

**SPECIAL
REPORT**



EDUCATION



CHARTING THE COURSE: THE FUTURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA K-12 EDUCATION FUNDING

LESSONS FROM 25 YEARS OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

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Additional resources, including updates to this report with new data as released and an interactive map of all public charter schools may be found at palmettopromise.org/public_charters

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WHAT IS A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools are **publicly** funded semi-autonomous schools of choice. They do not charge tuition. They must hold to the same academic **accountability** measures as traditional schools. They receive public funding similarly to traditional schools. However, they have more freedom over their **budgets, staffing, curricula** and other operations. In exchange for this freedom, they must deliver **academic results** and there must be enough community **demand** for them to remain open.¹

—National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

*In authorizing charter schools, it is the intent of the General Assembly to create a legitimate avenue for parents, teachers, and community members to take responsible **risks** and create new, **innovative**, and more **flexible** ways of educating **all children** within the public school system.*

*The General Assembly seeks to create an atmosphere in South Carolina's public school system where **research** and **development** in producing different learning **opportunities** are actively pursued and where classroom teachers are given the **flexibility** to innovate and the responsibility to be **accountable**.*

*It is the intent of the General Assembly that creation of this chapter encourages cultural **diversity**, educational **improvement**, and academic **excellence**.*

*Further, it is not the intent of the General Assembly to create a **segregated** school system but to continue to promote educational improvement and excellence in South Carolina.*

—South Carolina State Code, § 59-40-30

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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KEY ABBREVIATIONS & TERMS

Authorizer / Sponsor. These terms are used interchangeably in this work, though sponsor is the term favored by the state code for the organizations that provide oversight, accountability, and operate as the LEA for individual charter schools.

BSC. Base Student Cost. A key element of the Education Finance Act (1977), this formula derives the minimum cost to educate a student based on several factors, including teacher and administrative salaries, guidance services, media services, plant operations and maintenance, staff development, and other support functions. The formula does not include other factors such as facility construction, transportation, food services, instructional materials, and employee benefits.

EFA. Education Finance Act (1977). EFA established funding for a minimum level of education services based on a student's needs, and it defined a contribution amount required by local government based on its ability to pay, with the statewide average being 30% funded by local sources and 70% funded by the state. The Education Finance Act formula to calculate Local Share of education funding is $WPU \times BSC \times ITA \times 30\%$.

EIA. Education Improvement Act (1984). Implemented a new 1% statewide sales tax to generate funds to be distributed to school districts based on specific categories or initiatives rather than on a per student basis like the EFA. EIA's focus was to be improving performance (teacher, student, school, and district). Examples include aid to charter schools, teacher salary supplements and early childhood education.

Erskine. Charter Institute at Erskine. The statewide charter school authorizer established by Erskine College, a private Institution of Higher Education (IHE), in 2018.

ITA. Index of Taxpaying Ability. ITA equals the value of all taxable property in a TPS district divided by the value of all taxable property in the state, which is used to develop the local share of education funding required under the Education Finance Act.

LEA. Local Education Agency. A public board of education or other public authority within a state that maintains administrative control of public elementary or secondary schools in a city, county, school district, or other political subdivision of a state. In South Carolina, TPS districts and charter authorizers are LEAs. The statewide charter districts are authorizers as well as LEAs, which means they are responsible for special education and insuring that the charter schools in their districts meet the requirements of federal, state and local laws.

NAEP. National Assessment of Educational Progress (1969-present). The only assessment that measures what U.S. students know and can do in various subjects across the nation, states, and in some urban districts. Also known as The Nation's Report Card, NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

NAPCS. National Alliance of Public Charter Schools. A national organization that researches charter school best practices.

SCPCSD. South Carolina Public Charter School District. The first statewide charter school authorizer. Established by the General Assembly in 2006.

TPS. Traditional Public School. South Carolina's public school districts, bound by school district lines. The term **geographic public school districts** may also be used to distinguish these 79 TPS districts from statewide charter districts. (For 2021-2022, there are 77 school districts due to recent consolidations. However most data in this study is based on the 79 districts that existed at the time the data was collected.)

WPU. Weighted Pupil Unit. To account for differences in educational needs based on various student populations, this EFA index assigns weights based on grade level, vocational education, physical and emotional handicaps, learning disabilities, autism, and home-bound learning.



CHARTER FACTS*

UNITED STATES

- As of June, 2021, **45** states and the District of Columbia had approved legislation authorizing the creation of public charter schools. **5** states had not.²
- There are **7,427** public charter schools in America enrolling **3.3 million** students.³
- **22** of the **44** states authorizing charter schools permit virtual charters, and **19** of them have alternative accountability requirements for virtual charters.⁴
- Charters can be authorized by local school districts in **37** states, state education agencies in **31**, higher education institutions in **16**, municipal governments in **5** and not-for-profits in **5**.⁵

SOUTH CAROLINA

- The South Carolina General Assembly (legislature) passed the state's first charter school statute in **1996**.⁶
- There are **81** total charter schools in South Carolina. **22** are authorized by local school districts, **33** by the SC Public Charter School District and **26** by the Charter Institute at Erskine.⁷
- There are **5** virtual charters, **4** of which are sponsored by the Charter Institute at Erskine. Approximately **42%** of all charter students are enrolled in a virtual charter school (2020-21).⁸
- Public Charter schools now enroll approximately **40,000** students.⁹
- Overall, charter school students account for **5** percent of total public school enrollment in South Carolina.¹⁰
- Since the Governor declared a State of Emergency due to the spread of COVID-19, charter school enrollment has grown dramatically. The S.C. Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Office shows 135-day Average Daily Membership for 2019-20 across charter school districts to be **30,311**. Projected enrollment for 2021-22 is **41,531** pupils.¹¹
- **10** new charter schools opened for the 2021-2022 school year.¹²
- Since 2012, **8** charter schools have had their charters revoked.¹³

CHARTER FINANCE FACTS

UNITED STATES

Charters are funded by the state alone in **8** states, by districts alone in **10** other states, and by local government alone in **2** states. Charters in the other **25** states have mixed funding sources.¹⁴

SOUTH CAROLINA

As with nearly every state, funding for public schools is a state-local partnership. Charter schools in South Carolina are no different, except for the fact that only local TPS district-sponsored charter schools receive local tax revenue support.

South Carolina public charter schools do not receive dedicated funding for transportation or capital/facility expenses.

South Carolina's public charter schools are forced to spend *operating* dollars on facilities, sometimes as much as **9%**. TPSs spend **\$0** of their per-pupil operating revenues on facilities (capital projects).¹⁵

*Updates to facts and data used in this study will be posted on the Palmetto Promise Institute website as they become available.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2021 marks the 25th anniversary of South Carolina's original public charter school law. This quarter century mark serves as an important and appropriate milestone for celebrating past progress, assessing current challenges and opportunities, and casting a bold vision for the future to support innovation and equitably address the needs of charter school students, and indeed of every Palmetto State student, whatever their preferred learning environment.

