

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>CODE:</b>	PL-03
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Policy and Legislative
<b>DATE:</b>	June 14, 2016

**SUBJECT/TITLE**

Greenville County Schools' (District) Waiver Request of State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-205 (R.43-205), Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties and Workloads

**PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM**

The purpose of this request is to extend the previously approved waiver of R.43-205 and allow a 23:1 prekindergarten student-teacher ratio for the 2016–17 school year.

**CRITICAL FACTS**

Under R.43-205(II)(B)(1)(c), a prekindergarten class must not exceed a 20:1 student-teacher ratio.

2016–17 General Appropriations Bill, South Carolina State Budget Bill, Provisos 1.28 and 1A.15 suspend professional staffing ratios in the schools; however, they explicitly exclude prekindergarten programs. Similar provisos are included in the proposed 2016–17 budget. Both proposed provisos are expected to be made law by the Governor.

The District requested and received a waiver from R.43-205(II)(B)(1)(c) and increased its prekindergarten class size to a 23:1 student-teacher ratio. The SBE approved this request as a one-year pilot program subject to the District's report of the program's effectiveness.

The District seeks to extend the one-year provisional waiver by an additional year. It asserts the change in readiness testing over the last two years has made it difficult to effectively address student outcomes and the additional year is needed to effectively evaluate the program.

The District has submitted an early learning assessment outlining progress of students in the prekindergarten program for the 2015–16 school year. The assessment indicated significant growth in each of the measurable areas.

The District's strategic and school renewal plans were modified to account for the request asked for in the waiver.

This waiver request extends the prior approval until the 2016–17 school year only. If approved, all other conditions attached to the original waiver request will also apply to this waiver request.

**TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS**

August 2015–June 2016                      The District’s prekindergarten classes approved for 23:1 student-teacher ratio.

May 10, 2016                                      Waiver request presented to State Accountability for presentation to the June SBE meeting. District strategic and school renewal plans were modified to account for the request asked for in the waiver.

June 14, 2016                                      State Accountability to present the District’s 2016–17 waiver request before the SBE.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**COST:**    N/A

**FUND/SOURCE:**                                N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachments:**  yes                       no  
**(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)**

**Name of Attachments:**  
Greenville County Schools’ Waiver Request

**RECOMMENDATION**

The South Carolina Department of Education recommends approval of the following motion: “The SBE approves the waiver request of R.43-205(II)(B)(1)(c), which requires prekindergarten classes must not exceed a 20:1 student-teacher ratio, for Greenville County Schools for the 2016–17 school year.”

**ACTION REQUEST**

FOR APPROVAL:                          FOR INFORMATION ONLY: