



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Mick Zais  
Superintendent**

**1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201**

**January 7, 2013**

**The Honorable W. Brian White  
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee  
525 Blatt Building  
South Carolina House of Representatives  
Columbia, SC 29201**

**Dear Chairman White:**

**The purpose of this letter is to highlight some of the proposals contained in the South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE's) budget submission for consideration as part of your Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014 Appropriations Act. Thank you for your consideration of the agency's requests.**

**Economic Times**

**These recommendations are offered in the context of the current national economy. Last September, the national economy showed signs of improvement. However, recent economic data show a slowing economy or no significant economic growth. The state's economy is strongly affected by national policy, and it is uncertain whether Washington policy makers will take the necessary steps to jumpstart the national economy.**

**The Bureau of Economic Advisors (BEA) informed the agency on September 4, 2012 they had revised Base Student Cost (BSC) estimates for several fiscal years. The BEA estimates a BSC of \$2,771 for FY 2013-2014. Using the "old" estimates, this would have been a decline of \$19 per pupil and the first decline in the BSC estimate since the enactment of the Education Finance Act (EFA). I've enclosed a copy of this letter in the SCDE's budget submission.**

**Ultimately, the best use of scarce state resources is to direct as much funding to classrooms as possible. These recommendations aim to put the students first when considering funding decisions given the economic times and the information available to the agency as of January 7, 2013.**

Education Finance Act

The BSC formula estimate provided by the BEA for FY 2013-2014 is \$2,771. However, with the challenges of the economy and the competing demands in state government, it is extremely unlikely state revenue will be available to fully fund the BEA's BSC estimate. In FY 2010-2011 the BSC was \$1,615 per pupil. The General Assembly appropriated funds in FY 2012-2013 to increase the estimated BSC to \$2,012 per pupil. This is an increase of \$397 per pupil or 24.5%.

Respectfully, I once again request the budget use recurring dollars to fund the EFA line. Furthermore, I request you commit to maintaining a BSC of \$2,012, *at a minimum*, for FY 2013-2014.

The projected district weighted pupil units (WPU) figure for FY 2013-2014 is 875,053. This is an increase of 4,703 WPUs. At a minimum, to maintain a BSC of \$2,012 will require an additional \$16,221,098 in recurring general fund dollars to the EFA appropriation line and an additional \$3,254,601 in recurring general fund dollars to the Employer Contributions appropriation line. **The total amount of additional recurring general funds requested to maintain a BSC of \$2,012 is \$19,475,699.**

South Carolina Public Charter School District

The current budget appropriates \$30,343,146 in recurring general fund dollars for public charter schools sponsored by the SCPCSD. While I believe a permanent solution to funding these schools is to require all dollars associated with a student follow them to the public school of their choice, I support this budget line item until such a solution can be enacted.

Transportation

South Carolina maintains the only state-run school bus fleet in the nation. To meet the maintenance needs and expected fuel/fluid costs for FY 2013-2014, I respectfully ask for a net increase of \$11,850,000. I propose a reduction of \$17,462,672 in Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds appropriated for transportation so those EIA funds can be repurposed. This shift and the requested increase will require an additional \$29,314,672 in recurring general funds. If this cost shift is not acceptable, then the SCDE requests \$11,850,000 in additional EIA funds for transportation. Furthermore, the SCDE respectfully requests Proviso 1A.36, which provides flexibility to the agency to use excess Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds for bus fuel, be maintained in the budget.

A plan to decentralize student transportation services to school districts is likely to be debated in the 120th South Carolina General Assembly. My position on decentralization has not changed in over 3 years: I am not opposed to it. Previous State Superintendents have been strongly opposed to any effort to decentralize transportation services; I stand ready and willing to provide any data or information to those legislators who want a safe, but more efficient student transportation system that may include decentralization.

However, until such time as legislation is enacted that changes student transportation services, the SCDE must continue to provide safe transportation while maintaining the oldest bus fleet in the nation. Previous appropriation acts, dating back to the mid-1990s, did not consistently appropriate funds to replace old school buses. This lack of foresight has resulted in today's situation: two-thirds of the bus fleet is 15 years of age or older. Most private citizens understand that older vehicles breakdown more often, are more expensive to repair, and are less fuel efficient. The same holds true for our school buses: they are more expensive to maintain and are not as fuel efficient.

In the current budget, the General Assembly appropriated \$12,217,000 in unclaimed lottery prize funds and excess lottery revenues. This was a decrease from the FY 2011-2012 level of \$12,350,000 in unclaimed lottery prize funds. While some funding for school buses is better than no funding, the amounts appropriated in the past two budgets are insufficient to replace approximately one-fifteenth of the fleet as recommended by SC Code of Laws 59-67-580.

Respectfully, I request a Capital Reserve Fund appropriation of \$34,000,000 for the purchase of new school buses, replacing approximately one-fifteenth of the fleet as recommended by state law. These funds will allow the agency to replace buses purchased in the mid-1980s that are still in use today.

#### Instructional Materials

In 2011, the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) adopted new standards for Social Studies, after both adopted the Common Core State Standards for English-Language Arts and Mathematics in 2010. The cyclical review process for Science standards began last fiscal year and will continue until new standards are adopted, likely in the fall or winter of 2013. In summary, the SBE and the EOC will have adopted new standards in the 4 core subject areas in a span of 3 years.

To meet our commitment to students, parents, and teachers, the State must purchase new instructional materials to match new state academic standards. The total authorization level I request for instructional materials is \$53,090,817, which is an increase of \$19,190,647 over the FY 2012-2013 authorization level of \$34,650,170. In FY 2012-2013, the General Assembly appropriated \$13,727,331 in non-recurring EIA funds for instructional materials. Instructional materials are not a one-time expense and should not be funded with one-time funds. I propose funding instructional materials through \$32,167,978 in repurposed recurring EIA funds and projected EIA recurring revenue growth.

IDEA Maintenance of Effort

Special education students deserve the same access to a quality education as every other student.

After I assumed office on January 12, 2011, I learned the SCDE had not informed the General Assembly of a compliance issue with the United States Department of Education (USED) regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In fact, the State had not met the federal maintenance of effort requirement (MOE) for three consecutive fiscal years, prior to the beginning of my public service as State Superintendent of Education.

On June 17, 2011, the USED notified me that they would withhold, in perpetuity, over \$111 million per year in special education funding. This would be a devastating cut to special education programs in South Carolina, which are mandated by the federal government. Working cooperatively and as expeditiously as possible with Governor Haley and the General Assembly, the SCDE made \$75 million available to school districts for special education before the close of FY 2010-2011. This reduced the cut in federal special education funding to \$36,202,909 per year. However, as stated, that cut is in perpetuity. This cut is the result of the State not meeting the financial effort required in FY 2009-2010. I have fought that cut by appealing this decision. The SCDE appeal to the USED was filed August 1, 2011. To date, the SCDE has never been given an opportunity by the USED to plead our case to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

On March 16, 2012, I requested another one-year delay in this cut because the USDE still had not made a decision about the State's appeal. I requested a one-year delay so that students with disabilities would not feel the impact of a reduction in federal funds because the USDE failed to act. On April 3, 2012 I had a conference call with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Anthony Miller, the second-ranking official in the USDE, to make the State's appeal for another one-year delay.

On April 6, 2012, the USDE denied the SCDE's request for a one-year delay. On May 22, 2012, Secretary Duncan issued an order denying the SCDE a hearing on the matter. On June 18, 2012, the SCDE filed a motion for a stay of this order and a petition for review with the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals (the Court). On August 13, 2012 the Court denied the motion for a stay and also deferred a motion by the U.S. Department of Justice to dismiss the appeal pending the submission and review of legal briefs by both parties.

The denial of a hearing by Secretary Duncan means the USDE will reduce the State's IDEA allocation by \$36,202,909 per year in perpetuity beginning on October 1, 2012. However, federal law requires the State to maintain its support for special education students in order to receive the remaining IDEA funds. While I have persistently pleaded with the USDE to listen to reason, those pleas have been rejected by the bureaucracy of the USDE. The children, not the adults, will be the ones hurt by this decision. Accordingly, the State must take action to prevent an adverse impact on students with disabilities. In FY 2012-2013, you and the General Assembly took action to appropriate \$36,202,909 in non-recurring general funds to fill the gap left by the federal government.

The Court has not made a determination regarding the SCDE's appeal. Therefore, it is prudent that I again request a non-recurring appropriation of \$36,202,909 in non-recurring general funds for FY 2013-2014.

In my April 3, 2012 phone conversation with Deputy Secretary Miller, he stated the USDE would work with the State if it appropriated the \$36,202,909 and the USDE ultimately granted the State's appeal. This would ensure the State does not artificially raise the IDEA MOE in future years. While I appreciate this offer and will accept it when the appeal is granted, the USDE has shown it does not make quick decisions regarding the IDEA MOE.

I have consistently informed Gov. Haley, the General Assembly, and the public about this issue since I was made aware of it. Working together, the State has met the IDEA MOE in FY 2010-2011, FY 2011-2012, and will meet it in FY 2012-2013. While the Court may ultimately rule on the IDEA appeal in the State's favor, I will work with the South Carolina federal delegation to amend federal law so that no state is ever put in this position again by indecisive bureaucrats in Washington. Frankly, the USDE's indecision in FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011 is why the State and its students with disabilities are in the predicament we find ourselves in today.

#### National Board Certification

The current budget appropriates \$64,000,000 in EIA funds for the National Board certification program. Given current information about the number of entrants into the program, the agency estimates no increase in funding will be needed for this program and that the authorization level for this program can be decreased to \$58,000,000 for FY 2013-2014. This level will fund all current commitments of the program. However, as I proposed last year, I recommend closing the program to new entrants and that participants should receive this bonus for only one ten-year period.