Prior Palmetto Promise Institute reports¹⁶ have conclusively demonstrated the challenges South Carolina's spiderweb of education funding—among the most complex in the nation—creates for traditional public schools and public charter schools alike. Building on that research, with a keen eye on emerging trends in South Carolina's growing charter school sector, key findings of this study include:

- A historical review shows that the charter movement started slowly in South Carolina but new statewide authorizers have facilitated **strong enrollment growth**.
- With the exception of a few problem areas, South Carolina's charter sector performs well compared to competition across the Southeast. South Carolina's charter statute ranks **19 best of the 45** states with statutes. The Palmetto State's multiple charter authorizers stands out as one of the statute's strongest attributes.
- Student outcomes in the **virtual charter schools** trail those in brick and mortar and will require new approaches if virtual education is to be leveraged to its greatest impact.
- Lack of access to designated **facility and transportation funding** presents a considerable and persistent challenge for state authorized charters, cannibalizing precious classroom dollars.
- Each component of South Carolina's funding formula treats programs and resulting allocations very differently, resulting in **funding levels that vary dramatically by student and by district**, not only across local TPS districts and statewide charter districts but also among individual local TPS districts of the same type. For example, a comparison of Weighted Pupil Units, ranges from \$5,626 in Dillon 3 to \$13,895 in Fairfield, although each of these districts exhibit similar levels of poverty and student performance. Statewide charter school districts fall below the state median of \$7,288.
- The problems that plague charter schools' funding also plague the entire K-12 landscape. To be effective, **any solution must focus on all students**—and will benefit all districts, statewide charter districts and local districts alike—in ensuring a **stable, fair and sustainable system** for the future that prioritizes students and their individual needs. Ultimately, both statewide charter and TPS districts and the charters they sponsor face similar, intertwined issues that require a joint solution to provide ongoing sustainability and success for each.
- The larger issue with continuing the current ad hoc, piecemeal finance system is that students and schools are not funded equally by any real measure. Funding is not based on a method that incorporates students and their needs or that can be tracked or followed or understood. Further, it is not leading to successful outcomes. Collapsing («rolling up») in Statehouse speak the state's multiple funding streams into a single pool of money from which funds are allocated to districts via a formula is a must. But only a full **Education Finance Act 2.0**, outlined in this report, will lay the funding foundation necessary to solve South Carolina's charter funding equity problem.

Key elements of the plan include:

- A single student-centered formula
- Dramatically simplified funding
- Equitable local and state cost-sharing
- A phase-in period and timebound hold-harmless provisions
- Data analysis for accountability, evaluation, auditing, and feedback

The challenges presented by COVID—and the unprecedented massive infusions of one-time money it has brought—have both laid bare long-standing problems and provided a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address them.

This is South Carolina’s “Education Marshall Plan” moment: a chance to push dollars back into classrooms, align financial inputs with student needs and outcomes, and spend smart before we spent *more*.

Most importantly, it is our opportunity to acknowledge that **every student deserves to be funded with basic fairness to account for their unique needs.** In analyzing this report, some may be naturally tempted to focus exclusively on the horse-race of what districts “gain” and which “lose” under a new funding formula.

That tired analysis misses the point and must be rejected if we are to put the priority on what truly matters: ensuring every South Carolina student—in every learning environment—receives the support they need to succeed in school and life.



INTRODUCTION

Though some advocates and even scholars perform some interesting contortions in an effort to deny it,¹⁷ charter schools are public schools. They always have been. They answer to public bodies and they receive public funds. And, because an actual “death penalty” is built into the charter statute, among public schools, charter schools face a unique level of accountability: they can be closed for persistently low performance.

A charter school law has been on the books in South Carolina since 1996. Since that time, the statute has been adjusted and tweaked into the form under which public charter schools operate in the Palmetto State today. In most states, the vibrancy and effectiveness of charter schools can be tied to its governing law. South Carolina is no exception. At times the Palmetto State has lagged the nation in charter policy only to lead in other areas. Most recent studies put South Carolina in the top half of most national categories for its statute and the effects of its laws on the flourishing of charter schools. Regionally, there is stiff competition, but the state is currently well-positioned in most comparative measures.

Charter schools, and South Carolina charter schools in particular, have not suffered from lack of study. Charter school advocacy organizations, think tanks, federal agencies, and state agencies have analyzed charter school growth, funding, facilities and academic performance. Many of those studies are cited throughout this work. For the most part, we do not intend to replicate or test the theories and findings of those studies. However, this document also makes a significant original contribution to the body of knowledge on public charter schools because of its formidable analysis of charter finance in South Carolina. In this study, the reader will find data and evaluation unavailable anywhere else.

Our purpose here, in the many perspectives and recommendations we offer, is to chart a course for the future of robust education opportunity in South Carolina by building on the Palmetto State’s twenty-five years of experience with public charter schools.

Our assumption, which we consider a fair one, is that public charter schools are here to stay. Individual schools that do not consistently meet the performance requirements of the state law, their individual charters, or the standards of their authorizers (sponsors) may need to close. But the charge to innovate and to achieve success in preparing underserved populations is being met by charters all over the Palmetto State. Their success must be replicated, particularly in rural areas.

So, what are the barriers to greater success for public charter schools in South Carolina? This work will explore those impediments, but the reader should know in advance that the barriers will sound familiar: they are same impediments to achievement for charter schools across the nation, to better traditional public school outcomes in the Palmetto State, and to modernization across South Carolina state government in general.

PART ONE: OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

A SHORT HISTORY

In the early days of charter schools in America, news outlets struggled to describe the new concept. Some seemed to be describing charter schools as if they were a phenomenon from outer space. The *Sumter Daily Item* ran an Associated Press story in October 1992 that is a good example of this wide-eyed wonder at the new entrant onto the public school stage:

*After more than a year of debate, Minnesota this fall opened the first of a new kind of school. It's a public school. But it's run by a panel of parents and teachers, not by a school district. It's eligible for tax dollars. But it's not subject to most of the rules that cover public schools.*¹⁸

In those early days, because of the freshness of the concept, support and opposition nationally did not follow the traditional pattern. Some Democratic Governors, like Roy Roemer of Colorado stepped out in support, as did the Clinton Administration under Secretary of Education and former South Carolina Governor Richard W. Riley.

In South Carolina, then-State Superintendent Barbara Nielsen, the first Republican State Superintendent of Education in the Palmetto State's history, was supportive with the caveat that she would not conscience the establishing of charters in South Carolina if doing so would lead to "resegregation" of public education in the state, or in the words of legendary Senator Kay Patterson (D-Richland), the spread of "little segregated academies." Out of the gate, the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) expressed opposition.

To the first founders of charter schools, school structure was no mere formality. They believed charter schools should not be viewed coldly as just different types of schools, but "schools that result[ed] from a chartering process." The goal in the founding of a school was that it be a *creative* process, the crafting of a school that would be innovative and responsive to parents as customers would require vision and a certain restlessness for innovation.¹⁹

The concept was slow to reach critical mass in South Carolina, but when it did, charter schooling took the form of a truly homegrown movement. Historians trace the beginnings to a group of 80 parents and their 300 students in Beaufort County (specifically in the Town of Hilton Head Island) who organized in 1994 and petitioned their state legislators to introduce a bill that would allow them to open the state's first charter.²⁰ In true Hilton Head Island fashion, the founders, many of whom had no doubt enjoyed successful business careers nationally, were attracted to the concept because charter schools are "run more like a corporation."

By 1996, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce was on board and Governor David Beasley touted the Chamber proposal in his State of the State speech.²¹ With surprising speed, hearings began at the Statehouse. Subcommittees of the Senate and House began to wrestle with whether to allow local school boards to authorize charters or to turn to a statewide "commission."

The editorial board of *The [Columbia] State*, famously leery of opening the door to private school choice, surprisingly separated the two questions, asking that charter schools be considered “on their own merits.” “But,” wrote the editors, “the catch remains finding enough money to rent or buy a safe, appropriate facility.”²² In that rare case, *The State* was prescient.

As legislation moved toward passage, the sticking point again revolved around authorization. In the end, the General Assembly opted for local school boards as the only authorizers to be allowed, though there was a provision for a traditional public school (hereafter TPS) to vote to convert itself to a public charter school. National experts, like Joe Nathan of the Center for School Change at the University of Minnesota thought that requiring local school boards to approve charters was like seeking approval from a competitor. But legislative sponsors preached patience, stressing the need for the initial legislation to allow charters to prove themselves and to build trust.²³

With memories of the state’s “massive resistance” to integration still fresh, a provision was wedged into the final bill that would require a racial mix for each charter school that would reflect the racial composition of the entire school district. Soon after passage, state Attorney General Charlie Condon opined that the racial composition section of the statute amounted to an unconstitutional quota system based on race.

