



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Public Information Officers

FROM: Phillip Cease
Director of Governmental Affairs

DATE: July 23, 2024

RE: 2024 Legislative Session Recap

SCDE's Office of Governmental Affairs closely monitors legislation impacting public education. Below is a summary of legislation that passed in this second year of the two-year legislative session (2024). The memo recapping the first year of this session can be found [here](#).

For more information, please contact Phillip Cease at 803-734-0183 or phcease@ed.sc.gov.

[S. 418 \(Read to Succeed\)](#) – This amends the Read to Succeed Act with a focus on K-5 literacy, scientifically-backed reading instruction, grade-level reading proficiency by third grade, additional reading interventions, teacher professional development, formative assessments/universal screeners, reading/literacy coach requirements, and updated Read to Succeed endorsement requirements. The Department's complete memo on this can be found [here](#).

[S. 1188 \(Expulsion Hearings\)](#) – Local school boards must notify, in writing, the parents or legal guardian of a student when procedures for expulsion are initiated. The statute contains requirements for the written notification and providing access to the investigative file along with timelines for when the hearing can take place.

[H. 3295 \(Competency-Based Education\)](#) – This permits local school boards to request waivers from the State Board of Education when LEA's wish to implement competency-based education and it establishes what the waiver application must contain. It clarifies school calendar length and start dates with an exception for schools on a modified year-round calendar. It updates requirements for awarding units of credit to require a greater emphasis on the student's mastery of course material rather than completion of predetermined time allotment for courses.

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H. 3309 (Seizure Safe Schools Act) – This Act requires districts and charter schools to adopt seizure training programs. School districts shall require students with special health care needs to have individual health care plans, IHP. The Act provides additional guidance on who should develop and have input on the IHPs. Additionally, it contains language which holds school district employees harmless against claims arising from sections of this law.

H. 4624 (Gender Reassignment Procedures) – This new law prohibits public school staff, to include nurses, counselors, teachers and principals, from knowingly encouraging or coercing a minor to withhold from their parent or guardian that the minor's perception of their gender is inconsistent with his or her sex. It also prohibits school staff from withholding from a parent or legal guardian the minor's perception that their gender is inconsistent with their sex. If a minor asserts to any school employee that their gender is inconsistent with the minor's sex or requests any school employee to address a minor using a pronoun or title that does not align with the minor's sex, the principal, vice principal, or counselor shall immediately notify the minor's parent or legal guardian.