

2020

# LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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Debbie Elmore, SC School Boards Association

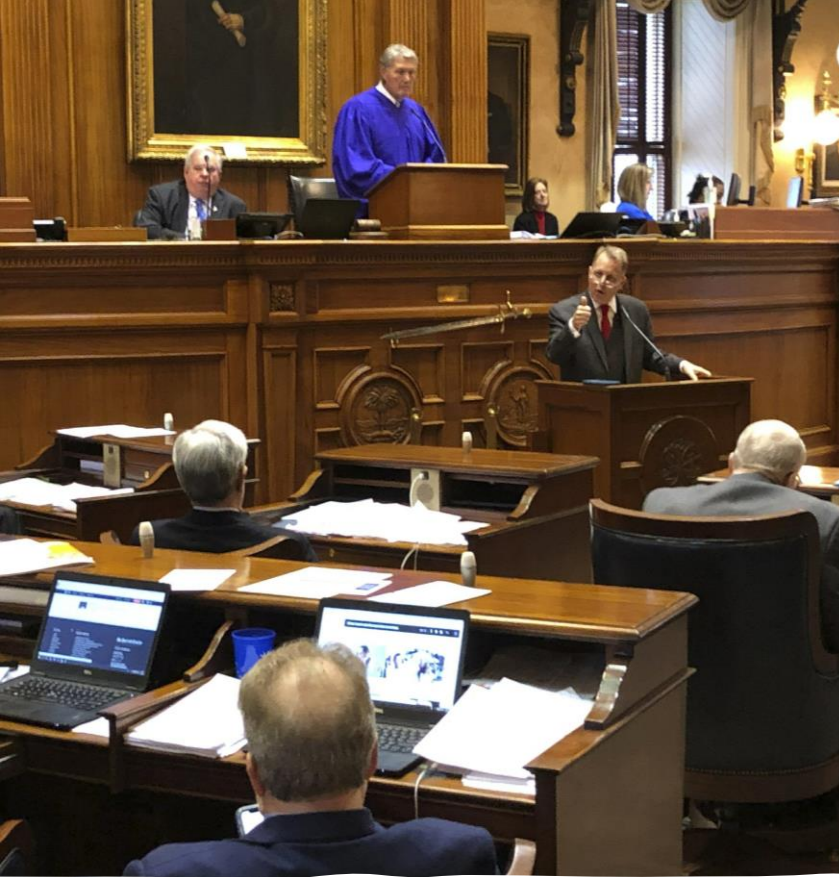
Sandy Smith, SCASBO

# OBJECTIVES

WHAT PASSED?

WHAT DIDN'T?

WHAT'S AHEAD?



# A CRAZY SESSION!!!

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WHAT PASSED?

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MORE THAN YOU THINK

# NO BUDGET, COVID \$, BROADBAND HELP

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## Continuing Resolution

- House bill 3411
- State revenues remain same as 2019-2020
- Funding flexibility
- Teacher salary schedule frozen
- Retiree return to work salary cap suspension
- State superintendent authority for waivers

## CARES Act Allocation 1 & 2

- \$222 million allocated K12
- Unexpended funding allocated to districts (4 main areas) v reimbursement
- Deadline extended 2021
- Quarterly reports
- Salary cap suspension retirees returning to work (was in CR)

## Broadband Accessibility Act

- Incentives for utility coops to work with internet provider to expand wifi in rural areas
- Allows use of existing utility poles, wires to run cable or fiber to needed to provide internet services to areas households without internet services

# INSTRUCTION, TIME STAND STILL, HR

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## Mental Health and Wellness

- Original bill required courses and instruction on mental health and wellness but it was greatly amended
- "At the next cyclical review of the health standards, the board shall continue to revise existing age-appropriate standards and concepts that address mental, emotional, and social health"

## Daylight Savings Time

- SC jointed 5 other states to enact legislation ending daylight savings time practices
- Actual change requires passes by U.S. Congress in order to end daylight savings practices
- Impact to students who walk or ride bus to schools

## Lactation Support Act

- Requires employers to provide exempt and non-exempt employees with reasonable paid or unpaid break time to express milk
- Requires notices be made for employees

# LOCAL BILLS



Consolidation of  
Clarendon School  
Districts 1 and 3



Consolidation of  
Hampton School  
Districts 1 and 2



Jasper County  
Board Elections



Charleston  
County School  
Board Seats  
At-large to  
Single-member

WHAT DIDN'T?

