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To: [Kevin L. BryantKevinBryant@scstatehouse.gov](mailto:Kevin.L.BryantKevinBryant@scstatehouse.gov)
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Subject: Palmetto Kids FIRST - Funding by December 15th?

SC Tax Credits for K-12 Special Needs Scholarships. Can't read or see images? [View this email in a browser](#)

H 4077 IS NOW PERMANENT LAW!!

NEXT: #1 Full Funding & #2 Independent Nonprofits

1. Exceptional SC Update - More Questions?
2. New School List - #124
3. SC House in Pre-Session Tues. & Wed.

Dear Parents, School Officials & Friends,

1. Exceptional SC Update - More Questions? : We should be grateful for any information from (not so) Exceptional SC, so their update on Friday should have been good news, but unfortunately it has caused more questions than answers.

In short, the good news is that it looks like they may try to get CHECKS out to schools by DECEMBER 15th. That would be good if it happens. Current parents of scholarship participants apparently don't have to do anything ... but school officials are being unnecessarily burdened (during the busy end of semester time period) ... SMH.

THE QUESTIONS?

#1. "If you are a new applicant, you will be notified individually."
What is that? We were told ALL new applicants were getting ZERO

this year. Which one is it?

#2. "thank you for your patience as we have been going through this transitional year ..." What??? This is the THIRD YEAR the government appointed board at (not so) Exceptional SC has been running the program. Essentially NOTHING having to do with the applications and distributing scholarships / verifying enrollment has changed since the program was first passed in 2013.

#3. "exciting changes for the application and verification processes ..." MORE TRANSITION??? Every other change has made things worse ... and parents / schools need consistency ... not more "exciting changes". Does anybody think this will be good? ??

#4. "putting us well ahead of previous years' time frames." Well, that is just INSULTING. How dumb do they think we are? Parents and schools used to receive full funding BEFORE SCHOOL STARTED (100% in August) when run by the independent non-profits ... not half in mid-October and half in mid-December. Tell the truth (not so) Exceptional SC.

We and parents are happy to have some sort of update ... but who is writing this stuff? Do they understand what this is doing to parents and schools? How much worse can it get!?!?!?

Stay tuned for 2019 ... and let's get your program back (with full funding)!!!

2. [New School List - #124](#) : A new school list was published this week by the SC Education Oversight Committee on 11/26/2018 (although the list was dated 11/21/2018). School #124 was added ..
. Beaufort Christian School .

The question being however, why are they adding new schools if new applicants are not receiving funding this year? OR, are new applicants going to receive funding? Maybe if you have a friend on the Board you can get the answer ... but it does not appear that everyone is being treated fairly.

www.palmettokidsFIRST.org/currentschools

3. [SC House in Pre-Session Tues. & Wed.](#) : Things are gearing back up in Columbia for the legislative session that starts in JANUARY 2019. The SC House will be back on TUESDAY December 4th and we are told the SC Senate will be in Columbia on WEDNESDAY December 12th. Education and this program are going to be a BIG issue this session, get ready!!!

We will be in Columbia on TUESDAY ... stay tuned ...

Stay tuned ... LOTS MORE to update everyone on ... but that is more than enough for today!!! Keep sharing your story with your personal representatives in Columbia ... keep watching (and participating) on Facebook !!! LET'S GET YOUR PROGRAM BACK (with full funding) **IN 2019!!!**

THANK YOU for your support of the program and our kids. Email or call with any questions, we are always here 24/7 to support our families and schools.

Olga Lisinska, Executive Director

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