#### PowerSchool and Data Collection

The SCDE will complete work on a statewide longitudinal data system during the current fiscal year. Its construction and implementation was a federal mandate as a condition of the General Assembly accepting funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, often referred to as "stimulus money." This system was built with funds from a federal grant. The SCDE requests an increase of \$2,500,000 because that is the cost to maintain and implement the system. There are many benefits to a statewide longitudinal data system, such as analyzing the effectiveness of programs and interventions, and using student achievement data to improve classroom instruction.

Failure to implement the system could result in the State repaying the federal government, with state funds, because it did not follow through on the original federal grant. This is a classic case of the strings that are attached to federal funds.

Child Development Education Pilot Project

The Child Development Education Pilot Project (CDEPP) has existed since FY 2006-2007. Over time, the funds appropriated to this program have been insufficient to meet the per pupil amount specified in Proviso 1A.34, which for the current fiscal year is \$4,218 per pupil. The funded per pupil amount is \$3,668 based upon an appropriation of \$17,300,000. This per pupil shortfall is due to the increased enrollment by eligible pupils in the school districts served by CDEPP. The SCDE requests an increase of \$2,940,998 to meet the requirements of the proviso. If the request is not authorized, the SCDE recommends amending Proviso 1A.34 to accurately reflect the funded per pupil appropriation.

Teacher Supplies

Proviso 1A.12 establishes a reimbursement of "up to \$275 each school year" to teachers for supplies. The SCDE requests an increase of \$396,480 in this appropriation line, which based upon current estimates, would fully fund a reimbursement of \$275 per teacher.

EIA Partnerships

There are several EIA appropriation earmarks in Part XII.F – Partnerships of Section 1 of the annual appropriations act. The SCDE offers recommendations to prioritize EIA funds that serve the entire state, not just one state agency, entity, or non-profit organization. These governmental and non-profit entities have noble goals, but often times cannot prove the effectiveness of their programs. The SCDE has proposed repurposing some EIA funds found in this section to higher priority items: replacing one-time funds used in the current fiscal year to fund teacher salaries and to ensure every child has instructional materials in their classroom.

In FY 2011-2012, the General Assembly funded South Carolina Educational Television (SC ETV) by appropriating general funds dollars to the SCDE and then requiring the funds be sent to SC ETV via proviso. In the current fiscal year, the General Assembly funded SC ETV using EIA funds, which SC ETV receives directly from the Department of Revenue. Neither method is transparent and both methods lack accountability.

I will repeat my position regarding SC ETV funding. If the General Assembly desires to fund SC ETV with state funds, then I recommend should be funded on a budget line item in Section 8. That is the most transparent and direct method of allocating state funds to an agency. If the General Assembly decides to fund a budget line item for educational services jointly provided by SCDE and SC ETV in Section 8 of the budget, I would support it.

Therefore, the SCDE's budget request repurposes EIA funds previously appropriated to SC ETV and directs them to higher priority items such as teacher salaries and instructional materials. The SCDE requests a general fund appropriation to SC ETV because that is the most transparent method to fund a state agency.



The Youth Challenge program is an excellent program for students who have dropped out of school and need a structured environment to become better students and better young adults. I support the program, but recommend it be funded in the Adjutant General's Office budget, Section 99, with general funds.

#### Office of First Steps to School Readiness

The legislation authorizing the Office of First Steps to School Readiness (First Steps) will expire on June 30, 2013 unless the General Assembly passes legislation extending its authorization. If the General Assembly decides to reauthorize First Steps, the SCDE respectfully requests it be funded as a stand-alone state agency and not as a pass-through appropriation in Section 1.

During the FY 2012-2013 budget debate, the House-passed budget recognized what the General Assembly recognized in 2006: First Steps is a state agency. Act 412, sponsored by 25 state senators and signed by then Governor Mark Sanford, reauthorized First Steps until July 1, 2013. The text of the joint resolution, which has the full force of law, referred to First Steps as an "agency" 3 times.

However, some members of the Senate Finance Committee apparently had second thoughts about the joint resolution they supported in 2006, and decided that First Steps is not a separate state agency based upon their interpretation of the law. If their interpretation is correct, and I don't believe it is, this position raises serious issues about the operations of First Steps.

The FY 2012-2013 House-passed budget recognized what everyone in state government understood: First Steps is a separate state agency. The House-passed budget did not "grow government" as some senators claimed simply because First Steps had a separate budget section, Section 1B. This was merely a transfer of budget lines from Section 1 in Part 1A of the annual appropriations act.

#### Recapitulation

In summary, the SCDE net request for FY 2013-2014 is as follows:

- \$54,565,388 in recurring general funds, which is directed almost entirely to maintaining the Base Student Cost, at a minimum, at the current level of \$2,012 per pupil, and to maintain the nation's oldest school bus fleet. This request is a 2.5% increase over the current fiscal year general fund recurring base.
- \$18,057,947 in recurring Education Improvement Act funds, which is almost entirely directed towards teacher salaries and instruction materials. The BEA estimates the General Assembly may appropriate \$636,535,000 from the EIA trust fund in FY 2013-2014, which is an increase of \$18,057,947 from the recurring EIA appropriation of \$618,477,053. The projected EIA growth rate is 2.8%.
- \$36,202,909 in non-recurring general funds to offset an equivalent reduction in federal IDEA funds. The current budget appropriated funds for this same reason.

Chairman White  
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- \$34,000,000 in capital reserve funds to purchase school buses.

The total recurring general and EIA funds request is an additional \$72,734,335, which represents a 1.9% growth rate of total recurring funds for Section 1 of the annual appropriations act. In addition, the SCDE requests no new FTE positions. Thank you for your consideration of these requests as the House Ways and Means Committee considers the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Appropriations Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mick Zais". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. Above the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the "M", goes under the "Zais", and then extends to the right beyond the end of the signature.

Mick Zais, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

Cc: The Honorable Kenny Bingham  
The Honorable Rita Allison  
The Honorable Mike Anthony  
The Honorable Jackie Hayes

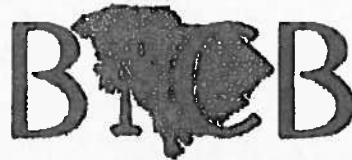
Enclosure



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 4, 2012

The Honorable Mick Zais  
State Superintendent of Education  
South Carolina Department of Education  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Dr. Zais,

This letter is in response to a request from Mr. John Cooley for preliminary estimates of the EFA base student cost and inflation factor, Southeastern average teacher salary, weighted pupil units, and EIA revenue for FY 2013-14.

**EFA Base Student Cost and Inflation Factor**

Our estimate of the base student cost for FY 2013-14 is \$2,771. This represents a 1.6 percent increase over the revised base student cost of \$2,727 for FY 2012-13 and a 0.7 percent decrease from the \$2,790 estimate provided for the FY 2012-13 budget process. Our estimates are summarized as follows:

	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14
Budgeted Base Student Cost	\$2,887	\$2,720	\$2,790	\$2,790	\$2,771
Base Student Cost Current Estimate (as of 9/4/12)	\$2,844	\$2,885	\$2,883	\$2,727	\$2,771
Original Budgeted Inflation Factor	4.2%	1.2%	2.6%	0.0%	(0.7%)
Current Inflation Factor (as of 9/4/12)	0.0%	0.8%	0.7%	1.6%	1.6%

Since our previous estimate, we have received wage data through 2011, which indicates a slower growth rate than previously estimated and lowers our base for projecting the following years. In reviewing this data, we also concluded that current economic conditions indicate that growth rates will unlikely be as high as historical averages, and we consequently lowered our annual growth percentages.

### Southeastern Average Teacher Salary Projections

Our estimate of the Southeastern average teacher salary for FY 2013-14 is \$48,858. This represents a 1.0 percent decrease from the previous budget estimate of \$49,337 for FY 2012-13. The FY 2013-14 estimate is a result of the estimates for FY 2010-11 through 2012-13 being revised downward.

	FY 2010-11 Projection	FY 2011-12 Projection	FY 2012-13 Projection	FY 2013-14 Projection	Percent Change FY 13 to FY 14
FY 12 Budget Estimate	\$47,692	\$48,337	\$49,337	\$48,858	(1.0%)
FY 13 Budget Estimate (as of 8/4/12)	\$47,462	\$47,764	\$48,358	\$48,858	1.0%

Since the previous estimates were provided, data from the states have shown that average teacher salaries are increasing, but at a slower rate than previously forecasted. In FY 2010-11, the current estimate declined 0.5 percent over the previous estimate based upon revised wage and employment data. This data not only lowers our base for projecting future years but also indicates growth is likely to continue below historical growth rates. This assumption is also consistent with information received from some of the states regarding recent years.

### Weighted Pupil Estimates

We estimate the Weighted Pupil Units (WPU) for FY 2013-14 to be 875,053. This represents a 0.5 percent increase over the FY 2012-13 budget estimate of 870,286.

	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14
Budgeted Estimate	865,782	870,286	875,053
Current Estimate (as of 8/4/12)	865,076 (actual)	870,360	875,053

In preparing this estimate, we examined birth rates, enrollment in public and private schools, home schooling trends, and the ratio of weighted pupils to average daily membership.

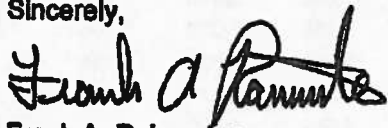
**EIA Revenue**

	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13 (estimate)	FY 2013-14 (preliminary)
Current Estimate	567,644,720	567,662,236	616,787,663	636,536,000

This preliminary estimate is calculated by using the latest Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) estimate for FY 2012-13 as a base and applying the long term growth rate adopted by the BEA in November 2011. The BEA will provide the first official estimates for FY 2013-14 in November 2012.

