



Superintendent:  
Elliot Smalley

Board of Directors:  
John Payne, Chairman  
Cyndi Mosteller, Vice Chairman  
Kathleen Bounds, Secretary  
Keith Callicutt, PhD  
Beth Purcell  
Teresa Pope, PhD  
Kip Miller

Submission to the South Carolina House of Representatives for FY 2020-21  
Appropriation  
for the **South Carolina Public Charter School District**

January 15, 2019

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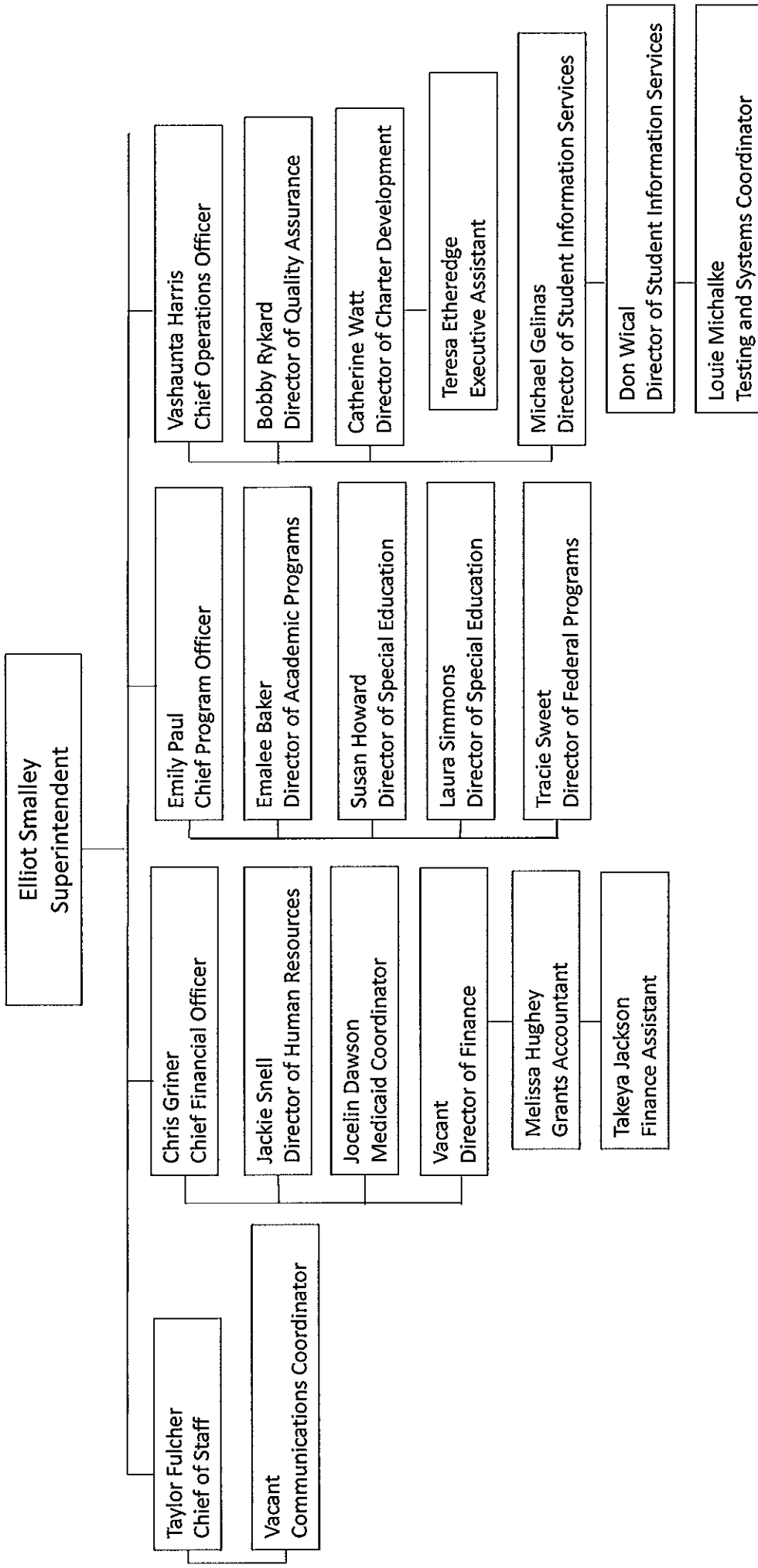
- 1) List of Key Officials Attending Hearing
- 2) Organizational Chart
- 3) Accountability Report
- 4) Budget Request Summary
- 5) Proviso Request Summary
- 6) District Performance Highlights

## List of Key Officials Attending

Superintendent – Elliot Smalley

Chief of Staff – Taylor Fulcher

# SCPCSD Organizational Chart: January 2020



**Request for EIA Program Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and Program Report for Fiscal Year 2018-19  
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<b>Program Summary</b>			
<b>EIA-Funded Program Name</b>	<b>Charter Per Pupil Funding</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Charter Per Pupil Funding</b>

