



Palmetto State Teachers Association Suggestions on Senate Bill 419

Section 40: Education Finance Act Salary Schedules: We appreciate this bill will increase the starting salary to 35,000. The current statewide minimum salary should be amended. We support making the salary schedule more competitive where it pays teachers what they deserve. We support increasing the starting salary for teachers, but have concerns about using bands.

LIFE Scholarship Suggestions: We would like to see a lottery enhancement added to the LIFE scholarship for students who major in education. We already have enhancements for math, science, and nursing. Adding an enhancement for education would help alleviate student loan debt many of our teachers leave college with.

Section 34: Educator Preparation: We have concerns with this section with a school's ability to hire up to 25% of their staff with noncertified teachers. The PACE program housed at the Department of Education already has a process for hiring teachers who have a degree and experience in a particular field. From the current language in the bill, these non-certified teachers will not have to take any classroom management or pedagogy classes. We think these teachers should go through the PACE program that already has procedures, classes, and everything non-certified teachers would need to become certified teachers.

Section 39: Teacher Satisfaction Survey: We appreciate that this survey will remain confidential. We hope that the data collected leads to thoughtful solutions and that information is kept confidential.

Section 43: Mileage Reimbursement: We support this provision to provide stipends for mileage. We do encourage the General Assembly provided funds for those school districts that do not have the funds to make this happen.

Testing: We support reducing the number of tests given to students.

Below are some of the Amended Changes to Senate Bill 419 so far.

Senate Bill 419 by Senators Hembree and others: This bill is similar to House Bill 3759. This bill is in the Senate Education K-12 Subcommittee. The subcommittee is taking their time and debating chunks of the bill each week. The bill was amended on February 20th to remove the section asking the State Board of Education to adopt a model code of ethics for local school boards. The subcommittee heard testimony on the Read to Succeed sections of the bill on February 27th and sections affecting teachers on March 6th. Some amendments to the Senate bill include:

- Deletes the Student Bill of Rights and the Zero to Twenty Committee
- Beginning in 2021, the Education and Economic Development Act Coordinating Council, the State Superintendent of Education, and the State Board of Education will provide a comprehensive report that identifies benchmarks within the 0-20 education and workforce pipeline.
- Mandates that computer science be taught in all schools
- Deletes social studies assessments in grades 3-8 and the 8th grade science assessment
- Deletes language specifying that screenings must be done at midyear and at the end of the school year and that SCDE, contingent upon funding from the General Assembly, shall reimburse districts for the cost of the screening instruments.
- Expands the requirement to offer summer reading camps to students enrolled in first and second grade as an intervention.
- Requires district to report annually on the total number of retention exemptions granted, the number of appeals made and granted, and the academic outcomes of these students in grades 4-8.
- Provides flexibility in the use of its allocation for reading coaches to include but not be limited to reading coach, literacy interventionist, or other supplemental services. However, the plan must be approved by SCDE annually.
- Changes the timeline and number of courses required for Read to Succeed Literacy Teacher certification endorsement. The endorsement must be received within five years and teachers are required to take one course or equivalent professional development hours. Reimbursement for these courses can be made by SCDE if funds are provided for that purpose by the General Assembly.
- Deletes the requirement for middle and secondary classroom teachers to take a course or the equivalent professional development hours within 5 years of their most recent certification.
- Specifies that educators who are not employed with a school district or who are employed by the district and whose responsibilities do not include classroom instruction would not be required to receive the literacy endorsement unless the educator reenters the classroom.
- Specifies that a teacher candidate must successfully pass a test on reading instruction and intervention. Those candidates not passing the testing requirement must complete the requirements for a literacy endorsement as a prerequisite for completing induction.
- Allows teachers already certified the option of utilizing the test to exempt course requirements.