Please be advised that these estimates are subject to change as final reports or additional information is received. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Frank A. Rainwater  
Chief Economist

FAR/lpw

cc: The Honorable Nikki R. Haley, Governor  
The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable W. Brian White, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee  
John Cooley, Department of Education  
Josh Baker, Governor's Office  
Melanie Barton, Education Oversight Committee  
Les Boles, Office of State Budget  
Grant Gibson, Senate Finance Committee  
Emily Heatwole, House Ways and Means Committee  
Mike Shealy, Senate Finance Committee  
Beverly Smith, House Ways and Means Committee

# EFA Factor Computation

Last Revised: 9/4/2012

Fiscal Year	Average South-East Wage (1)	Non-Wage Index (2)	Index South-East Wage (3)	Composite Index Wages and Non-Wages (4)	Revised Estimate of Base Student Cost to Match Inflation (5)	Revised Estimate of Inflation Factor (6)	Estimate of Base Student Cost Provided for Budget (7)	Budgeted Inflation Factor (8)	Base Student Cost Approp. (9)	Base Student Cost After Mid-Yr. Cuts by B&CB (10)	Final Base Student Cost, Including S.D.E. Cuts (11)
89-90 a/	20,028	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,467		1,467		1,467		1,467
90-91	21,023	101.0	105.0	104.8	1,533	4.5%	1,539	4.9%	1,539		1,539
91-92	21,226	101.1	106.0	105.4	1,546	0.9%	1,604	4.2% *	1,562	1,505	1,505
92-93	21,737	100.7	108.5	107.6	1,678	2.0%	1,610	3.1% *	1,588	1,532	1,532
93-94	22,315	104.0	111.4	110.8	1,621	2.7%	1,651	2.9% *	1,581		1,581
94-95	23,125	107.4	115.5	114.5	1,679	3.6%	1,652	2.4% *	1,619		1,619
95-96	23,726	106.1	118.5	117.0	1,716	2.2%	1,718	4.0%	1,684		1,684
96-97	24,441	110.8	122.0	120.7	1,771	3.2%	1,778	3.5%	1,760		1,760
97-98	25,067	112.8	125.2	123.7	1,814	2.5%	1,839	3.2% *	1,839		1,839
98-99	26,312	114.7	131.4	129.4	1,897	4.6%	1,879	2.2%	1,879		1,879
99-00	27,161	118.0	135.6	133.6	1,959	3.2%	1,937	3.1%	1,937		1,937
00-01	28,529	121.5	142.5	139.9	2,053	4.8%	2,012	3.9%	2,012	1,992	2,002 d/
01-02	29,242	125.6	146.0	143.6	2,106	2.6%	2,073	3.0%	2,073	1,940	1,881 c/
02-03	30,574	127.9	152.7	149.7	2,196	4.3%	2,133	2.9%	2,033	1,859	1,770 d/
03-04	30,766	130.7	153.6	150.9	2,213	0.8%	2,201	3.2%	1,777		1,754
04-05	31,906	133.5	159.3	156.2	2,292	3.5%	2,234	1.5%	1,852		1,852
05-06	33,019	137.5	164.9	161.6	2,371	3.4%	2,290	2.5%	2,290		2,290
06-07	34,627	142.8	172.9	169.3	2,484	4.8%	2,367	3.4%	2,367		2,367
07-08	36,176	146.5	180.6	176.5	2,590	4.3%	2,476	4.6%	2,476		2,476
08-09	36,855	151.9	184.0	180.2	2,643	2.1%	2,578	4.1%	2,578	2,190	2,184
09-10	36,813	154.0	183.8	180.3	2,644	0.0%	2,687	4.2%	2,034		1,756
10-11	37,094	155.6	185.2	181.7	2,665	0.8%	2,720	1.2%	1,630		1,615
11-12 b/	37,279	158.7	186.2	182.9	2,683	0.7%	2,790	2.6%	1,880		1,880 f/
12-13 e/	37,839	163.3	188.9	185.9	2,727	1.6%	2,790	0.0%	2,012		
13-14 e/	38,406	167.7	191.8	188.9	2,771	1.6%	2,771	(0.7%)			

r - Revised since previous estimate.

\* - Inflation factor calculated from revised/funded base.

## Footnotes and Column Notes:

a/ Base from which increases are computed in accordance with revised methodology.

b/ July 2012 survey, latest data is the Average Southeast Wage through 2011 and subject to revision.

c/ Reflects mid-year cuts of 5.3% plus S.C. Dept. of Ed.'s additional E.F.A. reduction for allocation to school districts of 3.98% for a net reduction of 9.28%.

d/ Reflects a 1% B&CB cut and a .5% Dept. of Ed. restoration in FY00-01 and a 8.57% mid-year cut in FY02-03.

e/ Estimate based on July 2012 survey, teacher salary growth and latest Consumer Price Index.

f/ Base Student Cost Appropriated reflects additional non-recurring revenue above the \$1,788 figure in Proviso 1.3.

Source: Budget & Control Board, Office of Research & Statistics

(1) Computed from survey of Employment Security Commission offices in southeastern states based on wage data reported for workman's compensation program. Includes teachers and nonteachers in public schools in the Southeast.

(2) For FY 89-90 through FY 98-97, based on implicit deflator for purchases by state and local governments nationwide as projected by Evans Econometrics. For FY 97-98, based on projection of the Consumer Price Index for the latest two completed years.

(3) Index of column 1 based on FY 89-90.

(4) Column 2 and Column 3 weighted by 12% for Column (2) and 88% for Column (3).

(5) Column 4 times FY 89-90 base amount of \$1,467. Revised after surveys to include actual data.

(6) Revised inflation factor based on actual data received from surveys.

(7) Original estimate of Base Student Cost.

(8) Original estimate of inflation factor.

(9) Base Student Cost appropriated each fiscal year. FY 2009-10 does not include Federal Funds.

(10) Actual Base Student Cost funded to districts after budget cuts by the Budget & Control Board.

(11) Actual Base Student Cost funded to districts after B&CB cuts plus cuts by the State Department of Education.

# SOUTHEASTERN AVERAGE TEACHERS SALARY

(August 2012)

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS SUBJECT TO  
REVISION AFTER UPDATE

	FY07 [1]	FY 08 [2]	FY 09 [3]	FY 10 [4]	FY 11 [4]	FY 12 [5]	FY 13 [5]	FY 14 [5]
Alabama	43,389	46,604	46,879	47,246	47,803	48,002	48,202	48,395
Arkansas	44,493	45,393	45,797	46,601	46,663	46,726	46,787	46,825
Florida	45,269	46,922	46,938	46,696	45,723	46,509	47,309	48,038
Georgia	49,836	51,466	52,823	53,155	52,830	53,002	53,175	53,969
Kentucky	44,384	46,417	48,603	49,332	49,614	50,428	51,255	51,649
Louisiana	42,816	46,964	48,627	48,903	49,006	49,096	49,186	49,243
Mississippi	40,182	41,070	41,215	42,308	41,976	41,976	42,130	42,772
N. Carolina	46,137	47,633	48,454	46,850	46,791	45,947	46,774	47,146
Tennessee	43,815	44,820	45,549	45,597	45,891	46,187	47,342	48,108
Virginia	49,131	50,511	52,309	51,894	51,524	52,003	52,486	53,428
W. Virginia	40,534	42,528	44,701	44,506	44,262	45,750	47,288	47,865
Avg. from Survey	44,544	46,393	47,445	47,553	47,462	47,784	48,358	48,858
Projected Avg. for Budget	43,691	45,179	47,004	48,172	48,725	49,007	49,319	
South Carolina Actual	44,336	45,758	47,421	47,508	47,050			
S.C. Appropriation	43,991	45,479	47,304	n/a	n/a	n/a		