The pioneering parents in Beaufort County who had waited years for the opportunity to open their charter, saw their application for the state’s first charter school, Lighthouse Charter School, denied by the Beaufort County School Board based on its failure to meet the racial component. Supporters felt that for the school to be required to meet the racial composition quota of the entire district—Beaufort County is large and has one countywide district—was an undue burden. Instead, why not make the standard the racial composition of the Hilton Head Island area where the school was to be located? Lighthouse appealed to the State Board of Education, and won a unanimous vote, but the district sued.

Eventually, a state court found the racial composition section of the Act unconstitutional, but because there was no severability clause in the statute, the court declared the entire law unconstitutional.²⁴ By 1998, advocates of education innovation were frustrated. South Carolina’s arch-nemesis for economic development and innovation, North Carolina, had enacted a charter law in the same time frame as the Palmetto State but by the spring of 1997, it had *thirty-four* charter schools operating to South Carolina’s *three*.²⁵

The movement recovered momentum in the new decade as the General Assembly acted to repair its earlier work adding a severability clause with Act 265 (2002) and modifying the racial composition language of the statute with another (Act 341, 2002). See Figure 1 on page 15 for more details.

Up to this point, the creation of charter schools was a painfully slow process in the Palmetto State. South Carolina saw private schools convert to charter schools, and technical college partnerships and organically grown schools were launched. But it was not easy to move a school from creation to maturity.

In 2006, the legislature opted for the most significant innovation to date, the creation of an independent, statewide school district that would serve as an additional home or sponsor²⁶ for charter schools in addition to local school districts. Dr. Tim Daniels was the first superintendent of the district, then came veteran public educator Dr. Wayne Brazell. By 2008, Brazell led a staff of 13 full-time district office employees.²⁷

The creation of the South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD) also allowed students from any geographical district boundary to attend any charter school in the state whether their home district was supportive or not. Growth after 2006 continued and South Carolina saw more approvals of new charter schools under the SCPCSD than by local school districts. The 2006 changes also allowed for virtual charter schools to serve students for the first time.

In 2012, further amendments to the law created more opportunities for families in South Carolina. One of the struggles parents had faced in choosing a charter school for their child was the limited number of extracurricular activities offered by the typical charter school. An amendment to §59-40-50 allowed charter school students to participate in any extracurricular activity at their zoned TPS so long as their charter school did not also offer that same extracurricular activity.

It was also in 2012 that institutions of higher education (IHE) were added as allowable sponsors. Coastal Carolina, the College of Charleston, South Carolina State and the University of South Carolina studied the possibility of becoming sponsors. Coastal Carolina already hosted Scholars Academy on its Conway campus, a lab school operated in cooperation with the Horry County School District. In the end, Coastal chose to continue to sponsor the Academy rather than become a charter authorizer.²⁸

Though Coastal Carolina did not move forward with sponsorship, the 2015 feasibility study conducted by its Dyer Institute for Public Policy included findings that resonate with any sponsor and speak to our Palmetto Promise Institute study as well. Coastal found that:

- “[F]inding, maintaining, and paying for facilities appears to be one of the greatest challenges for charter committees.”²⁹
- [A] university would be required to invest financial resources up front if it were to become an authorizer.
- “[I]t would be most efficient for an institution of higher learning to build an economy of scale by sponsoring multiple charter schools...”

But the next player in the charter community in South Carolina would not be a large public university, it would be a private college with an enrollment of 572,³⁰ Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina, the denominational college of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

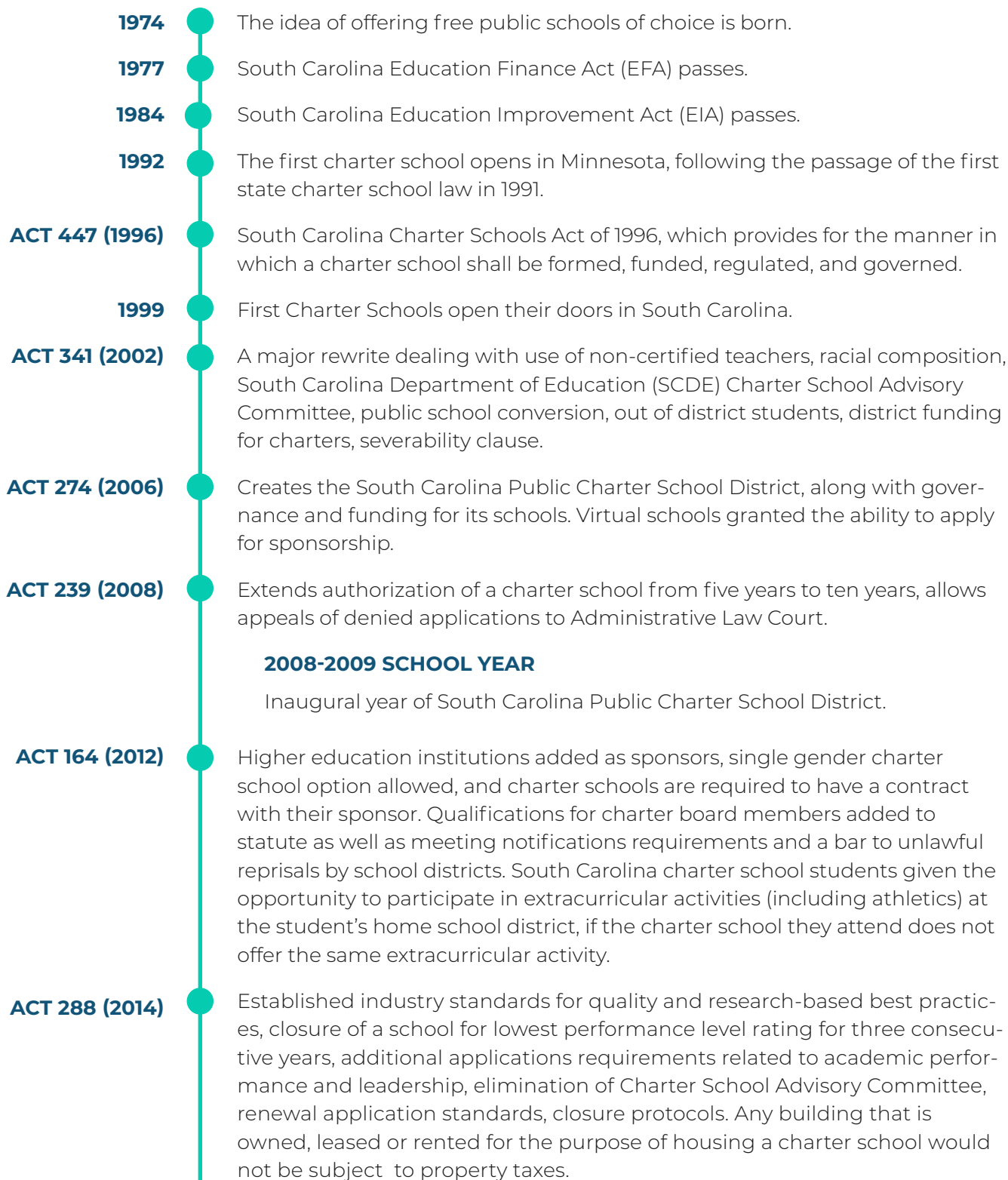
It was the ability of the Charter Institute at Erskine to raise significant private funds up front and to sponsor multiple charters nearly immediately that led to its successful launch and its inaugural school year as an authorizer in 2018-2019. The addition of the Institute as a second statewide authorizer opened the doors to more high-quality charter schools being given the opportunity for approval. With both the SCPCSD and Erskine as options, schools could find the best authorizer match for their specific mission and vision for increasing student outcomes.

Once at odds over authorizer philosophically and with accusations of “sponsor shopping” flying fast and furious, the SCPCSD and Erskine began to work collaboratively on issues, with both entities working collaboratively on issues of funding, accountability and more, in order to support their schools and the families they serve .

As we said earlier, the statutory history is a window into the progress of public charters in the state.

