S T A T E B O A R D O F E D U C A T I O N
SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CODE:	PL04
COMMITTEE:	P&L
DATE:	November 3, 2026

SUBJECT/TITLE
Approval of Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance (Third & Final Reading)

PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM
To fulfill the requirements of Act 191 by adopting a Model Code of Ethics that establishes statewide expectations for ethical conduct, accountability, and effective governance among local boards of trustees.

CRITICAL FACTS
Act 191 requires the State Board of Education to adopt a Model Code of Ethics for local boards of trustees. The proposed Model Code outlines expectations for ethical leadership, legal compliance, accountability, and sound governance practices. It emphasizes the responsibility of trustees to act in the best interests of students and communities while maintaining the public's trust in South Carolina's public education system.

TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

May 14, 2026	Senate passes S.70, amend the SC Code of Laws provide school board member code of ethics and by adding Section 59-19-45, relating to mandatory training for school district trustees.
May 18, 2026	Governor signs Act 191
September 1, 2026	SBE approved First Reading
October 6, 2026	P&L Committee delays approval until next meeting.
November 3, 2026	The SCDE presents to the SBE for Third & Final Reading

ECONOMIC IMPACT
COST:
FUND/SOURCE:

ATTACHMENTS
Attachments: ☒ yes ☐ no
(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)

Name of Attachments:
Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance (Third & Final Reading)

RECOMMENDATION
The SCDE recommends that the SBE approve the model code for a Third and Final reading.

ACTION REQUEST
FOR APPROVAL: ☒ FOR INFORMATION ONLY: ☐