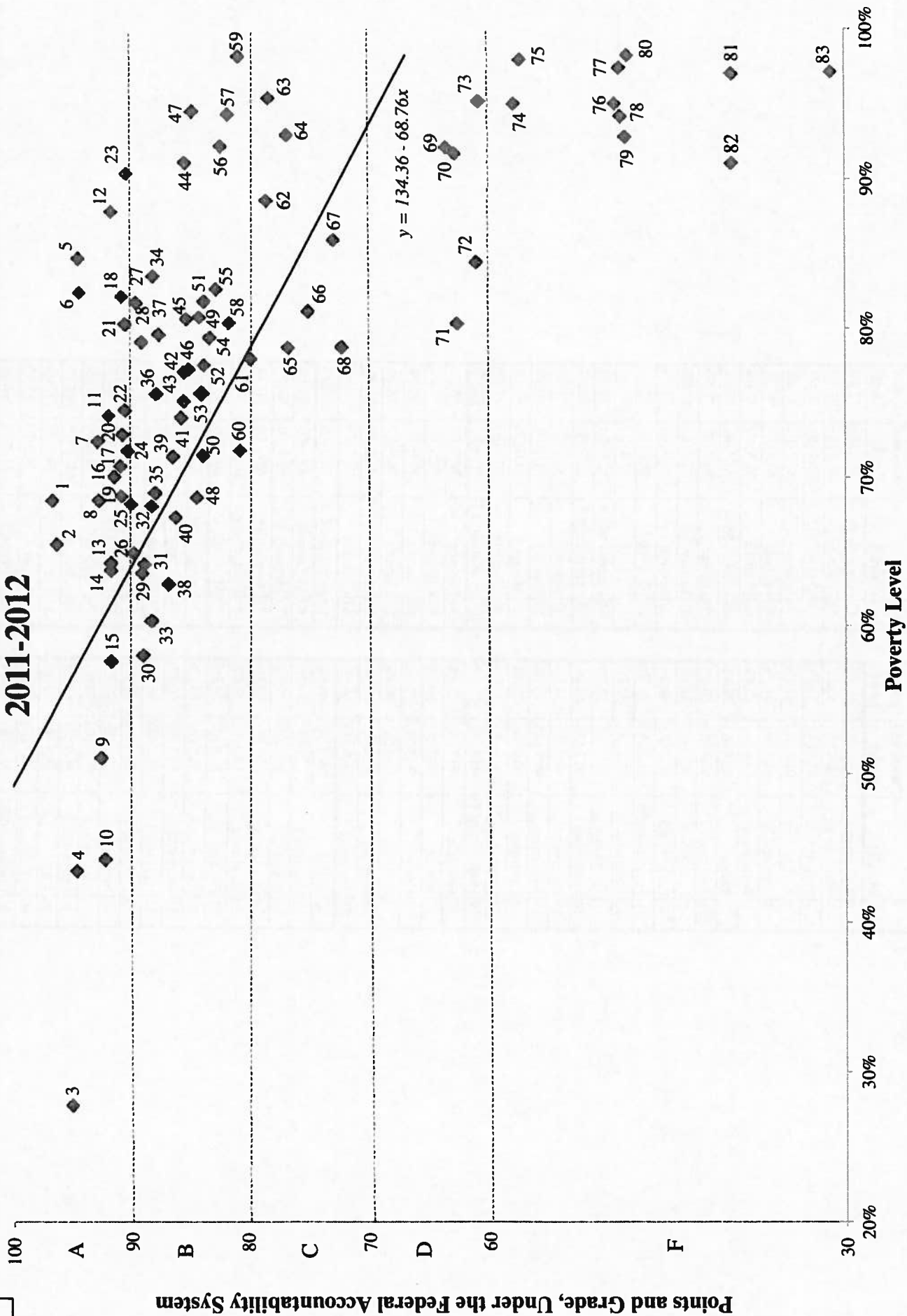
Column footnotes—apply to all rows except "Projected Average for Budget" and "S.C. Appropriation":

- [1] Actual numbers reported by states in fall 2008 survey, updated in August 2009.
- [2] Actual numbers reported by states in fall 2009 survey, updated in August 2010.
- [3] Actual numbers reported by states in fall 2010 survey, updated in August 2011.
- [4] Actual numbers reported by states in fall 2011 survey, updated in August 2012.
- [5] Based upon information provided by the state in August 2012 survey.
- [6] Estimates from information provided by the states and recent revenue trends.
- n/a - No figure listed in the Appropriation Bill
- r - Revised since previous estimate.

Source: Office of Research & Statistics, Economic Research Section



# Performance of School Districts Based on Poverty Level 2011-2012



Note: Numbers shown correspond to the school districts indicated on the accompanying chart.



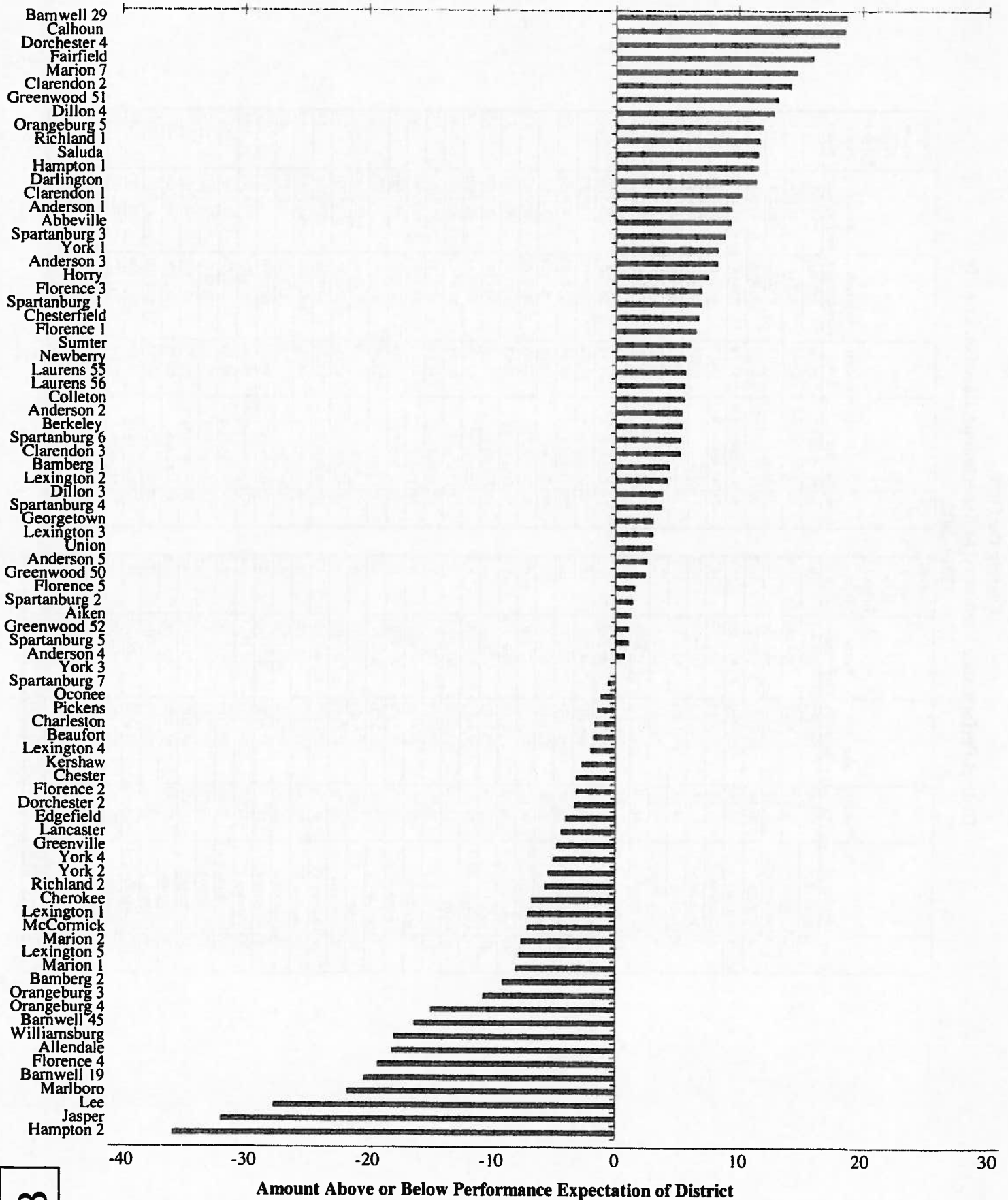
**Rank Listing – By District Performance Rating (Descending)**

No.	District	Performance Points and Grade	Poverty Level
1	Anderson 1	96.7 (A)	68.4%
2	Spartanburg 1	96.3 (A)	65.5%
3	York 4	95.0 (A)	27.8%
4	York 2	94.6 (A)	43.4%
5	Barnwell 29	94.5 (A)	84.7%
6	Darlington	94.4 (A)	82.4%
7	York 1	92.8 (A)	72.4%
8	Anderson 2	92.7 (A)	68.4%
9	Lexington 1	92.5 (A)	51.1%
10	Lexington 5	92.2 (A)	44.2%
11	Spartanburg 3	91.9 (A)	74.2%
12	Dorchester 4	91.7 (A)	87.8%
13	Spartanburg 2	91.7 (A)	64.2%
14	Spartanburg 5	91.7 (A)	63.7%
15	Dorchester 2	91.7 (A)	57.6%
16	Spartanburg 6	91.4 (A)	70.1%
17	Clarendon 3	90.9 (A)	70.8%
18	Greenwood 51	90.8 (A)	82.2%
19	Spartanburg 4	90.8 (A)	68.7%
20	Florence 1	90.7 (A)	72.9%
21	Saluda	90.5 (A)	80.3%
22	Horry	90.5 (A)	74.5%
23	Calhoun	90.4 (A)	90.4%
24	Berkeley	90.3 (A)	71.8%
25	Anderson 5	90.0 (A)	68.2%
26	York 3	89.8 (B)	64.9%
27	Richland 1	89.6 (B)	81.7%
28	Abbeville	89.1 (B)	79.1%
29	Charleston	89.1 (B)	63.5%
30	Richland 2	89.0 (B)	58.0%
31	Pickens	88.9 (B)	64.1%
32	Anderson 4	88.3 (B)	68.1%
33	Greenville	88.3 (B)	60.3%
34	Hampton 1	88.2 (B)	83.5%
35	Greenwood 52	88.0 (B)	69.0%
36	Newberry	87.9 (B)	75.7%
37	Anderson 3	87.7 (B)	79.6%
38	Lancaster	86.9 (B)	62.8%
39	Aiken	86.5 (B)	71.4%
40	Beaufort	86.3 (B)	67.3%
41	Greenwood 50	85.8 (B)	74.0%
42	Bamberg 1	85.6 (B)	77.1%
43	Georgetown	85.6 (B)	75.2%
44	Clarendon 2	85.5 (B)	91.1%
45	Chesterfield	85.4 (B)	80.6%
46	Lexington 2	85.2 (B)	77.3%
47	Fairfield	84.9 (B)	94.5%
48	Kershaw	84.5 (B)	68.6%
49	Laurens 55	84.3 (B)	80.8%
50	Oconee	84.0 (B)	71.5%
51	Sumter	83.9 (B)	81.8%
52	Lexington 3	83.9 (B)	77.5%
53	Florence 5	83.6 (B)	75.9%
54	Dillon 3	83.4 (B)	79.4%
55	Laurens 56	82.9 (B)	82.6%
56	Orangeburg 5	82.5 (B)	92.2%
57	Dillon 4	81.9 (B)	94.3%
58	Union	81.8 (B)	80.4%
59	Marion 7	81.0 (B)	98.1%
60	Edgefield	80.9 (B)	71.8%
61	Spartanburg 7	80.0 (B)	78.0%
62	Colleton	78.7 (C)	88.5%
63	Clarendon 1	78.5 (C)	95.4%
64	Florence 3	77.0 (C)	92.9%
65	Florence 2	76.9 (C)	78.7%
66	Chester	75.2 (C)	81.2%
67	Cherokee	73.3 (C)	78.7%
68	Lexington 4	73.0 (C)	85.9%
69	McCormick	63.5 (D)	92.1%
70	Marion 1	62.8 (D)	91.7%
71	Barnwell 45	62.6 (D)	80.3%
72	Orangeburg 4	61.0 (D)	84.4%
73	Marion 2	60.8 (D)	95.2%
74	Orangeburg 3	57.8 (F)	95.0%
75	Bamberg 2	57.3 (F)	97.9%
76	Florence 4	49.3 (F)	95.0%
77	Williamsburg	48.9 (F)	97.4%
78	Barnwell 19	48.8 (F)	94.1%
79	Marlboro	48.4 (F)	92.8%
80	Allendale	48.2 (F)	98.2%
81	Lee	39.5 (F)	97.0%
82	Jasper	39.5 (F)	91.0%
83	Hampton 2	31.2 (F)	97.1%
	State Average	90.00 (A)	69.53%

