



2008 Legislative Investments in Education Accountability

Funding Actions

During the 2008 legislative session, the General Assembly faced a \$30 million reduction in Education Improvement Act (EIA) revenues for the current fiscal year and for Fiscal Year 2008-09. The legislature prioritized funding by eliminating funding for several localized programs. Despite these revenue reductions the General Assembly supported full funding of the Education Finance Act and maintained funding for the Child Development Education Pilot Program and the Education Accountability Act.

Education Accountability Act Program	Change*	Total State/EIA Funds
Technical Assistance	(\$4,722,610)	\$76,380,078
External Review Teams	(\$79,892)	\$1,292,108
Palmetto Gold/Silver Awards	(\$174,690)	\$2,825,310
Report Card	(\$56,588)	\$915,205
Student Identifier	(\$77,332)	\$1,250,708
Data Collection	(\$95,407)	\$1,543,043
Principals Executive Institute	(\$52,778)	\$853,592
Prof. Development on the Standards	(\$407,610)	\$6,592,390
Alternative Schools	(\$680,637)	\$11,008,140
Summer School	(\$1,485,753)	\$29,514,247
Summer School Transportation		\$4,000,000
Assessments	(\$2,200,745)	\$22,290,943
Formative Assessments	\$1,000,000	\$4,950,000
K-5 Grants		\$47,614,527
6-8 Grants		\$2,000,000

*Compared to FY08 total appropriations.

Related Appropriations

- Increases the average teacher pay to \$300 above the southeastern average of \$47,004
- Maintains teacher salary supply funds at \$275 per teacher
- Increases funding for National Board certification to \$54,044,925
- Funds the base student cost at \$2,578, a total increase in funding of \$94.5 million
- Provides districts with flexibility across program lines for non-grant funds
- Maintains funding of the Education and Economic Development Act at \$33.6 million of which \$21.8 million is allocated for guidance and career specialists
- Provides \$20.9 million for school bus operations
- Maintains \$31.7 million for school nurses and physical education teachers
- Provides \$1.7million for high school reading initiative

June 2008

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT FUNDING ACROSS THE YEARS *

EAA ITEM	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Technical Assistance										81,102,688	76,380,078
Teacher/Principal Specialist	1,455,239	5,206,698	10,469,189	19,602,447	33,862,589	32,365,839	33,977,962	17,366,575	27,071,733		
Alternative Technical Assistance								4,000,000	700,000		
Principal Leaders								1,275,240	2,079,105		
Below Average Schools								10,810,000	10,810,000		
Homework Centers	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,178,000	3,616,376	3,616,376	6,953,864	6,810,000	10,586,000		
External Review	0	0	0	4,000,000	5,466,872	5,466,872	1,466,872	586,800	699,010	1,372,000	1,292,108
Retraining Grants	750,000	750,000	750,000	4,875,000	9,265,645	9,265,645	7,460,500	5,565,000	6,144,000		
Principal Mentors	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	81,000	58,722	33,135	33,135	33,135		
Assessment	11,968,300	15,502,187	17,822,206	19,017,955	15,984,382	14,720,311	16,940,171	16,940,171	19,820,171	24,491,688	22,290,943
Formative Assessments										3,950,000	4,950,000
Summer School/Comp Remediation	0	10,000,000	18,000,000	21,000,000	21,000,000	21,000,000	21,000,000	31,000,000	31,000,000	31,000,000	29,514,247
Summer School Transportation			4,400,000	4,400,000	4,124,000	4,124,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
Modified School Year/Day	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000							
Alternative Schools				15,600,289	10,976,277	10,976,277	10,976,277	10,976,277	10,976,277	11,688,777	11,008,140
Principals Executive Institute		1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	949,466	949,466	906,370	906,370	906,370	906,370	853,592
Professional Development on Standards	0	1,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	6,646,260	6,646,260	6,204,060	4,413,485	4,413,485	7,000,000	6,592,390
Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards	0	0	0	2,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,825,310
Report Card/SASI	0	0	0	868,000	868,000	1,018,000	971,793	971,793	971,793	971,793	915,205
Data Collection							2,048,925	1,049,375	1,548,450	1,638,450	1,543,043
Unique Student Identifier							488,000	891,370	1,158,155	1,328,040	1,250,708
Education Oversight Committee (EOC)	596,000	1,119,339	1,119,339	1,119,339	1,062,774	1,062,774	1,214,538	1,214,538	1,214,538	1,761,370	1,658,805
EOC Public Relations				250,000	237,366	237,366	226,592	226,592	226,592	226,592	213,398
Department of Education Personal Service **		104,000	674,690	\$674,690	647,702	647,702	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	2,140,024	
Department of Education Other Operating **			1,125,000	1,125,000	678,535	565,174	388,862	388,862	388,862	273,675	3,580,078
TOTAL EAA:	\$15,619,539	\$35,532,224	\$63,210,424	\$105,060,720	\$116,467,244	\$114,720,784	\$118,857,921	\$124,025,583	\$139,347,676	\$176,851,467	\$168,868,045
OTHER SUPPORTING PROGRAMS											
Reduce Class Size	19,608,761	37,220,049	38,552,245	35,491,067	35,491,067	35,491,067	35,047,429	35,047,429	35,047,429	35,047,429	33,006,617
EOC Family Involvement				50,000	47,473	47,473	45,318	45,318	45,318	45,318	42,679
K-5 Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies Grants					32,000,000	40,000,000	46,500,000	46,500,000	46,500,000	47,614,527	47,614,527
6-8 Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies Grants							2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
High School Reading								500,000	1,000,000	2,650,000	1,000,000
Young Adult Education								1,600,000	3,200,000	4,800,000	4,706,832
Public Choice Innovation Schools										2,560,000	0
TOTAL OTHER:	\$19,608,761	\$37,220,049	\$38,552,245	\$35,541,067	\$67,538,540	\$75,538,540	\$83,592,747	\$85,692,747	\$87,792,747	\$94,717,274	\$88,370,655
GRAND TOTAL:	\$35,228,300	\$72,752,273	\$101,762,669	\$140,601,787	\$184,005,784	\$190,259,324	\$202,450,668	\$209,718,330	\$227,140,423	\$271,568,741	\$257,238,700