THE EVOLVING SOUTH CAROLINA STATUTE

FIGURE 1: CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGES, SOUTH CAROLINA CHARTER SCHOOL STATUTE



ACT 262 (2014)

Charter schools become exempt from state and local taxation, except the sales tax, on their earnings and property whether owned or leased. Instruments of conveyance to or from a charter school become exempt from all types of taxation of local or state taxes and transfer fees.

ACT 83 (2015)

Speaks to hiring of school leadership with experience in school administration and makes leadership subject to state ethics and accountability standards.

ACT 219 (2016)

Alternative Education Campuses (AEC) section of statute amended to allow mission-aligned admissions preferences to certain educationally disadvantaged students.

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Erskine College begins sponsoring schools through the Charter Institute at Erskine.

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Charter Institute at Erskine and The South Carolina Public Charter School District, previously at odds, enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to “stand shoulder-to-shoulder and vow to resolve operational disagreements so that the districts and their charter schools may continue to have a profound, innovative, and positive impact on the children of South Carolinians.” The Agreement limited school transfers.

ACT 8 (2021)

General Assembly appropriates **\$9 million** from state Contingency Reserve Fund to support Public Charter School District and Charter Institute at Erskine. Instruction that a charter school authorizer has flexibility on whether to approve a charter application that meets all statutory requirements.

ACT 32 (2021)

Allows the Governor to remove a member of a charter school board who commits “malfeasance, misfeasance, absenteeism, conflicts of interest, misconduct, or persistent neglect of duty in office, or are deemed incompetent or incapacitated...” A similar provision adding removal by the Governor for members of charter sponsor boards was not included in the legislation. (Signed into law by the Governor on May 6, 2021).

Source: Palmetto Promise Institute based on South Carolina Code of Laws

THE STUDY, THE REPORT & THE AUDIT

In January 2020, after a series of public hearings (conducted in 2018-2019), an Ad Hoc Committee on Charter Schools appointed by House Education and Public Works Committee Chair Rita Allison and co-chaired by Reps. Raye Felder and Bill Taylor issued its findings. The recommendations of a Review Panel created by the Committee, consisting of the State Department of Education, the South Carolina Public Charter School Alliance, Erskine, and the SCPCSD informed those findings.

In June 2021, just a few months in advance of the release of this report by Palmetto Promise Institute, the Legislative Audit Council (LAC) issued the results of its audit of the SCPCSD. For comparison purposes, the LAC report also touched on the operations of Erskine.

Including the Larry Miller EOC **STUDY** (June, 2020) discussed in depth on page 29, these three (3) reviews, though very different from one another, are fresh and weighty additions to our understanding of the operations of charter schools and the role of their authorizers in the Palmetto State.³¹ For those unfamiliar with such analyses, the Felder-Taylor report and the LAC audit may seem to point to controversy where there is none. A regular statehouse blogger reported the findings in that manner. However, the calls for greater charter accountability in each of the reports are quite reflective of the views of the charter community itself. The *reviewed* agree with the preponderance of the recommendations of the *reviewers*.

The House Task Force REPORT was essentially a line by line series of recommendations for overhaul of the state charter school statute. The House panel reached consensus around a number of issues, but some matters were listed transparently as “unresolved.” The reforms finding support among most stakeholders were: requiring Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to receive approval of SCDE before becoming sponsors of charter schools, clarifying language on racial composition (that has never been concise or understandable), strengthening accountability standards for charter school boards of directors, strengthening the expectations for and powers of charter school sponsors, and clarifying the role of SCDE with regard to charter sponsors.

The draft legislation-style report also called for standardizing charter school initial and renewal applications, and for bringing contracts between authorizers and schools up to standard. The most significant provisions address revocation of charters, the process for winding down a school that has lost its charter, the right of a charter school to have some right of first refusal when TPS buildings become available, and preventing sponsor shopping (the ability of a charter school to shift willy-nilly from one authorizer to another). The “miscellaneous items” left unresolved were whether the statute should grant SCDE the right to revoke sponsors, intervene in sponsor operations, or intervene directly with charter schools that have been rated unsatisfactory.

The LAC AUDIT of the SCPCSD contained forty-six (46) recommendations which covered:

- **Accountability** (school accountability, school transfers, school contracts, school board composition and qualifications)
- **Support Functions** (adequacy of support services, relationship with the South Carolina Department of Education [SCDE], relationship with schools, and legal identity and compliance)
- **Administrative Fees, Administrative Costs and Website Review** (administrative fee policy, administrative fee comparison, operating costs not publicized, website inadequacies, website comparisons)

Some of the better LAC recommendations were consistent with the SC House Task Force priorities: more sponsor board and individual school board training, statutory changes to prevent authorizer shopping, ensuring that sponsor contracts with charters do not limit the sponsor’s ability to hold the schools accountable, closer monitoring by sponsors of individual charter board compliance with statutory requirements, and clarification of whether certain responsibilities of TPS districts (found in §59-19-10) apply to the statewide charter districts.

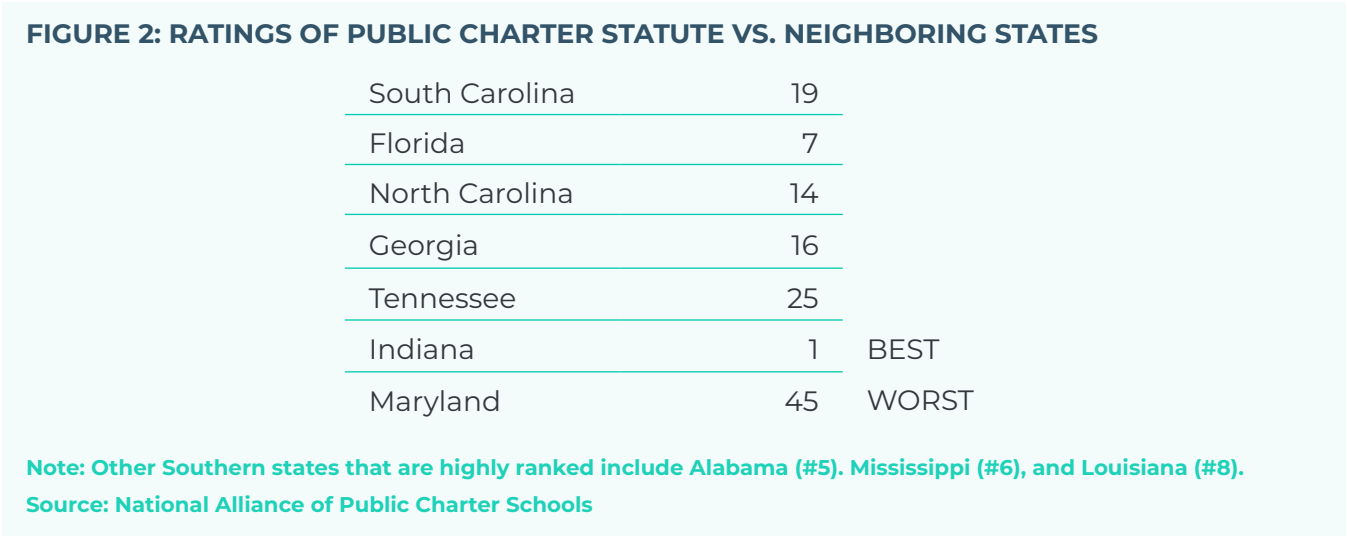
The audit also recommended specific avenues for the statewide sponsors to better support their schools and collaborate with SCDE. LAC also called for more transparency in regard to the calculation of the 2% administrative fee sponsors are allowed by law to charge (see page 70 of this report) and dedicated a full 14 recommendations to suggestions for improving the content and user-friendliness of the SCPCSD website.

In a comprehensive response to the forty-six recommendations, new SCPCSD Superintendent Chris Neeley (whose tenure began less than a year before the audit was published) pledged action on the findings, but also called for a conversation about how the priorities of the Charter Office of the SCDE could be aligned with those of the SCPCSD board.