# Beating the Odds

## District Performance Compared to Expectations, Based on Poverty

### 2011-2012

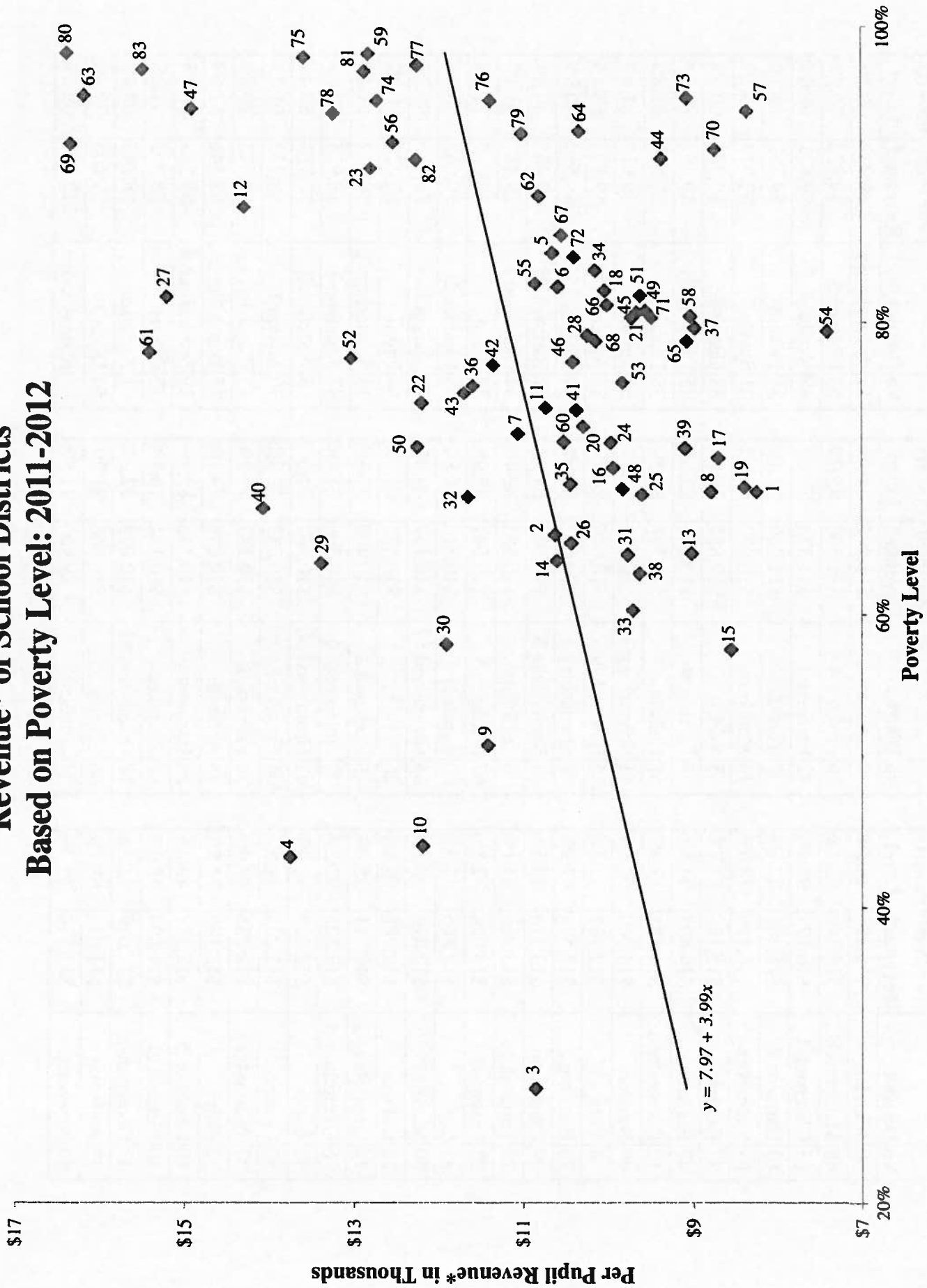


# Beating the Odds District Performance Compared to Expectations, Based on Poverty 2011-2012

Rank	District	Poverty Level	Expected Performance	Actual Performance	Amount Above (+) or Below (-) Expectation
1	Barnwell 29	84.7%	75.8 (C)	94.5 (A)	18.7
2	Calhoun	90.4%	71.8 (C)	90.4 (A)	18.6
3	Dorchester 4	87.8%	73.6 (C)	91.7 (A)	18.1
4	Fairfield	94.5%	68.9 (D)	84.9 (B)	16.0
5	Marion 7	98.1%	66.3 (D)	81.0 (B)	14.7
6	Clarendon 2	91.1%	71.3 (C)	85.5 (B)	14.2
7	Greenwood 51	82.2%	77.6 (C)	90.8 (A)	13.2
8	Dillon 4	94.3%	69.1 (D)	81.9 (B)	12.8
9	Orangeburg 5	92.2%	70.5 (C)	82.5 (B)	12.0
10	Richland 1	81.7%	77.9 (C)	89.6 (B)	11.7
11	Saluda	80.3%	78.9 (C)	90.5 (A)	11.6
12	Hampton 1	83.5%	76.7 (C)	88.2 (B)	11.5
13	Darlington	82.4%	83.0 (B)	94.4 (A)	11.4
14	Clarendon 1	95.4%	68.3 (D)	78.5 (C)	10.2
15	Anderson 1	68.4%	87.3 (B)	96.7 (A)	9.4
16	Abbeville	79.1%	79.8 (C)	89.1 (B)	9.3
17	Spartanburg 3	74.2%	83.0 (B)	91.9 (A)	8.9
18	York 1	72.4%	84.5 (B)	92.8 (A)	8.3
19	Anderson 3	79.6%	79.4 (C)	87.7 (B)	8.3
19	Horry	74.5%	83.0 (B)	90.5 (A)	7.5
21	Florence 3	92.9%	70.0 (C)	77.0 (C)	7.0
22	Spartanburg 1	65.5%	89.4 (B)	96.3 (A)	6.9
23	Chesterfield	80.6%	78.7 (C)	85.4 (B)	6.7
24	Florence 1	72.9%	84.2 (B)	90.7 (A)	6.5
25	Sumter	81.8%	77.9 (C)	83.9 (B)	6.0
26	Newberry	75.7%	82.2 (B)	87.9 (B)	5.7
26	Laurens 55	80.8%	78.6 (C)	84.3 (B)	5.7
28	Laurens 56	82.6%	77.3 (C)	82.9 (B)	5.6
28	Colleton	88.5%	73.1 (C)	78.7 (C)	5.6
30	Anderson 2	68.4%	87.3 (B)	92.7 (A)	5.4
30	Berkeley	71.8%	84.9 (B)	90.3 (A)	5.4
32	Spartanburg 6	70.1%	86.2 (B)	91.4 (A)	5.2
32	Clarendon 3	70.8%	85.7 (B)	90.9 (A)	5.2
34	Barnburg 1	77.1%	81.2 (B)	85.6 (B)	4.4
35	Lexington 2	77.3%	81.0 (B)	85.2 (B)	4.2
36	Dillon 3	79.4%	79.6 (C)	83.4 (B)	3.8
37	Spartanburg 4	68.7%	87.1 (B)	90.8 (A)	3.7
38	Georgetown	75.2%	82.6 (B)	85.6 (B)	3.0
38	Lexington 3	77.5%	80.9 (B)	83.9 (B)	3.0
40	Union	80.4%	78.9 (C)	81.8 (B)	2.9
41	Anderson 5	68.2%	87.5 (B)	90.0 (A)	2.5
42	Greenwood 50	74.0%	83.4 (B)	85.8 (B)	2.4