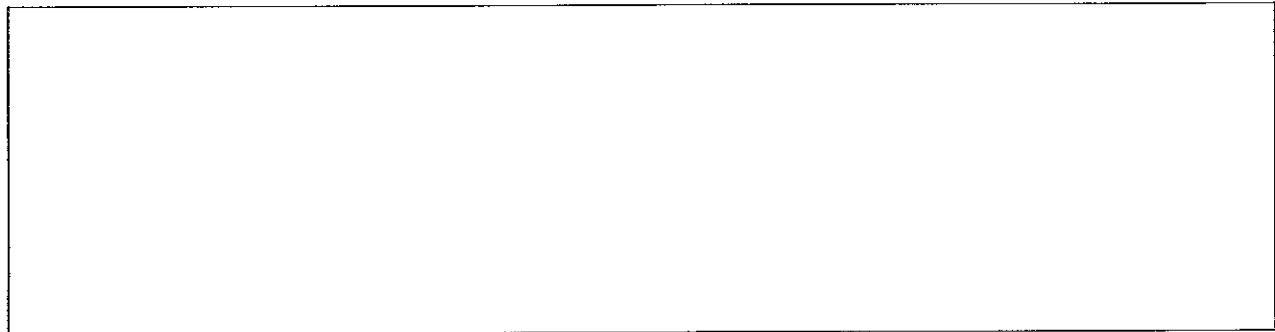
<b>FY 2019-20 EIA Appropriation</b>	<b>\$79,784,299</b>	<b>FY 2020-21 EIA Funding Request</b>	<b>\$91,984,637</b>
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<b>Program Contact</b>	<b>Chris Griner</b>	<b>Division/Office</b>	<b>South Carolina Public Charter School District</b>
<b>Contact Title</b>	<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>3710 Landmark Drive Suite 201 Columbia, SC 29204</b>
<b>Contact Phone</b>	<b>803-457-2724</b>	<b>Contact E-Mail</b>	<b>cgriner@sccharter.org</b>

**Summary of Program:**

These funds are appropriated to provide educational opportunities for students attending charter schools authorized by the SC Public Charter School District (SCPCSD). For the school year 2015-16, this funding was appropriated at a level of \$3,600 per weighted pupil unit (WPU) at brick and mortar schools and \$1,900 per WPU at virtual schools. This funding is to supplement the base student funding to ensure that state-sponsored charter schools have the necessary funding to provide a free and appropriate public education for the more than 25,000 students across the state that have chosen these schools. This funding is required because schools authorized by the SCPCSD are not allocated local funding through their municipalities. Over the last five years, local funding for schools has increased by more than 16% per pupil on average across the state, whereas the equivalent funding through this EIA program for charter schools on a per pupil basis has not been increased. In addition, the national inflation rate has totaled 6.8% over the same period with no adjustment to the base amounts per pupil.

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- The completed report packet should contain **fifteen (15), three-hole-punched double sided copies and one electronic file by 12:00 p.m. September 27, 2019.**
- Hard copies may be mailed or delivered to: SC Education Oversight Committee, Edgar A. Brown Building, 1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 502, Columbia, SC 29201 located on the Statehouse grounds. Any questions and electronic copies should be sent to Bunnie Lempeis Ward at [bward@eoc.sc.gov](mailto:bward@eoc.sc.gov).

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**1. Allocation of Funds**

Of the EIA funds appropriated for this program in Fiscal Year 2018-19, how are the funds allocated?

<b>Allocation of Funds</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>% of Total Line Item</b>
Allocated to School Districts	\$	%
Retained by SCDE	\$	%
Allocated to Other Entities (Please Explain)	\$	%
Other (Please Explain)	\$	%
Other (Please Explain)	\$	%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$	%

Total should reflect EIA line item appropriation (\$) and 100% of the line item appropriation.

Of the funds "Allocated to School Districts," please denote how the funds are expended by category statewide across all districts. In the case of some line items, the SC Department of Education may have to make a professional judgment or estimate.

<b>Expenditure Category for Funds Allocated to School Districts</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Instruction</b> (Includes direct and indirect instruction and resources in a traditional classroom in grades K-12 including teacher salary compensation, fringe benefits, teacher professional development, etc.) Please <i>exclude</i> National Board supplements and Teacher Supply Funds.	%
<b>Instructional Support</b> (i.e. guidance counselors, media specialists, reading coaches, summer reading camps, etc.,)	%
<b>Special Education Services</b>	%
<b>Health</b> (i.e. school nurses, mental health counselors, etc.)	%
<b>Safety</b> (i.e. school resource officers, etc.)	%
<b>Vocational</b> (i.e. career education, vocational equipment, etc.)	%

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<b>Facilities &amp; Transportation</b>	%
<b>District Services</b>	%
<b>Technology</b> (i.e. classroom devices/tablets or instructional software that supports direct learning, etc.)	%
<b>Adult Education</b>	%
<b>4K</b> (i.e. Half-Day and Full-Day Programs)	%
<b>Assessments</b> (i.e. funds for formative assessments, industry exams, etc.)	
<b>Teacher Supply Funds</b>	%
<b>National Board Supplements</b>	%
<b>Other</b> (Please Explain)	%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	%

Total should reflect 100%.

**2. A. Relevant State Law**

What South Carolina laws, including provisos in the current year's general appropriations act, govern the implementation of this program? Complete the following citations, when applicable.

Code of Laws:  
Section 59-29-170, Part IB, Section 1A H63 – Department of Education - EIA

Proviso(s) (If applicable, include reference to the 2019-20 General Appropriation Act)  
1A.50

Regulation(s):  
N/A



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**B. Other Governing Guidelines**

Do guidelines that have been approved by the State Board of Education, the Commission on Higher Education or other governing board exist that govern the implementation of this program? If yes, please provide detail.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                                          X                      No

If yes, please describe:

### 3. Logic Model

Complete the Logic Model Template provided below with specific reference to the *Profile of the SC Graduate* as relevant. After completing the Logic Model, respond to Questions 1 and 2. Below are definitions for terms included in the Logic Model Template.