ASSESSING THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATUTE

According to one national charter organization, the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools, South Carolina ranks 19th in the United States out of the 45 states and DC who have charter laws for its conformity to NAPCS’s Model Law.³² NAPCS has a template for rating and ranking state statutes that is its own, and reflects any biases that entity may have. But its review seems useful for weighing the effectiveness of South Carolina statute.

In particular, the state receives high marks with NAPCS for not including a hard cap on charter school growth as some states do, for providing multiple authorizers, and for the balance of autonomy and accountability that the charter sector enjoys in the Palmetto State. *



*As this report was being finalized, the Education Freedom Institute (EFI) released a paper by Dr. Ben Scafidi and Dr. Eric Wearne of the Education Economics Center at Kennesaw State University entitled “Inputs or Outcomes?: Ranking State Charter School Eco-systems.” In contrast to NAPCS and NACSA rankings, which are concerned with the quality of state statutes (inputs), the EFI system includes measures of *accessibility* and *performance* (outcomes). On the ECER index developed using those standards, South Carolina was ranked #29 of the 30 states studied by the Kennesaw State University team. Performance was no doubt impacted by virtual charter performance in the Palmetto State and accessibility to charters would have been impacted by disparities in funding.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT CHARTERS

GENERAL FINDINGS FROM PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH

Research into charter schools in the United States and in South Carolina has broadened and increased in recent years. Early studies (before 2005) sought to answer a narrow set of questions or used non-experimental design. But since that date, research designs have become more sophisticated and the questions to be answered have expanded. Much of this considerable body of research is far beyond the scope of this work, but some highlights are worth addressing here. We recommend the several meta-analyses³³ that present comprehensive summaries of charter research that readers may use to judge for themselves.

Here are a few conclusions that have been reached by at least one peer-reviewed, regularly cited study.

Segregation. On segregation effects, results are mixed, but there is some evidence that African-American families tend to choose charter schools where the student body has higher shares of black students.

“Creaming.” There are studies that show that charter schools do not skim off the best students (the “cream”) from TPS. Other studies show that there may be some evidence of this. But virtually no peer-reviewed and regularly cited study using test scores as a measure of ability indicates evidence of “push out,” which is a concerted effort by charters to systematically push students with special needs out of their schools and into other schools.³⁴

Special Needs. Incidentally, a 2018 study on students with disabilities³⁵ shows that charter schools enrolled fewer students with disabilities than TPS. The study used data for each state in the 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 academic years. In only that short span, South Carolina moved from a rank of 11th in “degree of enrollment discrepancy” to 19th (a positive trend based on the scale). Act 219, strengthening the Palmetto State’s charter law in regard to students with disabilities did not pass until 2016, so its state effects to-date would be less than conclusive.

“Non-Cognitive” Factors. Charter admission seems to lead to a lower incidence of very risky behaviors and a greater likelihood of high school graduation.³⁶

Competition Effects. In a number of studies, competition from charter schools has been shown to increase TPS performance. Research conclusions vary, but there seems to be a consensus that charters do not harm the performance of TPS.

Academic Outcomes. This is the most hotly contested area of research and the most voluminous. By one count there have been 28 studies on charter school academic achievement effects using varied research design strategies. Early (pre-2008) studies that were less sophisticated showed poor results for charter schools versus their TPS counterparts in both reading and math. But newer studies, particularly those that study charter lottery winners versus lottery non-winners show that the winners, those who become charter students, outperform the students who remained in TPS. The newest in another class of studies using regression analysis show charters improving over time.

PUBLIC OPINION

As this study was being prepared for publication, a public opinion survey of South Carolina voters was conducted by the firm Voter Opinion Research. The survey included a question on public charter schools which read as follows:³⁷

Charter schools are independently operated public schools that have more flexibility to design classrooms that meet their students’ needs. Do you support or oppose the idea of charter schools in South Carolina?”

FIGURE 3: IDEA OF CHARTER SCHOOLS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

80%	Support
13%	Oppose
7%	Unsure / Don’t Know / Refused (DNR)

Source: Voter Opinion Research

By comparison, in September 2020, as COVID and the national election were in full swing, the Manhattan Institute³⁸ contracted with the polling firm Rasmussen to conduct a survey³⁹ of 1,000 likely North Carolina voters. Rasmussen had been polling in the Tarheel State for some time in 2020 as a “Battleground State.”

The question on charter schools read as follows:

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose state funding of charter schools as an alternative to TSD-managed public schools?

Demographic cross-tabulations for the poll (which are publicly available) found that parents with school-aged children were more likely to support charter schools than respondents with no school-aged children. Younger respondents, those with no college degree, and those who earned less than \$100,000 per year were more strongly supportive than their older, more educated and wealthier counterparts. The African-American versus white demographic divide on the question was virtually non-existent, well with the margin of error.

FIGURE 4: SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Percentage indicating strongly support or somewhat support among...

School Aged Children	70%
Aged 18-39	69%
No college degree	67%
Less than \$100K	63%
Likely Voters	63%
White	63%

Black	62%
Aged 40-64	62%
More than \$100K	62%
No School Age Children	60%
College degree	60%
Aged 65+	53%

Source: North Carolina Survey of 1,000 Likely Voters Conducted September 7-8, 2020 by Rasmussen Reports. Sponsored by Manhattan Institute. Margin of Sampling Error, +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence

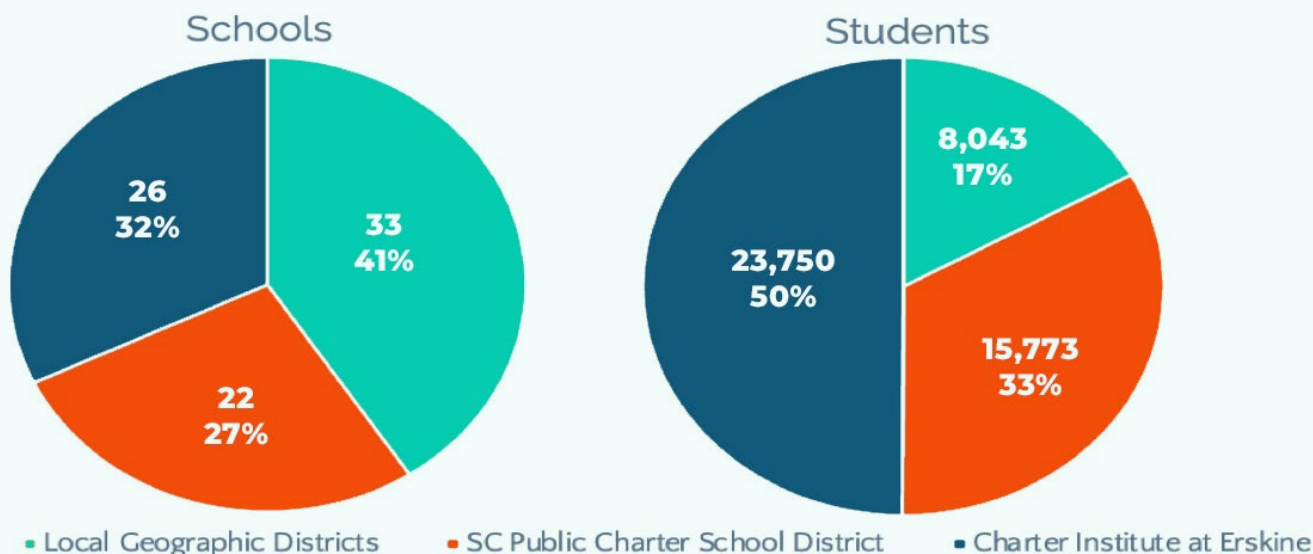
In a similar 2020 poll in Pennsylvania, another battleground state, the racial gap was wider, with 66% of African-Americans supportive of charters as opposed to 55% of white voters.⁴⁰

When charter attendance exploded with the advent of COVID, the Charter Institute at Erskine surveyed parents choosing charter schooling for the first time. An overwhelming majority answered generically, that the shift to a charter school was a vote for a “better educational option.” The full meaning is unclear without access to the individual parents for a full focus group, but it is clear that parents were looking to match the needs of their children and their family with the options—whether virtual or in-person—available to them.