Rank	District	Poverty Level	Expected Performance	Actual Performance	Amount Above (+) or Below (-) Expectation
43	Florence 5	75.9%	82.0 (B)	83.6 (B)	1.6
44	Spartanburg 2	64.2%	90.3 (A)	91.7 (A)	1.4
45	Aiken	71.4%	85.2 (B)	86.5 (B)	1.3
46	Greenwood 52	69.0%	86.9 (B)	88.0 (B)	1.1
46	Spartanburg 5	63.7%	90.6 (A)	91.7 (A)	1.1
48	Anderson 4	68.1%	87.5 (B)	88.3 (B)	0.8
49	York 3	64.9%	89.8 (B)	89.8 (B)	0.0
50	Spartanburg 7	78.0%	80.6 (B)	80.0 (B)	-0.6
51	Oconee	71.5%	85.1 (B)	84.0 (B)	-1.1
52	Pickens	64.1%	90.3 (A)	88.9 (B)	-1.4
53	Charleston	63.5%	90.8 (A)	89.1 (B)	-1.7
54	Beaufort	67.3%	88.1 (B)	86.3 (B)	-1.8
55	Lexington 4	85.9%	75.0 (C)	73.0 (C)	-2.0
56	Kershaw	68.6%	87.2 (B)	84.5 (B)	-2.7
57	Chester	81.2%	78.3 (C)	75.2 (C)	-3.1
57	Florence 2	78.7%	80.0 (B)	76.9 (C)	-3.1
59	Dorchester 2	57.6%	94.9 (A)	91.7 (A)	-3.2
60	Edgefield	71.8%	84.9 (B)	80.9 (B)	-4.0
61	Lancaster	62.8%	91.3 (A)	86.9 (B)	-4.4
62	Greenville	60.3%	93.0 (A)	88.3 (B)	-4.7
63	York 4	27.8%	100.0 (A)	95.0 (A)	-5.0
64	York 2	43.4%	100.0 (A)	94.6 (A)	-5.4
65	Richland 2	58.0%	94.7 (A)	89.0 (B)	-5.7
66	Cherokee	78.7%	80.0 (B)	73.3 (C)	-6.7
67	Lexington 1	51.1%	99.6 (A)	92.5 (A)	-7.1
68	McCormick	92.1%	70.6 (C)	63.5 (D)	-7.1
69	Marion 2	95.2%	68.4 (D)	60.8 (D)	-7.6
70	Lexington 5	44.2%	100.0 (A)	92.2 (A)	-7.8
71	Marion 1	91.7%	70.9 (C)	62.8 (D)	-8.1
72	Bamberg 2	97.9%	66.5 (D)	57.3 (F)	-9.2
73	Orangeburg 3	95.0%	68.6 (D)	57.8 (F)	-10.8
74	Orangeburg 4	84.4%	76.0 (C)	61.0 (D)	-15.0
75	Bamwell 45	80.3%	78.9 (C)	62.6 (D)	-16.3
76	Williamsburg	97.4%	66.9 (D)	48.9 (F)	-18.0
77	Allendale	98.2%	66.3 (D)	48.2 (F)	-18.1
78	Florence 4	95.0%	68.6 (D)	49.3 (F)	-19.3
79	Bamwell 19	94.1%	69.2 (D)	48.8 (F)	-20.4
80	Marlboro	92.8%	70.1 (C)	48.4 (F)	-21.7
81	Lee	97.0%	67.2 (D)	39.5 (F)	-27.7
82	Jasper	91.0%	71.4 (C)	39.5 (F)	-31.9
83	Hampton 2	97.1%	67.1 (D)	31.2 (F)	-35.9

# Revenue\* of School Districts Based on Poverty Level: 2011-2012



\*Per pupil revenue for 2011-2012 is an estimate from the South Carolina Budget & Control Board.

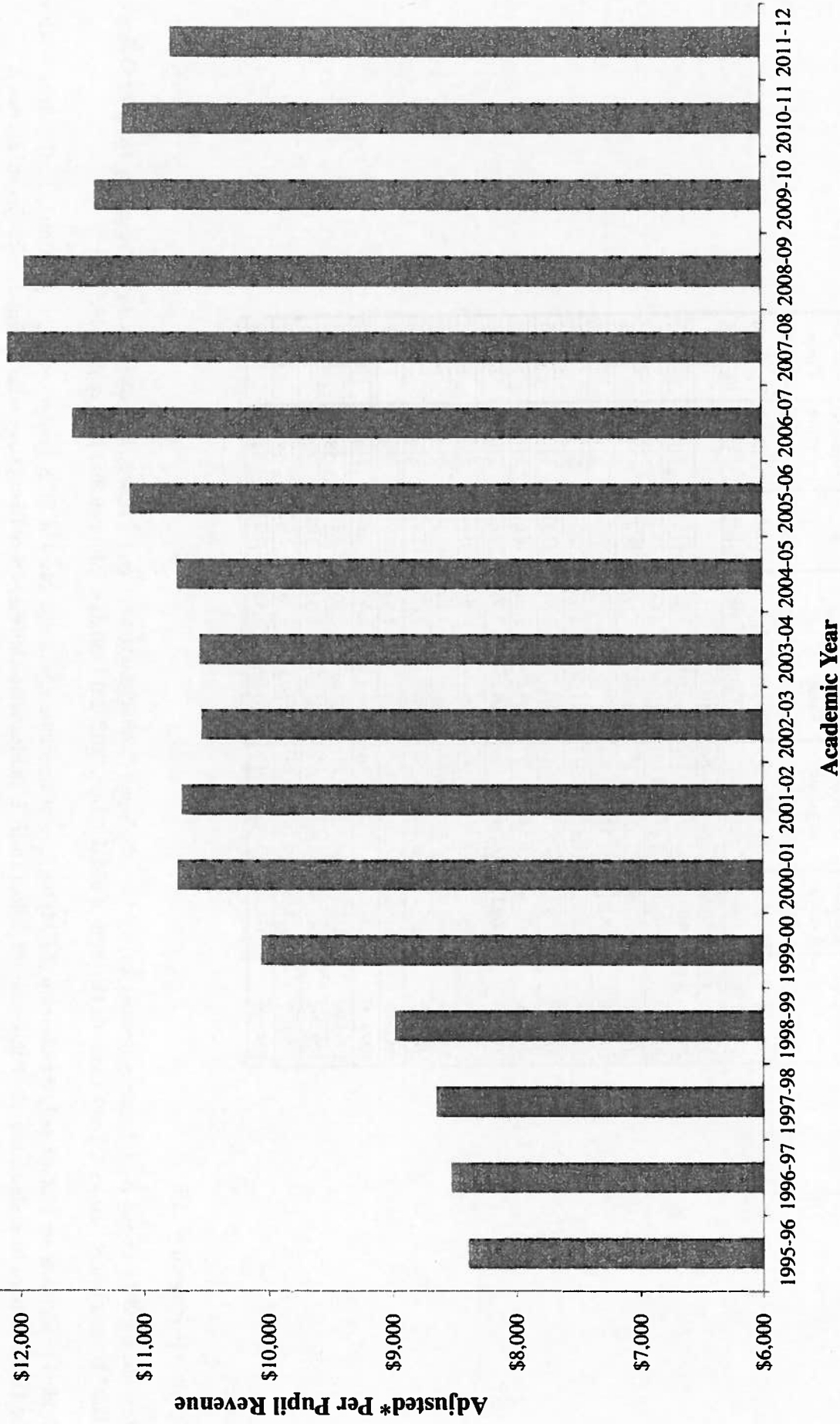
**Rank Listing - By District Per Pupil Revenue (Descending)**

No	District	Per Pupil Revenue*	Poverty Level
80	Allendale	\$16,384	98.2%
69	McCormick	\$16,340	92.1%
63	Clarendon 1	\$16,177	95.4%
83	Hampton 2	\$15,468	97.1%
61	Spartanburg 7	\$15,389	78.0%
27	Richland 1	\$15,188	81.7%
47	Fairfield	\$14,898	94.5%
12	Dorchester 4	\$14,281	87.8%
40	Beaufort	\$14,060	67.3%
4	York 2	\$13,743	43.4%
75	Bamberg 2	\$13,579	97.9%
29	Charleston	\$13,376	63.5%
78	Barnwell 19	\$13,236	94.1%
52	Lexington 3	\$13,024	77.5%
81	Lee	\$12,865	97.0%
59	Marion 7	\$12,816	98.1%
23	Calhoun	\$12,788	90.4%
74	Orangeburg 3	\$12,711	95.0%
56	Orangeburg 5	\$12,523	92.2%
82	Jasper	\$12,252	91.0%
50	Oconee	\$12,238	71.5%
77	Williamsburg	\$12,235	97.4%
22	Horry	\$12,185	74.5%
10	Lexington 5	\$12,177	44.2%
30	Richland 2	\$11,894	58.0%
43	Georgetown	\$11,679	75.2%
32	Anderson 4	\$11,632	68.1%
36	Newberry	\$11,574	75.7%

No	District	Per Pupil Revenue*	Poverty Level
9	Lexington 1	\$11,401	51.1%
76	Florence 4	\$11,366	95.0%
42	Bamberg 1	\$11,333	77.1%
7	York 1	\$11,046	72.4%
79	Marlboro	\$10,997	92.8%
3	York 4	\$10,851	27.8%
55	Laurens 56	\$10,841	82.6%
62	Colleton	\$10,798	88.5%
11	Spartanburg 3	\$10,722	74.2%
5	Barnwell 29	\$10,646	84.7%
2	Spartanburg 1	\$10,617	65.5%
14	Spartanburg 5	\$10,594	63.7%
6	Darlington	\$10,583	82.4%
67	Lexington 4	\$10,541	85.9%
60	Edgefield	\$10,510	71.8%
35	Greenwood 52	\$10,437	69.0%
26	York 3	\$10,427	64.9%
46	Lexington 2	\$10,409	77.3%
72	Orangeburg 4	\$10,396	84.4%
41	Greenwood 50	\$10,367	74.0%
64	Florence 3	\$10,333	92.9%
20	Florence 1	\$10,287	72.9%
28	Abbeville	\$10,236	79.1%
34	Hampton 1	\$10,146	83.5%
68	Cherokee	\$10,141	78.7%
18	Greenwood 51	\$10,035	82.2%
66	Chester	\$10,006	81.2%
24	Berkeley	\$9,960	71.8%