- **Goal:** Overall purpose or long-term outcome of the program, with specific reference to the *Profile of the SC Graduate* as relevant.
- **Research/Evidence:** Description of relevant research, evidence or best practices that describe how change occurs.
- **Resources:** Currently available or proposed inputs or program investments for the proposed program. List all the resources needed for a successful program, including federal or state funds as well as grants. Common resources include human resources, financial resources, space, technology, other equipment and materials.
- **Strategies:** Actions that are needed to implement program. Describes how program resources will be used to achieve program outcomes and goals. Also considered to be processes, methods or action steps.
- **Indicators:** Measurable, tangible, and direct products or results of program activities. They lead to desired outcomes but are not themselves the changes expected due to the program. Outputs help assess how well the program is being implemented. Outputs frequently include quantities to reflect the size or scope of services or instruction being delivered.
- **Outcomes:** Results the program intends to achieve if implemented as planned. Outcomes are the changes that occur or the difference that is made for the population during or after the program. Outcomes should be within the scope of the program's control or sphere of reasonable influence, as well as the timeframe that has been chosen for the logic model. They should be generally accepted as valid by stakeholders, framed in terms of change and measurable.
- **External Factors:** Issues or circumstances that are outside of the control and scope of the program, but they may impact the implementation or outcomes of the program.

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<p><b>Sample Logic Model Problem/Issue</b></p>	<p>By developing high-quality and rigorous schools of choice that are centers of innovation, the SCPSCD raises the bar for all students in South Carolina and empowers families with school choice. This proviso funding is necessary to ensure that charter schools authorized by the SCPSCD maintain adequate funding levels to provide a free and appropriate education for the more than 25,000 public school students.</p>			
<p><b>Goal</b></p>	<p>Students surpass achievement and growth benchmarks set by the South Carolina Department of Education</p>			
<p><b>Research/Evidence</b></p>	<p><b>Activities/Intervention</b></p>	<p><b>Current or Proposed</b></p>	<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<p><b>Project Outcomes (1-2 years)</b></p> <p><b>Outcome Measures and Assessment Tools</b></p>

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<p>SCPCSD authorizes and holds accountable 35 independent and autonomous charter schools. Each school is responsible for developing and maintaining curriculum, teaching standards, assessments and facilities to ensure that they are contributing to closing the achievement gap in the state.</p>	<p>SCPCSD monitors charter school performance and takes appropriate corrective actions when charters do not meet performance standards. Additionally, the SCPCSD determines whether each charter school's performance merits replication, renewal, non-renewal, or revocation.</p> <p>When making recommendations to the SCPCSD Board which impact the term of a school's charter, the SCPCSD focuses on three fundamental questions consistent with the Charter Schools Act:</p> <p>Academic Performance: Is the educational program a success.                  Financial Performance: Is the school financially viable and sustainable?                  Student and Family Rights: Is the school fulfilling its obligations to students and families?</p>	<p>Current</p>	<p>Evidence of progress towards the development of a set of high-quality charter schools includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A highly selective and rigorous application process that ensures that only those applicants which the Board determines have capability to meet the high standards of excellence to open a new school are approved. Over the course of 2018-2019 the SCPCSD Board revoked the charter of one school that was consistently unable to demonstrate measurable success in progressing towards academic proficiency for students.</li> </ul>	<p>90% of the SCPCSD's portfolio of schools are categorized as being in Good Standing. This means that they are meeting or exceeding the academic, operational, and equity standards established by the SCPCSD. Of those schools currently authorized by the SCPCSD, nearly 3/4 saw increases in the percentage of points earned on the indicators and measures that operationalize these standards. Further, more than 1/3 of these schools were honored as Schools of Distinction for either demonstrating levels of performance across subjects that place the school in the top quartile of statewide performance or for producing levels of student growth schoolwide that far exceed state standards.</p>	<p><b>ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Achievement</li> <li>Subgroup Performance</li> <li>Student Growth</li> <li>College and Career Readiness</li> <li>Comparative Performance</li> <li>State and Federal Accountability</li> <li>Optional School-Specific Goals</li> </ol> <p><b>Financial Performance</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Near Term Indicators</li> <li>Sustainability Indicators</li> </ol> <p><b>Student Achievement</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access and Equity</li> <li>Health and Safety</li> <li>Leadership</li> </ol>
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Fiscal Year Logic Model

Provide a logic model for each of the following fiscal years:

1. for the completed prior fiscal year (FY 2018-19), that identifies the strategies, outputs and outcomes employed and impact determined for the project/program;
2. for the current fiscal year (FY 2019-20); and
3. for the planned subsequent fiscal year (FY 2020-21) that document the strategies, outputs and outcomes for the program/project and how impact will be determined.

After completing the Logic Model, please respond to Questions 1 and 2. The Goal should address overall purpose or long-term outcomes of the program, with specific reference to the *Profile of the SC Graduate* as relevant.

<b>Fiscal Year 2018-19</b>				
<b>Problem/Issue</b>	By developing high-quality and rigorous schools of choice that are centers of innovation, the SCPSCD raises the bar for all students in South Carolina and empowers families with school choice. This proviso funding is necessary to ensure that charter schools authorized by the SCPSCD maintain adequate funding levels to provide a free and appropriate education for the more than 25,000 public school students.			
<b>Goal</b>	Students surpass achievement and growth benchmarks set by the South Carolina Department of Education			
<b>Strategies and Resources</b> (What intentional actions were to reach the goal and implement the program? What resources or investments were used to implement each strategy?)	<b>Activities/Intervention</b> (What did the project or program do to make progress toward goal and/or address the problem?)	<b>Outputs</b> (How did you measure progress? Include measurable numbers that reflect implementation progress and progress toward completing activities.)	<b>Outcomes (1-2 years)</b> (How do you know you made significant progress? Include measurable numbers that indicate impact on population being served.)	<b>Measures and Assessment Tools</b> (How did you measure your outputs and outcomes? What were your outcomes or measures?)
The SCPSCD passes on more than 98% of the proviso funding directly to our schools which enable them to develop and execute their plans for their unique programs and students.	The SCPSCD provides charter school operators and governing boards with clear expectations of school performance, timely feedback, and a transparent monitoring process.	By reviewing academic performance against established standards and by reviewing financial performance against established financial standards.	See above.	See above.

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<b>Fiscal Year 2019-20</b>	<p><b>Problem/Issue</b></p> <p>By developing high-quality and rigorous schools of choice that are centers of innovation, the SCPCSD raises the bar for all students in South Carolina and empowers families with school choice. This proviso funding is necessary to ensure that charter schools authorized by the SCPCSD maintain adequate funding levels to provide a free and appropriate education for the more than 25,000 public school students.</p>			
<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Students surpass achievement and growth benchmarks set by the South Carolina Department of Education</p>				
<p><b>Strategies and Resources</b>                  (What intentional actions are needed to reach the goal and implement the program? What resources or investments will be used to implement each strategy?)</p> <p>The SCPCSD will pass on more than 98% of this proviso funding directly to our schools which enable</p>	<p><b>Activities/Intervention</b>                  (What does the project or program do to make progress toward goal and/or address the problem?)</p> <p>The SCPCSD provides charter school operators and governing boards with clear expectations of</p>	<p><b>Outputs</b>                  (How do you know you are making progress? Include measurable numbers that reflect implementation progress and progress toward completing activities.)</p> <p>By reviewing academic performance against established standards and by reviewing financial performance against</p>	<p><b>Outcomes (1-2 years)</b>                  (How do you know you have made significant progress? Include measurable numbers that indicate impact on population being served.)</p> <p>See above.</p>	<p><b>Measures and Assessment Tools</b>                  (How do you measure your outputs and outcomes? What are your outcomes or measures?)</p> <p>See above.</p>

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<p>them to develop and execute their plans for their unique programs and students.</p>	<p>school performance, timely feedback, and a transparent monitoring process.</p>	<p>established financial standards.</p>	
<p><b>Fiscal Year 2020-21</b></p>			
<p><b>Problem/Issue</b></p>	<p>By developing high-quality and rigorous schools of choice that are centers of innovation, the SCPCSD raises the bar for all students in South Carolina and empowers families with school choice. This proviso funding is necessary to ensure that charter schools authorized by the SCPCSD maintain adequate funding levels to provide a free an appropriate education for the more than 25,000 public school student</p>		
<p><b>Goal</b></p>	<p>Students surpass achievement and growth benchmarks set by the South Carolina Department of Education</p>		
<p><b>Strategies and Resources</b>                  (What intentional actions are needed to reach the goal and implement the program? What resources or investments will be</p>	<p><b>Activities/Intervention</b>                  (What does the project or program do to make progress toward goal and/or address the problem?)</p>	<p><b>Outputs</b>                  (How do you know you are making progress? Include measurable numbers that reflect implementation progress and progress toward completing</p>	<p><b>Outcomes (1-2 years)</b>                  (How do you know you have made significant progress? Include measurable numbers that indicate impact on</p> <p><b>Measures and Assessment Tools</b>                  (How do you measure your outputs and outcomes? What are your outcomes or measures?)</p>



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used to implement each strategy?)	activities.)	population being served.)	
<p>The SCPCD will continue to pass on more than 98% of this proviso funding directly to our schools which enable them to develop and execute their plans for their unique programs and students.</p>	<p>The SCPCSD provides charter school operators and governing boards with clear expectations of school performance, timely feedback, and a transparent monitoring process.</p>	<p>By reviewing academic performance against established standards and by reviewing financial performance against established financial standards.</p>	<p>See above.</p>

**Question 1: Evidence/Research:** Description of relevant research, evidence or best practices that describe how change occurs. You may include citations, best practices, or national, state or regional evidence. **A bulleted format is encouraged.**

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) has developed best practices for charter school authorizing and the principles and standards which the SCPCSD follows

<http://www.qualitycharters.org/for-authorizers/principles-and-standards/>.

A quality authorizer engages in responsible oversight by ensuring that its charter schools have both the autonomy to which they are entitled and the public accountability for which they are responsible. The following three responsibilities lie at the heart of the authorizing endeavor, and authorizers should be guided by and fulfill these Core Principles in all aspects of their work:

**THREE CORE PRINCIPLES OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING:**

- 1. MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS**
- 2. UPHOLD SCHOOL AUTONOMY**
- 3. PROTECT STUDENT AND PUBLIC INTERESTS**

**Question 2: External Factors:** Provide additional information about any external factors that may impact the implementation and/or achievement or outcomes during the current fiscal year 2019-20, or the next fiscal year, 2020-2021. **A bulleted format is encouraged.**

- Although there has been general cost inflation of more than 6.8% over the last 5 years, schools have been expected to operate with the same level of funding per pupil as has been allocated in the past.
- Local school districts have increased their funding to schools by over 16% over the last 5 years.
- The SCPCSD worked intensively with the SDE to make significant improvements to the charter school application process.
- 2 new SCPCSD schools have opened successfully in FY20.
- Likewise, in accordance with its accountability system, the SCPCSD Board voted to revoke the charter of one of its schools during FY18-19.

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**Evaluation** – Use the Logic Model to provide further detail on Items A – C.

**A. Outcomes**

Use the space below to describe methods used to determine the program’s impact on program participants or recipients. Document measures or evidence collected to demonstrate impact. Attach additional pages if necessary.