* Includes all recurring and nonrecurring General Fund, Education Improvement Act (EIA) and Lottery revenues.

** Does not include an estimated \$6,300,000 in federal funds for assessment.

*** Based upon initial projections made by the South Carolina Department of Education. The agency has not yet allocated the operating costs between personal service and other operating expenses for Fiscal Year 2008-09. A proviso allows the agency to expend up to 5% of appropriations for technical assistance on administration.

AMENDMENTS TO THE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The Education Accountability Act of 1998 was amended to incorporate a new assessment in grades 3-8 and other revisions to increase the impact of the accountability system. Incorporating a new assessment involves changes to student performance levels, the ratings designations and reporting formats. In summary, H.4662 provides the following:

- Implementation of a new grades 3-8 assessment in 2009
 - Testing includes English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies using the census and sampling design employed with PACT;
 - Student performance levels include Exemplary, Met (performing at grade level) and Not Met (performing below grade level);
 - The writing test is administered earlier in the school year;
 - Performance is reported also at the strand level; and
 - Beginning in 2010, student and school reports must be provided by August 1.
- Funding for formative assessments in grades 1-9
 - Formative assessments are to be identified for grades 1-9 in English language arts and mathematics; and
 - The SCRA and first and second grade reading assessments are eliminated.
- School and district ratings modified to incorporate the new test
 - The term “unsatisfactory” is changed to “at-risk;”
 - The name “improvement rating” is changed to “growth rating;”
 - The current practice of including graduation rate in high school, career and technology center and district ratings is codified; and
 - Criteria for the Palmetto Gold and Silver program are modified to include recognition for closing the achievement gap.
- Report card format modified
 - A summary document is to be issued to parents;
 - A comprehensive report is to be published on state, district and school websites, with printed copies made available upon request;
 - Principals must have access to student test scores before writing the report card narrative; and
 - Local superintendents must review the report card narrative before publication.
- Requirements for academic plans are repealed.
- Technical assistance provisos are codified.
- Beginning in 2013 the accountability system should undergo five-year reviews.

STUDIES IN PROGRESS

Copies of these studies and previous work can be obtained from www.eoc.sc.gov

Be There! **August 2008**

Parent involvement has long been identified as a critical factor in the academic success of students. “Be There” is a national media campaign that inspires families to be more involved in their children’s education by simply *being there* for their children. The SC pilot program, which will launch in August 2008, is a partnership among the EOC, The SC School Boards Association, and five SC school districts.

Technology White Paper **August 2008**

The EOC-SCDE-CIO joint project follows up on the study of computer-based/computer-adaptive testing to develop recommendations regarding access, utilization, professional development and renewal of technology in the schools, with particular focus on teaching and learning for success in the twenty-first century.

Child Development Education Program Pilot

August 2008 and January 2009

Funding continues to be provided for full-day pre-kindergarten programs for four-year-olds in the Abbeville et al v. The State of South Carolina plaintiff school districts. The evaluation addresses participation levels of eligible students, teacher credentials, program supports and student progress.

Flexible Use of Appropriations

August 2008

A review of the current year's transfers indicates that 9 percent of funds eligible for transferring under the flexibility provisos were transferred this year. Overwhelmingly funds are moved from "reduce class size" to "academic assistance." The flexibility provisos are used most often by smaller enrollment districts.

Teacher Preparation Survey

September 2008

In response to administrative comments that new teachers are not prepared for today's classrooms, the EOC surveyed SC principals to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of teachers new to the classroom and to offer suggestions on how preparation for and introduction to the classroom could be strengthened. More than half of SC principals responded to the detailed survey.

Palmetto Priority Schools

January 2009

The EOC is working with the SCDE on the Palmetto Priority Schools Project. The EOC is evaluating the project which includes gauging process measures and leading indicators of progress with an emphasis on school climate. Findings from this project should be affirmed by exploring patterns in all schools and have the potential to inform a broader range of measures for school and district evaluation.

Closing the Achievement Gap

April 2009

The EOC continues to identify schools closing the achievement gaps among economic and racial/ethnic groups and to identify factors related to that progress. The relationship between home and school repeatedly is identified as critical factors. Schools succeeding in this area also address physiological needs of students and expand community partnerships to ensure that the child's full experience is addressed. In 2008, 141 schools were recognized. In 2010 and beyond the recognition is to be included in the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards Program.