No	District	Per Pupil Revenue*	Poverty Level
16	Spartanburg 6	\$9,932	70.1%
53	Florence 5	\$9,822	75.9%
48	Kershaw	\$9,821	68.6%
31	Pickens	\$9,760	64.1%
21	Sahda	\$9,714	80.3%
33	Greenville	\$9,703	60.3%
45	Chesterfield	\$9,652	80.6%
38	Lancaster	\$9,624	62.8%
51	Sumter	\$9,616	81.8%
25	Anderson 5	\$9,594	68.2%
49	Laurens 55	\$9,550	80.8%
71	Barnwell 45	\$9,485	80.3%
44	Clarendon 2	\$9,367	91.1%
39	Aiken	\$9,087	71.4%
65	Florence 2	\$9,065	78.7%
73	Marion 2	\$9,065	95.2%
58	Union	\$9,026	80.4%
13	Spartanburg 2	\$9,012	64.2%
37	Anderson 3	\$8,975	79.6%
8	Anderson 2	\$8,781	68.4%
70	Marion 1	\$8,733	91.7%
17	Clarendon 3	\$8,694	70.8%
15	Dorchester 2	\$8,546	57.6%
19	Spartanburg 4	\$8,384	68.7%
57	Dillon 4	\$8,352	94.3%
1	Anderson 1	\$8,242	68.4%
54	Dillon 3	\$7,405	79.4%
	State Average	\$10,961	69.5%

# **Per Pupil Revenue (Local, State, Federal, and Grant) In Constant\* 2012 Dollars** **(Does Not Include Local Bond Funding)**



\* After adjusting for inflation

Total revenue does not include bonds.

Per pupil revenue for 2011-2012 is based on estimates received from the South Carolina Budget & Control Board.

**Per Pupil Revenue in Constant\* 2012 Dollars  
(Does not Include Local Bond Funding)**

Fiscal Year	135-day Average Daily Member- ship	Total Local/State/ Federal Revenue (excludes bonds and debt svc)	Unad- justed Revenue Per Pupil	Annual Inflation	Cum- lative Inflation	Adjusted Per Pupil Revenue (constant \$)	Cum- ulative Per Pupil Increase
2012-13 (est)	707,620	\$7,628,966,566	\$10,781				
2011-12 (est)	701,071	\$7,575,120,237	\$10,805	1.42%	49.91%	\$10,805	28.72%
2010-11	696,277	\$7,617,669,427	\$10,941	3.61%	43.87%	\$11,192	33.33%
2009-10	693,891	\$7,623,961,371	\$10,987	1.60%	38.87%	\$11,420	36.05%
2008-09	689,018	\$7,782,260,849	\$11,295	-0.40%	36.69%	\$11,998	42.94%
2007-08	683,365	\$7,547,671,312	\$11,045	3.80%	37.23%	\$12,131	44.52%
2006-07	679,328	\$6,976,717,927	\$10,270	2.80%	32.21%	\$11,596	38.15%
2005-06	672,560	\$6,520,806,777	\$9,696	3.20%	28.61%	\$11,122	32.50%
2004-05	665,124	\$6,091,091,784	\$9,158	3.40%	24.62%	\$10,747	28.03%
2003-04	661,376	\$5,795,952,863	\$8,763	2.70%	20.52%	\$10,562	25.83%
2002-03	656,898	\$5,557,806,946	\$8,461	2.30%	17.36%	\$10,544	25.61%
2001-02	652,468	\$5,430,947,244	\$8,324	1.60%	14.72%	\$10,705	27.53%
2000-01	648,023	\$5,264,724,871	\$8,124	2.80%	12.91%	\$10,741	27.96%
1999-00	648,410	\$4,755,945,310	\$7,335	3.40%	9.84%	\$10,066	19.92%
1998-99	648,899	\$4,265,497,151	\$6,573	2.20%	6.22%	\$8,965	6.80%
1997-98	644,504	\$4,016,099,665	\$6,231	1.60%	3.94%	\$8,654	3.10%
1996-97	637,921	\$3,782,775,151	\$5,930	2.30%	2.30%	\$8,531	1.63%
1995-96	631,161	\$3,533,813,976	\$5,599	0.00%	0.00%	\$8,394	0.00%

Notes:

Inflation index used is CPI.

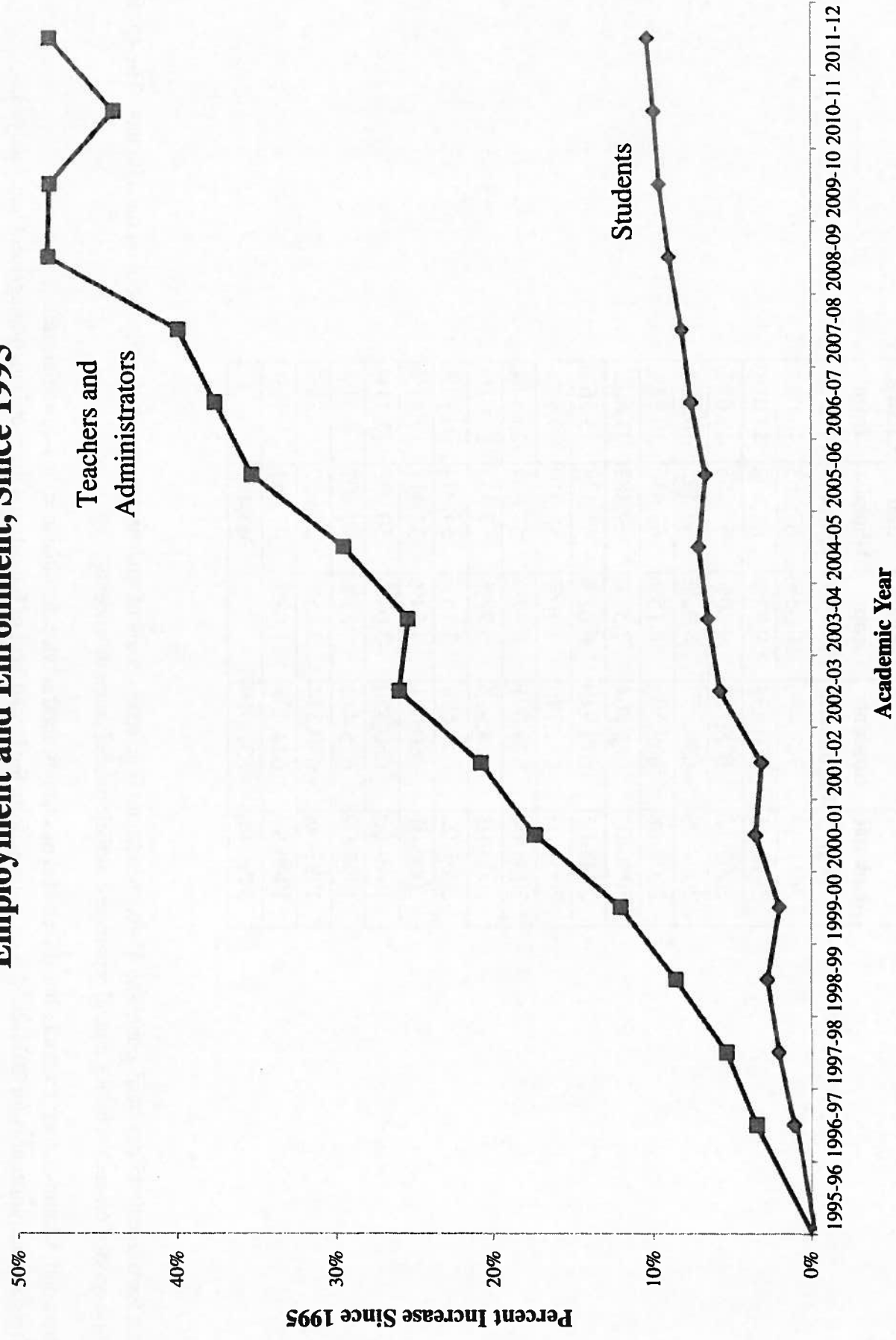
Revenue for 2011-12 and 2011-13 are estimates received from the South Carolina Budget & Control Board. 2012-2013 ADM is an estimate from the Office of Data Management & Analysis, South Carolina Department of Education. 2012-2013 inflation information is not yet available.

Student headcounts are average daily membership (ADM) for geographic public school districts. The SC School for the Deaf and Blind, the Governor's Schools, the Department of Juvenile Justice, SC Public Charter School District, and Palmetto Unified School Districts, or other alternative schools are excluded.

Total revenue does not include bonds.



# Percent Change in South Carolina Public Schools Employment and Enrollment, Since 1995



Note: Enrollment includes all students (K-12).

Source: South Carolina Department of Education. Data as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics.

# Percent Change in South Carolina Public School Employment and Enrollment, Since 1995

Academic Year	Student Enrollment	Percent Change from 1995-96	Teachers and Administrators	Percent Change from 1995-96
2011-12	703,486	10.35%	67,363	48.09%
2010-11	700,838	9.93%	65,508	44.01%
2009-10	698,718	9.60%	67,355	48.07%
2008-09	694,737	8.98%	67,395	48.16%
2007-08	689,505	8.15%	63,656	39.94%
2006-07	685,804	7.57%	69,882	37.60%
2005-06	679,940	6.67%	61,528	35.26%
2004-05	682,775	7.10%	58,910	29.50%
2003-04	679,091	6.52%	57,064	25.44%
2002-03	674,325	5.77%	57,322	26.01%
2001-02	657,688	3.16%	54,944	20.78%
2000-01	660,071	3.54%	53,411	17.41%
1999-00	650,450	2.03%	50,998	12.11%
1998-99	655,412	2.81%	49,407	8.61%
1997-98	650,574	2.05%	47,937	5.38%
1996-97	644,408	1.08%	47,061	3.46%
1995-96	637,519		45,489	

## Notes:

Student Enrollment: 45-day headcount. The 45-day headcount is an actual count of students enrolled in (K-12) school on the 45th day. The 45-day count is reported on each school's annual report card as their official count of students.