By statute and contract, all charter schools authorized by the SCPCSD are obligated to provide a high-quality education to students. The SCPCSD developed a School Performance Framework (SPF), an annual evaluation of school performance across academic, financial and operational components. This framework is based on guidance from NACSA, the best practices of high-quality charter school authorizers, and feedback provided by charter school stakeholders. The SPF includes criteria by which all SCPCSD charter schools are evaluated to determine if they are meeting their statutory and contractual obligations, informing both the SCPCSD, school communities and parents about school performance and sustainability.

<http://www.sccharter.org/district-performance/>

**B. Implementation**

Use the space below to reflect on the current implementation of the program. Outline the methods used and data collected. **If the program is new, explain how the following questions will be addressed:**

- Has the program shifted or deviated from the original program plan? If yes, explain.
- Are services or activities going as planned? If no, explain.
- Is the program reaching the intended target population or the intended number of participants? If no, explain.
- Is it leading to expected outcomes? If no, explain.

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- How do participants or recipients perceive the services, benefits, activities of the program? What methods have been employed to understand participants' or recipients/ perceptions?

Over the last year, the SCPCSD has contracted somewhat as 10 schools transferred to a new statewide authorizer though 2 new schools did open in FY 20 and three more are projected for FY 21.

Although the Charter School Act requires charter schools to be representative of the state and the local district in which they are located, some of the schools in the SCPCSD need to take measures to ensure they are accessible to all students. One significant barrier to this accessibility is the absence of funding for transportation of students attending charter schools.

In terms of academic outcomes, the schools in the SCPCSD have a uniquely mixed portfolio. Some of the schools in the SCPCSD are among the highest performing schools in the state, whereas some schools need to make significant improvements to honor the promise of the Charter School Act.

**C. External Evaluation**

Has an independent program evaluation external to the organization been conducted?

Yes  No

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If "Yes," please describe. What was the date of the most recent evaluation? What were the findings and recommendations? Please provide a hyperlink or copy of the most recent evaluation.

NACSA conducted and presented an Authorizer Evaluation report of the SCPCSD on August 21, 2018.

**NACSA Findings:**

- SCPCSD leadership has established a strong and uncompromising commitment to the principles of high-quality authorizing. The staff team shares this commitment, which guides core district activities and decision-making geared toward the establishment of great schools that achieve positive student outcomes.
- SCPCSD is willing to take calculated but creative risks to attract and promote high-quality charter school operators, both within and external to its current portfolio of schools. Examples include an authorizer-fee-reduction incentive for high performers (see Practice Spotlight below), a new school fellowship program, and targeted/streamlined replication of strong schools.
- SCPCSD now implements all the core components of a comprehensive application process: clear application questions and guidance; fair, transparent procedures; rigorous criteria and review process using external expertise; and an interview of all qualified applicants. This is in contrast to practice prior to 2016.

**SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1: Review allocation of internal capacity and staffing to ensure that the district performs all core authorizing functions at the highest levels, in alignment with its clear strategic direction and commitment.
- 2.1: Ensure that substantive authority for new school recommendations rests with district leadership, not external reviewers; assign the lead evaluator role to a SCPCSD staff member.
- 3.1: Ensure communications to school leaders and school boards are clear and comprehensive regarding the content and application of the Core Performance System and School Performance Framework.
- 3.2.: improve communication around intervention notices and standing.
- 4.1: Leverage upcoming renewals as an opportunity to build early communication strategies and strengthen the portfolio.

**LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.2.: Develop a strategic plan for leveraging the district's cash reserves to advance key priorities.
- 2.2: Establish a proactive support and review structure to maximize the potential for yielding the highest-quality charter applications while maintaining applicant autonomy and independence from the district.
- 3.3: Develop a site visit strategy and a corresponding site visit protocol that includes guidance for the individuals conducting the site visit and standard procedures for communicating with schools to ensure they understand the purpose and focus of the visit, and receive timely feedback post the visit.
- 4.2: Build relationships and develop long-term communication strategies with schools' boards.

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## Program Planning and Fiscal Information

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### 5. Recommendations

Are there regulatory or statutory changes you would recommend to the SC General Assembly to assist this program/organization in meeting its objectives?

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ No

If "Yes," please describe recommendations below:

**Increase in Proviso per Pupil:** It is recommended that the per pupil as set forth in the Proviso be increased a modest 20%, to \$4,320 for brick and mortar schools and \$2,280 for virtual schools.

**Update Charter Proviso Act:** As NASCA recommends, the Charter School Act should be modified to ensure that all authorizers in the state be required to implement accountability measures that drive school quality.

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**6. Program Budget -** The following information will be provided by the Office of Finance at the SC Department of Education for fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Funding Sources	FY 2018-19 Actual	FY 2019-20 Estimated
<b>State Funds:</b>		
EIA	\$80,227,926	\$79,784,299
General Fund		
Lottery		
Fees		
<b>Federal Funds (specify):</b>		
<b>Other Sources:</b>		
Grant		
Contributions		
Non-Profit (Foundation, etc.)		
<b>Other (specify):</b>		
Carry Forward from Prior Year		

Expenditures	FY 2018-19 Actual	FY 2019-20 Estimated
Personal Service		
Contractual Services		
Supplies & Materials		
Fixed Charges		
Travel		
Equipment		
Employer Contributions		
Allocations to Districts/Schools/Agencies/Entities	\$78,623,368	\$78,188,613
Other: Transfers		
District Administration	\$1,604,558	\$1,595,686
Balance Remaining		
<b>TOTAL:</b>		
<b># FTES:</b>		

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**7. Future EIA Funding Requests**

A. The total amount of EIA funds requested for this program for fiscal year 2020-21 will be (check only one):

\_\_\_\_\_ The same as appropriated in the current fiscal year's appropriation.