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SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNDONE



# MONEY, MANDATES, VOUCHERS

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## FY2020–2021 Budget H.5201

- Senate amends House plan in September
- House refuses to take up Senate amended plan
- Ways and Means Chair voices support to possibly pass supplemental bill in January

## Education Reform Act S.419

- Bill debated in Senate for three months.
- Fiscal impact unclear
- House, meanwhile, passed separate bills mirroring reform bill it passed in 2019

## School choice

- Equal Opportunity Scholarship Act (S.556)
- Implications of court's ruling *Adams v McMaster* on future legislation
- Voucher proponent's email messages regarding ruling

# GUNS, FULLY REOPEN SCHOOLS, MORE MANDATES

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## Guns at school church

- Senate bill 293 pulled from committee last few days of session in House
- Allow church member concealed permit holder to bring weapon on school leased for services, activities
- No provision to obtain local district approval
- Did not take up

## In-person instruction

- Joint resolutions filed in House (H.5579) and Senate (S.1273) last week of session
- Declared all school personnel as essential staff
- Mandate districts to offer option to in-person, five days a week instruction and week

## Financial literacy

- Senate recalled bill (H.3199) from committee during last week of session.
- Mandated financial instruction on various topics including college loans, monthly payment obligations, key loan terms, etc.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

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# NEW SESSION, LEAN BUDGET, STUDENTS

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## New session, new legislation

- 2021 legislation session is brand new term requiring legislation to be filed
- Prefiles usually in late November, early December
- New lawmakers in the House, Senate

## Lean state budget

- Update on impact of COVID on state economy to be announced in November.
- Lawmakers have already announced not to expect record-breaking revenues that kicked off 2020 session
- Unknown what impact will mean for teacher raises, other critical needs.

## Loss of learning

- Concerns over how much students have lost academically from virtual learning
- Expect to see bills mandating schools to make up loss of instruction for students, more accountability
- Districts need to ensure delegation members know how your districts is ensuring students are learning

# FUNDING FORMULA, MENTAL HEALTH

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## Education funding reform

- Sen. Greg Hembree announced in a news article that he expects education funding formula will be addressed in 2021
- Revenues and Fiscal Affairs Office has been working on a plan based on using existing revenues
- SCSBA has concerns about the plan

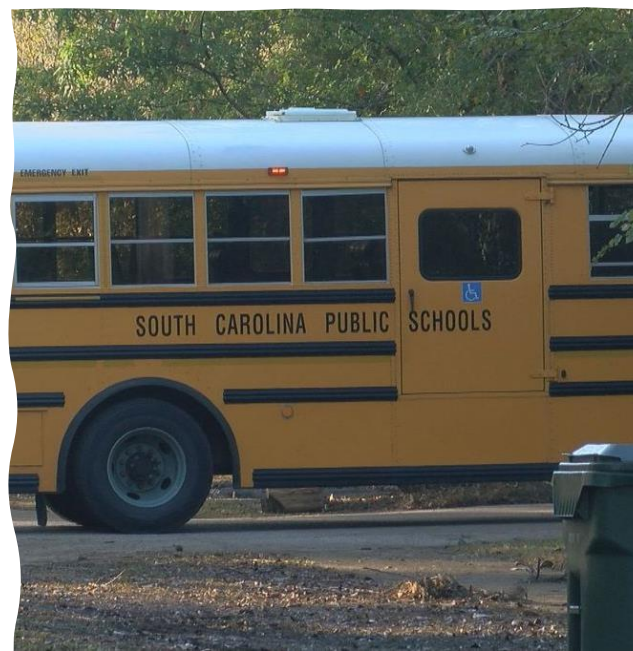
## Increase student mental services

- Impact of COVID-19 on students academic and social well-being discussed by lawmakers.
- Committee on Children meeting around the state and hearing concerns of virus' impact on students social and emotional state

# SUMMARY

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Now more than ever, lawmakers need to hear from you about challenges your schools are tackling and how you are operating. How are your schools ensuring all students are learning and on task? What are barriers you are facing. What would help your schools to help students? We cannot afford to allow the "loudest voices" in our communities to carry our message.



# THANK YOU



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