Teachers and Administrators: Excludes bus drivers and mechanics, food service, maintenance, and custodial staff.

Teachers and administrators for 2011-2012 is an estimate from the Department of Education, Office of Data Management and Analysis.

## **Newspaper Editorials Supporting Funds for School Bus Replacement**

### **Greenville News Editorial: New buses are a small step forward**

Published: December 31, 2012

The state Department of Education's recent purchase of 342 brand-new school buses is a step in the right direction toward replacing the state's aging bus fleet. But it's also a crystal clear illustration of just how dire South Carolina's need is for new student transportation.

The 342 buses represent about 6 percent of the state's total fleet. They will replace some buses that are 28 years old and have nearly half a million miles on them. All of the buses being replaced are at least 24 years old, which means the newest bus being replaced was manufactured six years *before* a current high school senior was even born.

State law demands that buses be replaced every 15 years. In 2010, more than 63 percent of the state's buses — 3,638 of them — were more than 15 years old. To replace buses on a 15-year cycle would cost about \$33 million a year; money the state has, thus far, refused to spend. It cost more than \$28 million to buy these 342 buses, and the state's fleet totals 5,023 buses.

So, yes, it's great news that 342 new buses will be on the roads, and 39 of them will be in Greenville County. But, as Greenville County School District spokesman Oby Lyles was quoted as saying in a recent *Greenville News* report on the bus purchase, "We certainly appreciate the effort to replace any buses, but the state remains years behind in its replacement cycle of school buses."

Indeed.

Prior to 2007, South Carolina bought about 90 buses a year, a rate that would take more than 60 years to replace the entire fleet, according to a report in *The State* newspaper. In 2007 lawmakers approved a plan to replace the fleet on a more frequent cycle, but it has gone largely unfunded.

The last time the state bought any new buses was 2008; it has instead opted to buy used buses from Alabama and Kentucky to replace its oldest vehicles.

Yet the solution is glaringly obvious, if not palatable to lawmakers who have set aside student safety in exchange for ostensible fiscal responsibility. The answer is simply that South Carolina needs to commit more financial resources toward buying school buses that are newer, safer and more reliable, even if it comes at the cost of a modest tax increase.

Granted, that is not easy in the difficult fiscal environment this state has seen the past few years. But this state's aging bus fleet cannot be blamed on the bad economy; the bus fleet was old and needed upgrading well before the 2008 recession that took a huge slice out of state tax revenues.

Lawmakers have not truly committed in recent memory to keeping the bus fleet modern, efficient and reliable.

As buses age they require more maintenance, and problems become more common. When buses break down, students are late for school at best. In some cases students could be in danger. Maintenance costs are higher, too, with the average bus in the state's fleet requiring two or three maintenance calls a year.

Older buses also are less efficient. Replacing these 342 buses that represent 6.3 percent of the fleet will improve the fuel efficiency of the fleet by 29 percent, to 7.5 miles per gallon from 5.8, according to the report in *The News*. Imagine the savings if the entire fleet were replaced with modern, more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Compounding the frustration that our bus fleet is so old is this bit of information: Lawmakers who last year deemed it critical to buy new buses noted that a state law that required unclaimed lottery money to be spent on buses had not been followed since 2006. Money that was supposed to be spent on new buses should have been spent on just that.

Of the \$32 million spent on these buses, \$24.5 million was taken from unclaimed lottery money and excess lottery revenues.

State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais has requested another \$34 million for school bus purchases in the upcoming fiscal year. Lawmakers should give him that, and more if they can find it.

South Carolina's public school children deserve to have safe, efficient and reliable transportation to and from school. Buses that are a quarter-century old do not fit that bill. Lawmakers should make a commitment to follow the state's own requirements that ensure school buses are no more than 15 years old; at the very least, they should pledge to ensure that they will begin a reasonable replacement schedule that eventually will make the entire bus fleet modern, reliable and efficient.

**Rock Hill Herald Editorial: State gets new school buses**

Published: January 6, 2013

The addition of 342 new school buses to the state's aging fleet is welcome. But the state should be adding at least that many new buses each year to replace older models, some of which are nearly three decades old.

State Superintendent Mick Zais announced Dec. 27 that South Carolina is getting 342 brand new buses at a cost of \$82,000 apiece. The buses will replace the state's older buses, most of them made between 1984 and 1987. Of the \$28 million purchase price, nearly \$25 million will come from unclaimed lottery prize money. This marks the Legislature's first appropriation of new buses since 2007. In 2007, lawmakers had good intentions regarding the state's school bus fleet.

After an investigative series by The (Charleston) Post and Courier revealed that the state's buses were the oldest, most polluting and least safe in the nation, the Legislature devised a plan to begin replacing the oldest buses on a regular basis.

The plan called for replacing about 375 buses annually at a cost of \$36 million a year. At that rate, the entire fleet would be replaced every 15 years.

But the state has ignored the replacement program, in part due to the recession that began just after the plan was devised. As a result, South Carolina still has the oldest fleet in the nation, with a majority of its buses more than 15 years old and some logging more than 400,000 miles.

Many of the older buses have safety problems and are prone to catching fire. Many have holes in the floor through which exhaust fumes can enter, and most lack the standard safety features and equipment to transport students with disabilities found on new buses.

Older buses also are far less efficient. The new buses run an average of 7.5 miles per gallon, compared to 5.8 miles per gallon averaged by the buses in line for replacement.

Replacing buses on a regular basis not only would make our children safer, it also would save enormous amounts of fuel. The new buses also are much more environmentally friendly and easier to maintain than the dinosaurs now transporting children to school.

Zais has asked the Legislature for \$34 million for new buses in the state's 2013-2014 budget, which takes effect July 1. But lawmakers also are considering a plan to shift bus operations to local school districts, allowing them to manage the buses on their own, contract with private providers or some combination of the two.

That plan is controversial, for good reason. It essentially would shift the burden of transporting students to local districts without providing either the state money or new revenue sources needed to pay for it.

South Carolina's bus system is not only the oldest in the nation, it also is the only one run entirely by the state. It is highly likely that other states have better, cheaper and more efficient programs for busing children to school and that South Carolina could use them as a model.

But turning the authority for maintaining bus fleets over to school districts shouldn't simply be a way of shifting responsibility for a decades-old problem to local districts whose resources vary widely across the state. While wealthier districts might be able to afford modern, well equipped buses, many poorer districts might not.

Again, we welcome an influx of 342 new buses into the fleet. But the state still needs a better way to address the need for maintaining a modern school bus fleet over the long haul.

## **Charleston Post & Courier: Make new school buses a priority**

Published: January 16, 2013

Aging school buses, like old cars, spend more and more time in the shop and less time on the road. And despite the best efforts of bus maintenance workers, there is just so much that can be done for ancient buses that would have been retired in every other state in the nation.

It's another good reason for the state to commit the resources necessary to replace school buses on a regular cycle, instead of allowing them to operate beyond what would typically be considered a functional life.

Local school bus drivers talked about the problems with the aging fleet in the Mount Pleasant area at a meeting last week called by Durham School Services. Durham operates the bus system for the Charleston County School District, using vehicles provided by the state.

"We have buses that need to be off the road in the state of South Carolina," said Iris Williams, who has driven school buses for 17 years in Charleston County. "We're concerned about the health of our children and our health."

Driver Kimberly Law said the Mount Pleasant school buses would be "shut down in a heartbeat" if they were subject to the same standards as the commercial tractor-trailer trucks that she previously operated.

But a spokesman for General Diesel, which has a contract to maintain the buses, insists that they are "rigorously inspected" for mandated safety requirements. If there are issues with the buses, they aren't safety related.

There are, however, numerous problems. Jeep White, vice president and general manager of General Diesel, says the shop is swamped with repair orders, with emergency breakdowns getting repair priority.

District and state officials speak from experience when they explain that the problems are a function of having the nation's oldest bus fleet. Indeed, that's why South Carolina has been in the position of having to buy school buses that other states have discarded.

And the problem goes right to the Legislature, and its skewed budget priorities. Sure, the state has had budget problems in recent years. That is to be expected periodically, depending on whether state revenues are up or down, based on the economy.

But school buses are a regular need and require consistent funding in good times and bad. They should be a legislative priority and accounted for in every single budget cycle.



Public schools shouldn't have to rely on a bus fleet that requires constant maintenance to remain on the road. That the Legislature funded the purchase of 342 buses in the current year is welcome, if overdue, progress.

The buses that are being purchased this year are the standard front-engine models that cost less than the transit style buses the Department of Education had opted for in previous years.

Some years back, the Legislative Audit Council strongly recommended that the state purchase the less expensive model, to get the most out of limited state dollars. The LAC found no safety issues with the standard model buses.

State Education Superintendent Mick Zais recognizes the hazards inherent in failing to keep the school bus fleet up to date. That's why he is asking the Legislature for \$34 million this year to get back on track.

Buying the requisite number of new school buses shouldn't be an annual issue for the Department of Education. Getting children to and from school safely is a fundamental responsibility.

The Legislature should make the task routine with adequate, regular budget support.