\_\_\_\_\_  An increase over the current fiscal year's appropriation.

\_\_\_\_\_ A decrease over the current fiscal year's appropriation.

B. If you indicated an increase or decrease in EIA funding for the next fiscal year, please complete the following table.

<b>Current EIA funding amount for FY 2019-20</b>	<b>\$79,784,299</b>
<b>Amount of increase requested in EIA funding for FY 2020-21</b>	<b>\$11,600,338</b>
<b>Amount of decrease requested in EIA funding for FY 2020-21</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Total amount of EIA funding requested for FY 2020-21</b>	<b>\$91,984,637</b>

C. If you indicated an increase or decrease, please describe the reasons for the increase or decrease. How will the increase or decrease impact the strategies and the outcomes of the program? How, if any, will the logic model of Attachment A change if the proposed increase or decrease is authorized in Fiscal Year 2020-21?

The South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD) has approved three new charter schools that are projected to open in school year 2020-21 and enroll approximately 580 additional students, with existing schools adding approximately 2,600 students through additional grades and expansion. In total, the SCPCSD anticipates 17,200 students will be attending SCPCSD charter schools come August 2020.

According to data reported by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, local funding for South Carolina schools has increased by an estimated \$858 to \$6,146 per pupil (a 16.2% increase from 2014-15). Over the same period, charter school proviso funding has remained unchanged at \$3,600 for brick and mortar and \$1,900 for virtual schools. It should also be noted that the inflation rate since 2014 has been a cumulative 6.8% but the charter school proviso has not been adjusted as mentioned above.

To ensure that public charter school students are afforded equitable educational opportunities, it is important to close this funding gap. It is recommended that the per pupil as set forth in the SCPCSD proviso be increased by 20% to \$4,320 for brick and mortar students and to \$2,280 for virtual students. Based on projected enrollment, this 20% increase generates an overall proviso request of \$91,984,637 (a total increase of \$11,600,338 which consists of the 20% increase of \$15,230,773 and student decrease of \$3,630,435).

Even with the 20% increase in this proviso funding charter schools of the SCPCSD are projected to operate with approximately 20% less total per pupil funding (\$10,999) than the average locally funded schools in South Carolina (\$13,656).

Note: This budget request does not include the funding requirements for schools that are authorized by any Institute of Higher Education or any other LEA. It solely is a request for schools that are expected to be under the authorization of the SCPCSD in FY20-21.



**Request for EIA Program Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and Program Report for Fiscal Year 2018-19  
EIA Programs Administered by SC Department of Education**

**8. Proviso Requests**

To be consistent with the budget plans submitted to the Executive Budget Office, please submit any **EIA-related** proviso revision requests using the following form, which is Form D.



<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>South Carolina Public Charter School District</b>	
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H610</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>

**FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

**AGENCY PRIORITY**

*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

**TITLE**

*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

**AMOUNT**

*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2020-21? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

**NEW POSITIONS**

*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST**

**Mark "X" for all that apply:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # _____

**STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

**Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

**ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS**

Each school is responsible for developing and maintaining curriculum, teaching standards, assessments, and facilities to ensure that they are contributing to closing the achievement gap in the state.

SCPCSD monitors charter school performance and takes appropriate corrective actions when charters do not meet performance standards. Additionally, SCPCSD determines whether each charter school's performance merits replication, renewal, nonrenewal, or revocation.

AGENCY NAME:

South Carolina Public Charter School District

AGENCY CODE:

H610

SECTION:

*What specific strategy, as outlined in the FY 2019-20 Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**

As per state Charter School Law, 98% of the funds are passed from the District directly to the schools (non-profit organizations that hold the charter contract with SCPCSD). These funds are allocated to schools based on their official weighted per pupil unit counts that are reported to the State Department of Education.

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

The South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD) has approved two new charter schools that are projected to open in school year 2020-21 and enroll approximately 300 additional students, with existing schools adding approximately 2,600 students through additional grades and expansion. In total, the SCPCSD anticipates 17,200 students will be attending SCPCSD charter schools come August 2020.

According to data reported by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, local funding for South Carolina schools has increased by an estimated \$858 to \$6,146 per pupil (a 16.2% increase from 2014-15). Over the same period, charter school proviso funding has remained unchanged at \$3,600 for brick and mortar and \$1,900 for virtual schools. It should also be noted that the inflation rate since 2014 has been a cumulative 6.8% but the charter school proviso has not been adjusted as mentioned above.

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

To ensure that public charter school students are afforded equitable educational opportunities, it is important to close this funding gap. It is recommended that the per pupil as set forth in the SCPCSD proviso be increased by 20% to \$4,320 for brick and mortar students and to \$2,280 for virtual students. Based on projected enrollment, this 20% increase generates an overall proviso request of \$91,984,637 (a total increase of \$11,600,338 which consists of the 20% increase of \$15,230,773 and student decrease of \$3,630,435).

Even with the 20% increase in this proviso funding charter schools of the SCPCSD are projected to operate with approximately 20% less total per pupil funding (\$10,999) than the average locally funded schools in South Carolina (\$13,656).

