

SCHOOL BOARD LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Code **BJ** Issued **10/08**

Purpose: To establish and clarify the advocacy role of the board.

The board, as an agent of the state, must operate within the bounds of state and federal laws affecting public education. If the board is to meet its responsibilities to the residents and students of this community, it must work vigorously for the passage of new laws designed to advance the cause of good schools and for the repeal or modification of existing laws that impede this cause.

It is a role of the board to advocate in support of its policies and, further, to take a public and active position involving pending legislation that it views as potentially threatening of public schools.

Therefore, board members will keep themselves informed of pending legislation and actively communicate board positions and concerns to the community and elected representatives at both the state and national level.

The board authorizes the superintendent to set the overall message and communicate on behalf of the board regarding legislative issues impacting public education. This authority extends to, but is not limited to, the defense of public education in the face of pending legislation that he/she views as potentially threatening of public schools. The superintendent is authorized to utilize any and all district communications channels to convey the resulting message to the community and to elected state and national representatives.

In addition, the board will work with its legislative representatives (both state and federal), with the South Carolina School Boards Association, the National School Boards Association and other concerned groups in developing an annual as well as long-range legislative program.

Board members will participate in the SCSBA Delegate Assembly, the SCSBA Board Legislative Contact Program and the Federal Relations Network as deemed appropriate by the board.

Adopted 8/10/04; Revised 10/14/08

Legal references:

A. Court cases:

1. U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals: Randall S. Page v. Lexington County School District One, 531 F.3d 275 (4th Cir. 2008).