AUTHORIZERS

As we have seen, when charter Schools in South Carolina were first authorized under the South Carolina Public Charter School Act of 1996, only TPS school districts could sponsor charters. In 2006, the state legislature approved the creation of the first statewide public charter school district, the South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD). Its first schools began operating in the 2008-09 school year. In 2017, Erskine College established the Charter Institute at Erskine and began teaching students in authorized charter schools in the 2018-19 school year. Currently, the state has over 81 charter schools operating under local school district sponsorship and two statewide charter districts (Figure 5).⁴¹ The South Carolina charter statute does not place any entity above the sponsor/authorizer in an oversight or regulatory role.

FIGURE 5: STATEWIDE PUBLIC CHARTER DISTRICT SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS BY AUTHORIZER, 2020-21



Source: “45 Day District Headcount by Gender, Ethnicity and Pupils in Poverty, 2020-21,” SC Department of Education.

ENROLLMENT

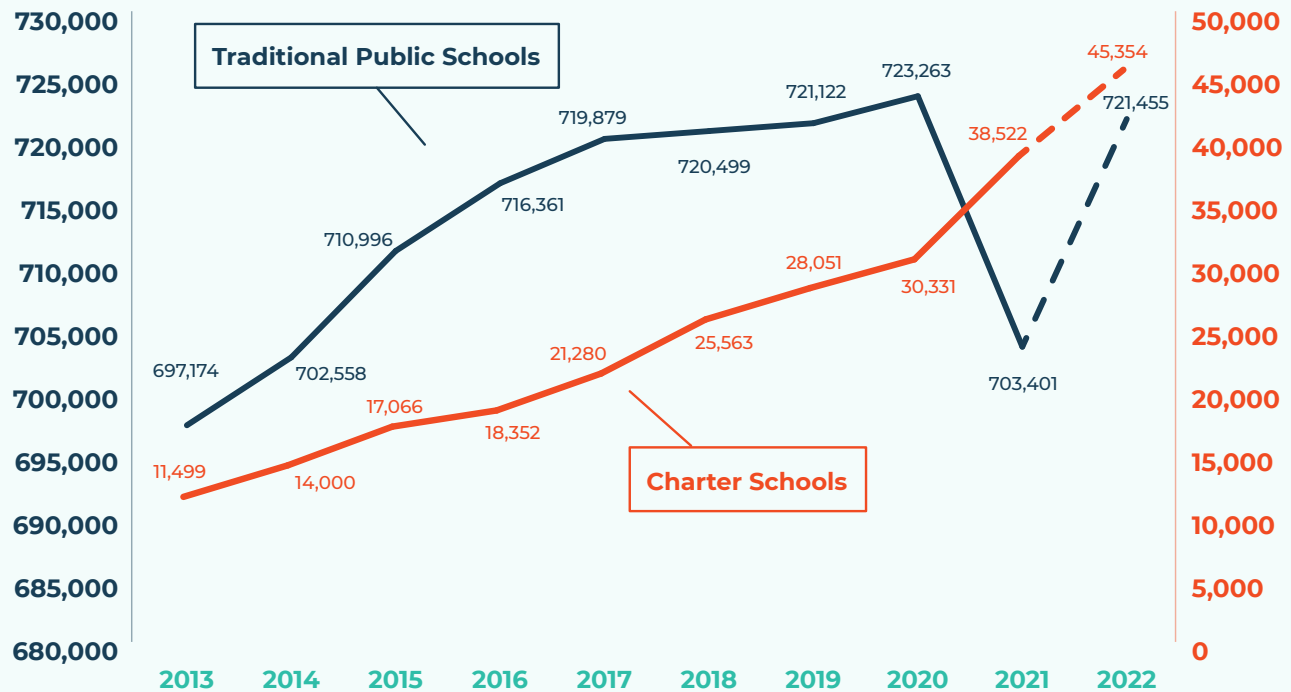
Since their first year of operation, charter school district enrollments have grown rapidly, outpacing the growth of local geographic TPS districts. South Carolina tracks two student enrollment statistics:

- **Headcount Enrollment (HC):** a “snapshot” of the number of students present on the 45th day of school.
- **Average Daily Membership (ADM):** the average of daily students present across the first 135 days of school (primarily used in state funding formulas).

Headcounts tend to be higher than Average Daily Memberships—an average of **4.1%** higher for TPS districts and **1.5%** higher for statewide charter districts,⁴² but otherwise the statistics depict the exact same growth trends.

During the COVID pandemic, the trend was even more pronounced (see Figure 6).⁴³ Given the temporary nature of pandemic effects, official state projections currently anticipate a normalization of enrollment in the 2021-22 school year.⁴⁴ Whether parents behavior will conform with the projection remains to be seen (see also Figure 7).

FIGURE 6: 135 DAY AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP, 2012-13 TO 2021-22



Source: "Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2021-22 Excluding Bond Revenue," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

FIGURE 7: ENROLLMENT AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH (135 DAY ADM), 2012-13 TO 2021-22

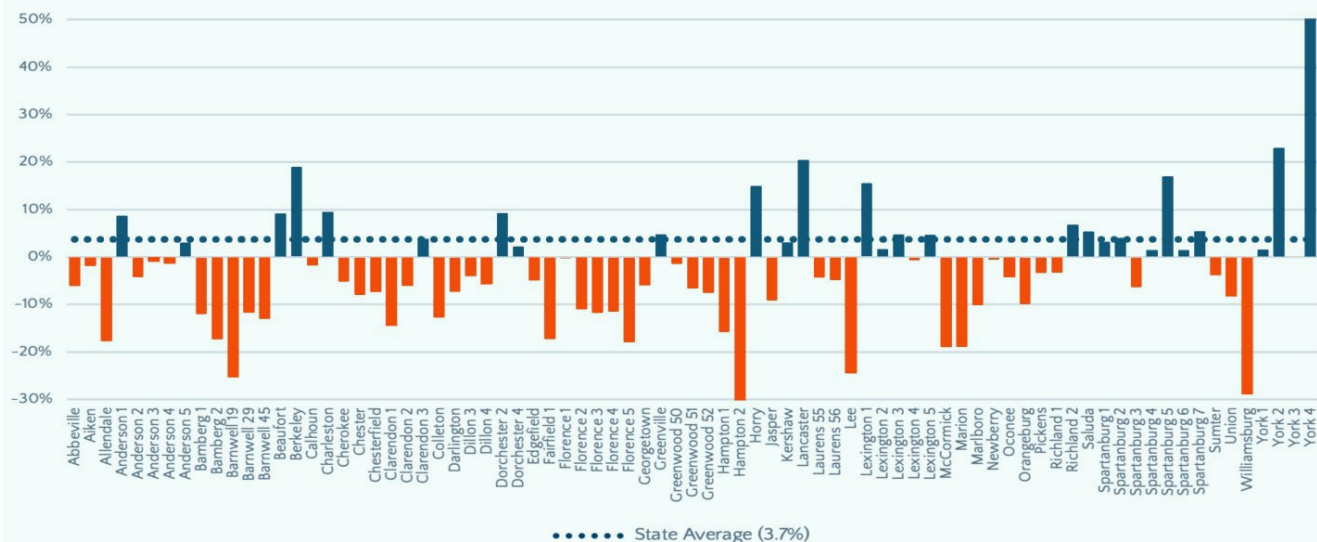
School Year	Local Geographic TPS Districts		Statewide Charter Districts	
	Students	% Change	Students	% Change
2012-13 to 2019-20 (Average Annual)	3,727	0.50%	2,690	23.40%
2019-20 to 2020-21	-19,862	-2.75%	8,191	27.01%
2020-21 to 2021-22* (Projected)	18,054	2.57%	6,832	17.74%

Source: "Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2021-22 Excluding Bond Revenue," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

While overall statewide enrollment has steadily grown, it has varied dramatically across individual TPS districts. Of **81** public school districts (**79*** TPS and **2** statewide charter), **51** experienced enrollment declines since 2012-13 (Figure 8).⁴⁵

* With recent consolidations, there are now 77 TPS districts. Data presented here is based on the 79 districts that existed when the data was collected.