Note: This budget request does not include the funding requirements for schools that are authorized by any Institute of Higher Education or any other LEA. It solely is a request for schools that are expected to be under the authorization of the SCPCSD in FY20-21.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

Request for EIA Program Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and Program Report for Fiscal Year 2018-19  
EIA Programs Administered by SC Department of Education

**FORM D**  
**PROVISO REVISION REQUEST**

**NUMBER**

IA.49

*Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list for FY 2020-21 (or mark "NEW").*

**TITLE**

South Carolina Public Charter School Funding

*Provide the title from the FY 2019-20 Appropriations Act or suggest a short title for any new request.*

**BUDGET PROGRAM**

Department of Education-EIA(H630)

*Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.*

**RELATED BUDGET  
REQUEST**

Priority 1: Recurring Request: SC Charter School District Proviso per Pupil Funding

*Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2020-21? If so, cite it here.*

**REQUESTED  
ACTION**

Add/Amend

*Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.*

**OTHER AGENCIES  
AFFECTED**

None

*Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?*

Request for EIA Program Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and Program Report for Fiscal Year 2018-19  
EIA Programs Administered by SC Department of Education

**SUMMARY &  
EXPLANATION**

These funds are appropriated to provide educational opportunities for students attending charter schools authorized by the **South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD)**. For the school year 2019-20 this funding was appropriated at a level of \$3,600 per weighted pupil unit (WPU) at a brick and mortar school and \$1,900 per WPU at a virtual school. This funding is required to supplement the base student funding to ensure that state-sponsored charter schools have sufficient funding to provide a free and appropriate public education for the more than 17,200 students across the state that have chosen these schools. This funding is required because schools authorized by the SCPCSD are not allocated Local Funding through their municipalities. Over the last five years local funding for schools has increased by more than 16% per pupil on average across the state whereas the equivalent funding through this EIA program for charter schools on a per pupil basis has not increased. In addition, the cumulative inflation rate since 2014 has been 6.8% but the charter school proviso funding has remained unchanged.

It is requested that the per pupil as set forth in the SCPCSD proviso be increased by 20% to \$4,320 for brick and mortar students and to \$2,280 for virtual students. Based on projected enrollment, this 20% increase generates an overall proviso request of \$91,984,637 (a total increase of \$11,600,338 which consists of the 20% increase of \$15,230,773 and student decrease of \$3,630,435).

It is also requested that the proviso be amended to only include funding for schools under the SCPCSD and that Charter School Funding for any charter school registered with an Institution of Higher Education be funded through a separate proviso.

*Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.*

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Even with the 20% increase in this proviso, SCPCSD schools are projected to operate with approximately 20% less total per pupil funding (\$10,999) than the average locally funded schools in South Carolina (\$13,656).

The overall projected fiscal impact of the 20% increase in per pupil funding for FY21 is \$15,230,773.

EIA Programs Administered by SC Department of Education

*Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.*

**1A.49. (SDE-EIA: South Carolina Public Charter School Funding)** The funds appropriated in Part IA, Section VIII.H.- South Carolina Public Charter School Statewide Sponsor must be allocated in the following manner to students at charter schools within the South Carolina Public Charter School District ~~or within a registered Institution of Higher Education~~. Pupils enrolled in virtual charter schools sponsored by the South Carolina Public Charter School District ~~or a registered Institution of Higher Education~~ shall receive ~~\$1,900~~ \$2,280 per weighted pupil and pupils enrolled in brick and mortar charter schools sponsored by the South Carolina Public Charter School District ~~or a registered Institution of Higher Education~~ shall receive ~~\$3,600~~ \$4,320 per weighted pupil. Three and four year old students with a disability, who are eligible for services under IDEA and enrolled in brick and mortar charter schools sponsored by the South Carolina Public Charter School District or registered IHE, shall receive ~~\$3,600~~ \$4,320 per student for brick and mortar charter schools. Three and four year old students with a disability, who are eligible for serves under IDEA and enrolled in charter schools sponsored by the South Carolina Public Charter School District or a registered IHE, shall be included in student counts for the South Carolina Public Charter School District and registered IHEs solely for purposes of funding under this proviso. Any unexpended funds, not to exceed ten percent of the prior year appropriation, must be carried forward from the prior fiscal year and expended for the same purpose. Any unexpended funds exceeding ten percent of the prior year appropriation must be transferred to the Charter School Facility Revolving Loan Program established in Section 59-40-175. For Fiscal Year ~~2019-20~~ 2020-21, the timelines set forth for ruling on charter school applications are extended for sixty calendar days for all applications submitted to the South Carolina Public Charter School District who wish to amend their applications after submission if they satisfy the following criteria as determined by the SCPCSD: 1) the applicant makes a written request to amend its charter application pursuant to this provision within the timeline prescribed by the SCPCSD; 2) the charter application is designed to address an existing achievement gap utilizing an evidence based educational program in an underserved geographical area of the state including, but not limited to, charter schools proposed to be located in any school district that is a plaintiff in the Abbeville law suit; and 3) the SCPCSD determines that the charter application is reasonably comprehensive as written and that the applicant has the capacity to amend its application in the time allotted to meet the requirements of Section 59 40 60 and Section 59 40 70, of the 1976 Code. ~~if the district determines that an applicant should be if the district determines that an applicant should be permitted to amend its application to meet the requirements of Section 59-40-60 and Section 59-40-70, of the 1976 Code, based on an applicants proposal to address an existing achievement gap utilizing an evidence based educational program in an underserved geographical area of the state including, but not limited to, charter schools proposed to be located in any school district that is a plaintiff in the Abbeville law suit.~~ The South Carolina Public Charter School District shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee on the outcomes of this extended time for a hearing at the end of the application cycle.

In addition, from the EIA funds appropriated in and carried forward from Act 97 of 2017, the Department of Education shall distribute to the South Carolina Public Charter School

**PROPOSED**

**PROVISO TEXT**

Request for EIA Program Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and Program Report for Fiscal Year 2018-19  
EIA Programs Administered by SC Department of Education

District, an amount equal to ~~\$3,600~~ \$4,320 per pupil for three and four year old students with a disability, who were eligible for services under IDEA and who were enrolled in brick and mortar charter schools sponsored by the district or registered institution of higher education during the 2017-2018 School Year and for whom EIA funding previously was not provided. The district shall distribute the funds on a per pupil basis to the charter schools which provided the IDEA services and shall not retain any portion thereof. The schools shall submit documentation of the student count to both the district and the department before the funds are dispersed.

