Carolina ..... Tony Dillon  
Internship Director, Integrated Information Technology, USC
- Office of First Steps to School Readiness ..... Georgia Mjartan  
Executive Director

### IV. Adjournment

### Subcommittee Members:

Dr. Bob Couch, Chair  
April Allen

Sen. Kevin Johnson  
Rep. Dwight Loftis

Ellen Weaver

Neil C. Robinson, Jr.  
CHAIR

Bob Couch  
VICE CHAIR

Terry Alexander

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Raye Felder

Barbara B. Hairfield

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Kevin L. Johnson

Dwight A. Loftis

John W. Matthews, Jr.

Henry McMaster

Molly Spearman

John C. Stockwell

Patti J. Tate

Scott Turner

Ellen Weaver

Melanie D. Barton  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## **Meeting Minutes**

EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee

May 21, 2018

1:00 p.m., Room 433 Blatt Building

Members Present: April Allen, Dr. Bob Couch (Chair), Rep. Dwight Loftis, and Sen. Kevin Johnson

EOC Staff Present: Dr. Kevin Andrews, Melanie Barton, Hope Johnson-Jones, Dr. Rainey Knight, Bunnie Lempeis Ward, and Dana Yow

Dr. Couch welcomed members and guests in attendance.

The minutes of the December 4, 2017 subcommittee meeting were approved as distributed.

### **Teacher Loan Program Report**

Mrs. Ward reported on the findings of the evaluation of the program as administered during Fiscal Year 2016-17. Mrs. Barton noted there is a larger issue represented by the data and highlighted by the Teacher Loan Advisory Committee. The Teacher Loan Program proposes using the Teacher Loan Program to recruit and retain teachers throughout the state, not just in critical geographic need and subject area schools. Mrs. Allen asked about the data trend of returning teachers. Mrs. Barton noted that after 2012-13 the number of teachers who did not return to the classroom has increased. Dr. Couch noted that as Georgia and North Carolina increase teacher salaries, adjacent South Carolina counties and districts will have to offer higher teacher salaries to compete. Rep. Loftis asked about the option to pay a stipend for certain subject areas. Mrs. Ward suggested there has been discussion regarding additional stipends for computer science and STEM subject areas. Dr. Couch also mentioned agricultural science is an area where teachers are paid for working through part of the summer.

Mrs. Allen noted the state loses teachers after five years. Mrs. Barton noted that teaching is no longer seen as a "career for life." The state needs to look at how to retain teachers at the five-year mark. Rep. Loftis also observed this may be a trend among other industries. Sen. Johnson asked, if the loan forgiveness is broadened to statewide eligibility, how expanding eligibility may impact the ability of rural and poor districts to attract teachers.

Mrs. Barton noted that the teacher turnover trend is likely negatively impacting student achievement. Sen. Johnson agreed and noted that teacher salary is a significant issue that needs to be addressed. Dr. Couch observed the teacher shortage in career and technical education is increasing and districts are beginning to think creatively about how to attract technical teachers, using such ideas as shorter contracts. Rep. Loftis asked about add-on certifications and Dr. Couch noted attraction of teachers is difficult. Mrs. Barton noted increasing college tuition rates are also likely impacting the number of students pursuing

education as a career. Higher student loan debts also impact negatively the ability of teachers to remain in the profession.

The report was approved as submitted.

### **Military-Connected Students**

Mrs. Ward reviewed the findings. Overall, the 2016-17 report findings were similar to 2015-16 report findings. Military-connected students continue to outperform their peers on state-administered standardized tests.

During the 2016-17 school year, on SC READY, in English language arts, 57.7 percent of third-grade, military-connected students scored “Meets or Exceeds Expectations,” compared to 42.1 percent of their peers who scored “Meets” or Exceeds Expectations.” In math, 70.8 percent of military-connected students scored “Meets or Exceeds Expectations” and 52.5 percent of their peers scored “Meets or Exceeds Expectations,” representing an 18.3 percent difference. The most significant variation is in the eighth grade SCPASS Science test during the 2016-17 school year. While 49.5 percent of the state’s eighth graders scored “Meets or Exceeds Expectations” in science, almost 62 percent of military-connected students scored “Meets or Exceeds Expectations,” representing a 12.4 increase above the state average. During the 2016-17 school year, military-connected students continued to outperform all students statewide on End-of-Course Examination Program exams. On average, military-connected students’ mean scores were 4.6 points higher, with the largest difference in Biology where their mean scores were 6.2 points higher than students statewide.

Dr. Couch and Rep. Loftis agreed that the relative high academic performance of military-connected students may be due to the broad exposure military-connected students have to varied learning environments and teaching styles. Dr. Couch also noted teachers with military training tend to be effective in the classroom.

The report was approved as submitted.

### **Parent Survey**

Dr. Andrews provided an overview of parent survey report. Parents are least satisfied with home and school relations and most satisfied with the learning environment of their child’s school. Additional bullying questions were added to the 2017 Parent Survey. Approximately one out of four parents do not believe that the teachers/school staff in their child’s school prevents bullying at school. About 40 percent of parents do not believe that their child’s school has an anti-bullying program to prevent or deal with bullying. In looking at the results, Ms. Barton noted that parents who complete the survey tend to be more engaged and participatory while their children typically make grades of As and Bs in school. Therefore, the actual bullying incidences as well as parent perceptions may not be representative of all students and parents. Rep. Loftis requested more detailed record keeping of bullying incidents to follow school responses to bullying activities.

Another change to the survey was the inclusion of three questions regarding Individual Graduation Plans (IGP). Regardless of school level (eighth to twelfth grade), at least 80 percent of parents were satisfied with the IGP process. Overall, 86 percent recommend

parents or guardians attend IGP conferences with their children. Rep. Loftis questioned whether the South Carolina Department of Education is complying with the civil rights questionnaire required at the national level by the Office of Civil Rights. Mrs. Barton responded the Department is participating in a webinar with the US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights this week. Mrs. Barton noted there has been discussion about the administration of the survey and some questions about sending parents an electronic survey, instead of hard copy surveys. Sen. Johnson noted he does not think electronic surveys would be helpful for families in his district who have limited access to devices and the internet.

Mrs. Allen asked if there was any analysis of respondents by geographic areas. Mrs. Barton noted this data have not been reported by region in the past, but the staff would analyze the results. Mrs. Allen noted that large portions of the state's families are not reporting on their perceptions and experiences. Dr. Couch commented that his practice as an administrator was to send a letter to parents about how the school handles bullying, including the process for reporting and consequences of bullying. Dr. Couch believes defining bullying is very important, especially due to the use of social media to bully.

The report was approved as submitted.

### **Budget**

Mrs. Barton reported that the Fiscal Year 2018-19 state budget will not be approved by the General Assembly until the end of June. The biggest differences between the Senate and House versions of the bill regarding public education revolve around the teacher pay raise and the base student cost for the Education Finance Act. The House also increased funding for school security above the level provided in the Senate version.

She informed the subcommittee that the legislation codifying the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) program was signed by the Governor on Friday, May 18, 2018. There will be two approval cycles for 2018-19 and 2019-20. Mrs. Barton noted the EOC will collect individual student achievement data and report the results to the General Assembly in February 2019. The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office will develop a secure portal for schools to enter student data, and the data will be sent to the EOC. Dr. Couch asked about the timeline if the Governor vetoes any budget items. Mrs. Barton responded that the General Assembly will reconvene if any budget item vetoes are significant.

There being no further business, the Subcommittee adjourned at 2:30 p.m.