FIGURE 8: TOTAL ENROLLMENT GROWTH (135 DAY ADM) BY LOCAL GEOGRAPHIC TPS DISTRICT, 2012-13 TO 2020-21

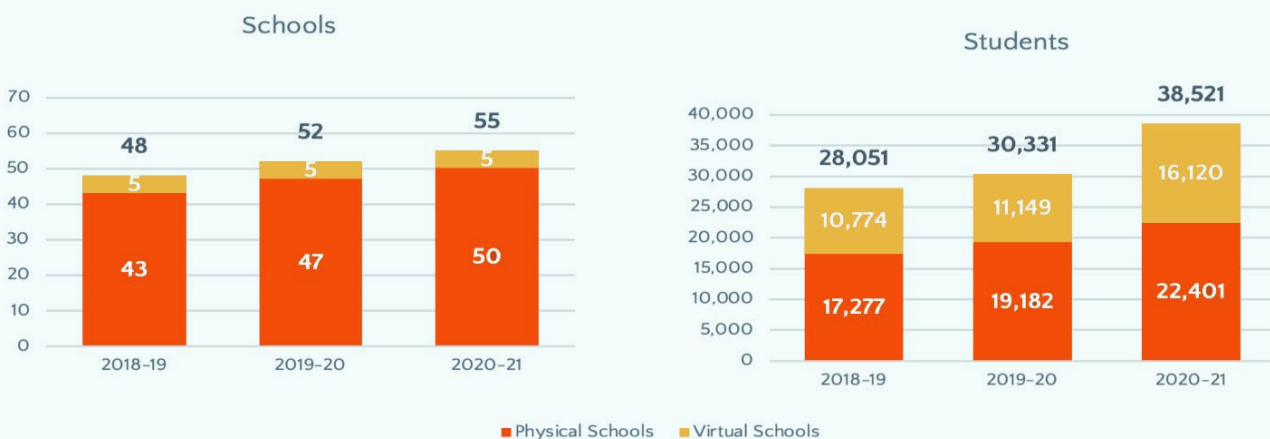


Note: * Represents official state projection by the SC Revenues and Fiscal Affairs Office. School Year 2020-21 is 45-day ADM, as 135-day figures are not yet available.

Sources: (1) "Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. (2) "School Age Population and Enrollment FY 21-22 (based on 45-day count)," January 2021. SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. (3) "45 Day and 135 Day Membership Counts Reports, 2018-19 to 2020-21." SC Department of Education.

Part of charter school growth in South Carolina has been influenced by the ability to provide education options in a virtual setting. While virtual schools make up only **5** of the **55** charter schools in the statewide charter districts, they made up **42%** of student enrollment in school year 2020-21.⁴⁶

FIGURE 9: VIRTUAL VS. PHYSICAL (BRICK & MORTAR) STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOLS, 2018-19 TO 2020-21



Source: "45 Day and 135 Day Membership Counts Reports, 2018-19 to 2020-21." SC Department of Education.

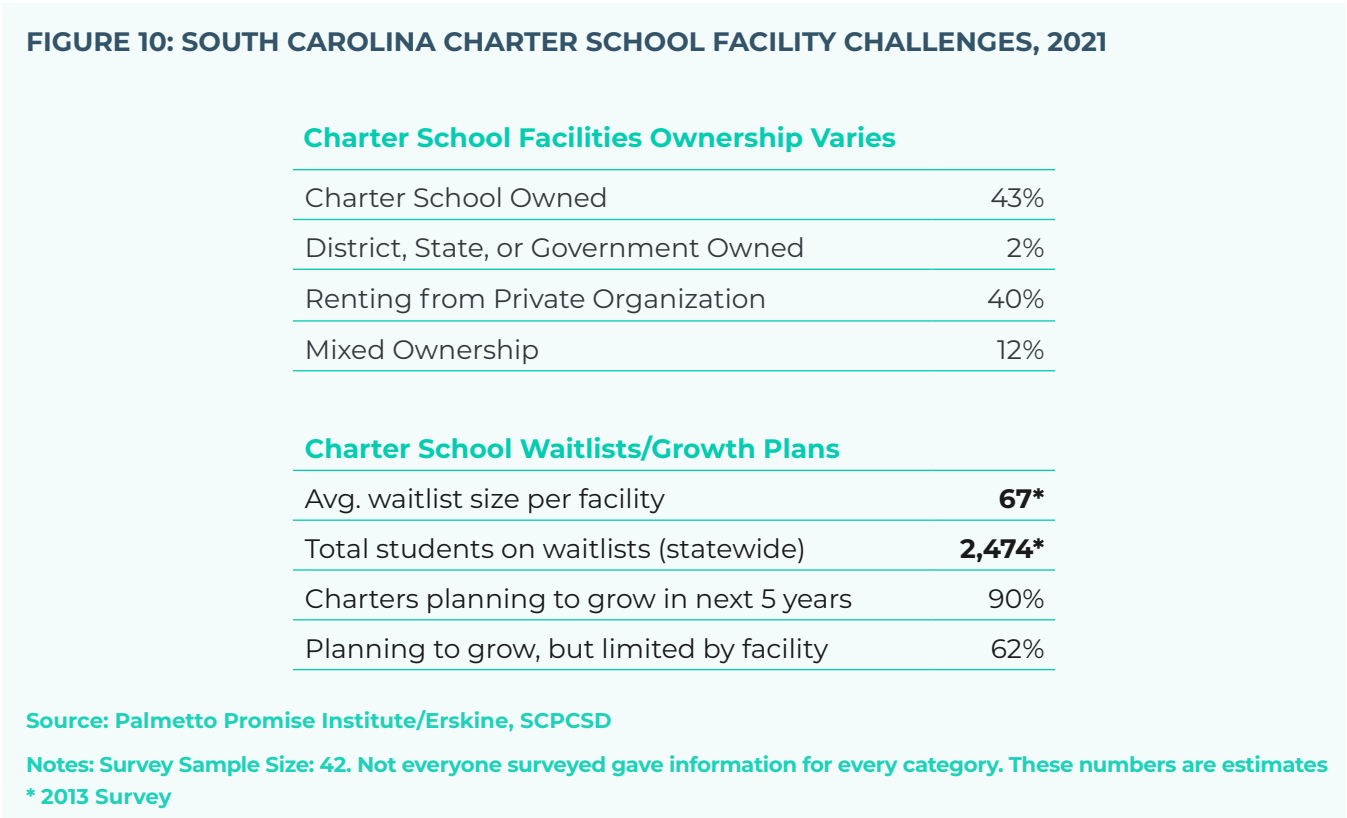
The Charter Institute at Erskine calculated their initial year-over-year increases in enrollment (2019-2020 vs. 2020-2021) at **73%** for brick and mortar and **204%** for virtual.⁴⁷

FACILITIES

In 2013, an alliance of organizations (the U.S. Department of Education’s Charter Schools Program (CSP), the National Charter School Resource Center at American Institutes for Research (AIR), the Colorado League of Charter Schools, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, and the Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina) published a study of charter school facilities in South Carolina.⁴⁸ According to the report:

South Carolina charter school leaders and boards regularly report in annual needs surveys that facilities funding is the single largest challenge in starting and/or sustaining a public charter school. South Carolina’s charter law, similar to the law in most states across the country, places the burden of obtaining and paying for facilities on individual charter schools. As a result, charter schools have struggled to find suitable and affordable facilities. This challenge puts charter schools at a disadvantage when compared to TPS.