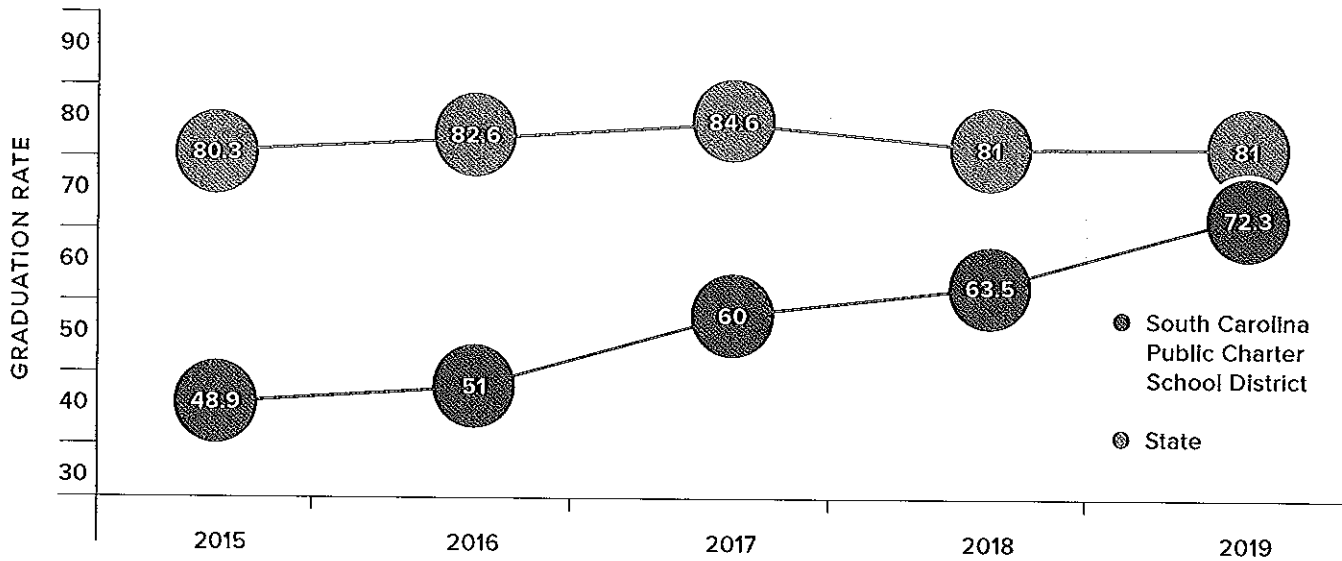
The Education Oversight Committee shall issue a report to the General Assembly recommending one or more funding systems for charter schools using such indicators as graduation rate and academic achievement data. At a minimum the report will break out graduation and achievement data by school. Any charter school receiving funding pursuant to this proviso must send the required information to the Education Oversight Committee by October 1 and the Education Oversight Committee shall issue its report to the General Assembly by June 1. Any school failing to report this information to the Education Oversight Committee shall have one percent of the funds received pursuant to this proviso withheld until they become compliant with the data submission requirements.

*Paste FY 2019-20 text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.*

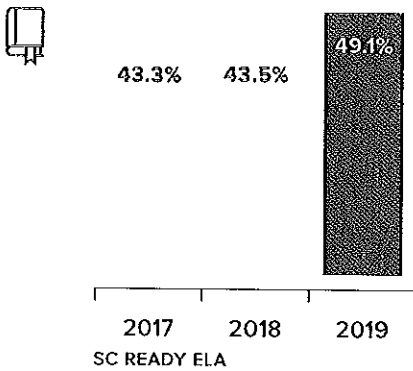




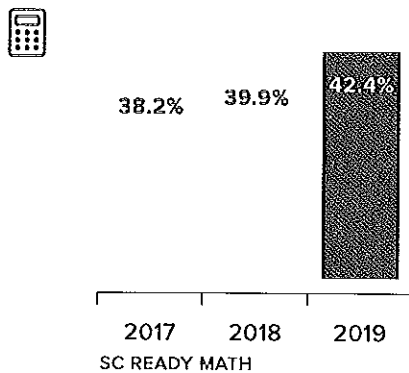
# SCPCSD SCHOOLS FASTEST IMPROVING IN SOUTH CAROLINA OVER LAST FIVE YEARS



### 3-YEAR GAINS IN ELA



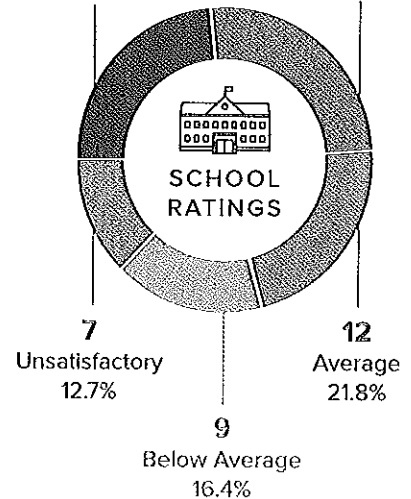
### 3-YEAR GAINS IN MATH



### SCHOOL RATINGS

**49.1%**  
TOTAL "EXCELLENT" AND  
"GOOD" SCHOOLS UP 13 POINTS  
FROM LAST YEAR'S 36%

**13** Excellent 23.6%  
**14** Good 25.5%



### HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