As a part of this study, Palmetto Promise Institute, in cooperation with the SCPCSD and Erskine replicated the 2013 study. This study can be expanded further by including locally-sponsored (TPS district-sponsored) charter schools.



There is a healthy mixture of ownership, but charter schools who wish to grow are limited by their facilities.

FIGURE 11: SOUTH CAROLINA CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITY CHALLENGES, 2021

Charter School Facilities in Old or Non-Traditional Spaces

Built Prior to 1970	14%
Constructed as Schools	45%
With Some Modular Buildings	29%

Many Charter Schools Share Space with Businesses or Other Public Schools

Sharing/Co-Locating	19%
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Few Districts with Vacant and Underutilized Facilities are Willing to Share with Charter Schools

Reporting Vacant District Facility Nearby	19%
Reporting Underutilized District Facility Nearby	24%
Granted Use of Vacant/Underutilized Facility, After Asking	20%

Source: Palmetto Promise Institute/CIE, SCPCSD

Notes: Survey Sample Size: 42. Not everyone surveyed gave information for every category. These numbers are estimates

It is encouraging to see that 45% of facilities were constructed as schools and that in some cases districts are assisting charter schools with use of facilities they no longer need. This has not always been the case and ongoing attention by lawmakers to this issue may be warranted.

FIGURE 12: SOUTH CAROLINA CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITY CHALLENGES, 2021

Many Charter Schools Undergo Major Capital Projects (in excess of \$20,000)

Reporting Major Project in Last 5 Years	24%
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Charter Schools Must Pay for Facilities Out of Per Pupil Operating Funds

Median Percentage Spent on Facility	5.4*
Average Percentage Spent on Facility	7.1*

Public Charter Schools Have Limited Access to Local Tax Revenue

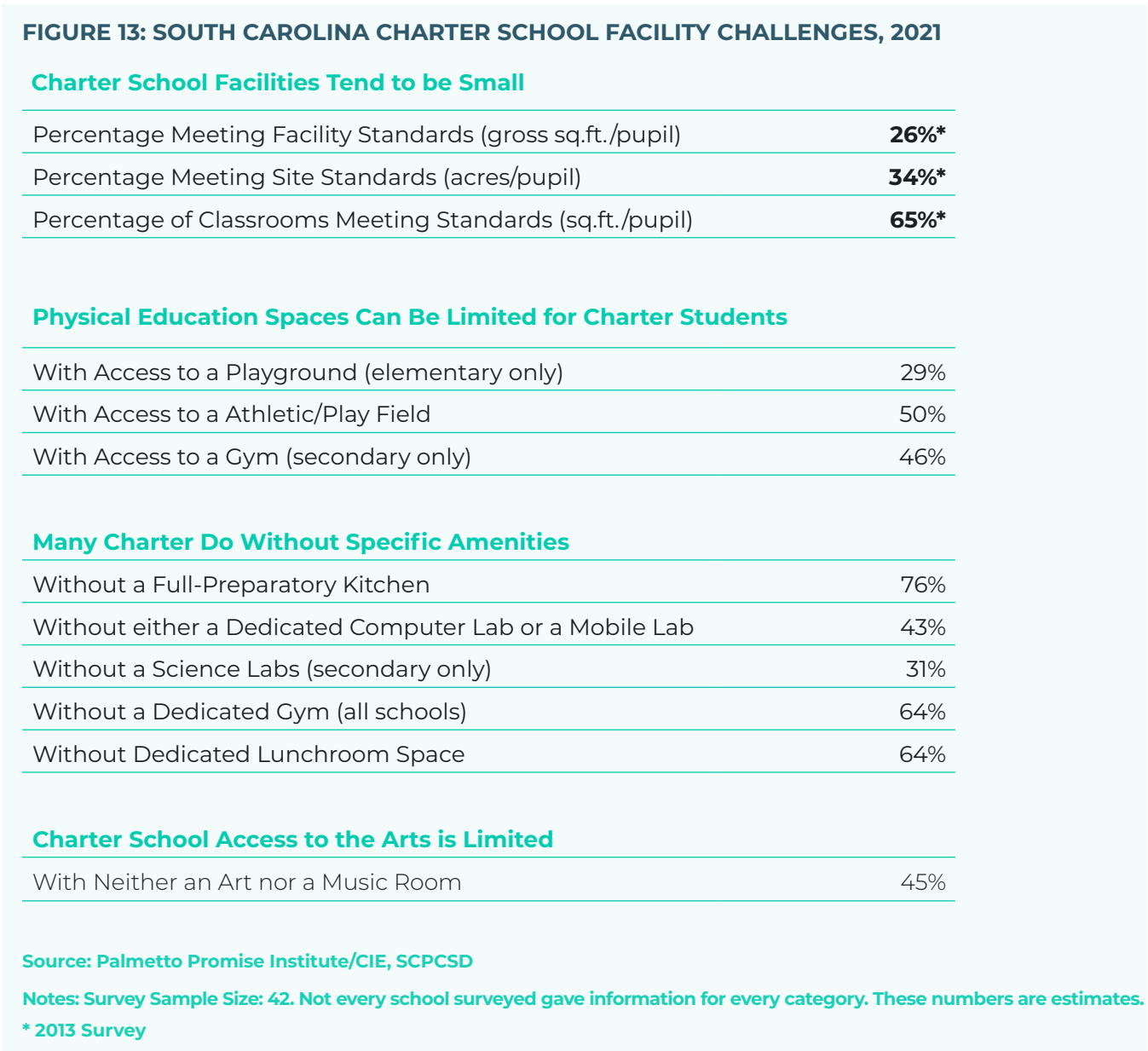
Given Some Tax Proceeds	5%
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Source: Palmetto Promise Institute/CIE, SCPCSD

Notes: Survey Sample Size: 42. Not every school surveyed gave information for every category. These numbers are estimates.

* 2013 Survey

Without local tax revenue, public charter schools are often forced to pay for their facilities out of operating revenue, which is extremely rare for a TPS due to the ability of TPS districts to go to the voters for the right to borrow for facilities through bonding.



The specific features of a building needed to adequately serve students are missing in a majority of specific categories surveyed.

As for overall findings, at least four of the five findings from the 2013 ring true nearly nine years later:

- 1. South Carolina’s public charter schools spend operating dollars on facilities, sometimes as much as **9%**. TPSs spend **\$0** of their per-pupil operating revenues on facilities.
- 2. Charter school facilities in South Carolina are smaller than prescribed standards.
- 3. Few South Carolina public charter schools have access to underutilized TPS buildings.

4. Physical education and recreational options are limited for South Carolina charter school students.
5. Charter schools in shared facilities face a number of challenges, such as conflicts with other tenants over traffic, parking, and the space itself.
6. Many South Carolina charter schools lack full-preparatory kitchen facilities that qualify for participation in the National School Lunch Program.

Ownership can meet many of these challenges. If a charter school *owns* a facility, there is more stability for the school and taxpayer dollars are not flowing to private landlords. Charters can build equity. Conversely, charters can be at risk when landlords or school district superintendents or new owners of facilities decide not to renew leases with charters. Facility status is not available for all states, but at last count, among our neighbors South Carolina charters are more likely to own than those in Tennessee but less likely than Georgia charters.

The **Charter School Facility Revolving Loan Program** was a positive change for charter schools to come out of 2012 statutory revisions in South Carolina. The fund is composed of revenues from the federal, state and private sectors and is administered by the State Treasurer's Office. Charter schools in the state continue to apply for these low interest loans that can be used for facilities. Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds issued through the **South Carolina Jobs & Economic Development Authority (JEDA)** have assisted charter schools as well, most recently Horse Creek Academy in Aiken County. But lower rates and a larger pool of funds could be achieved with a predictable stream of state funds for charter facilities or outright state backing of charter school bonds.

To further help put educational funds back into educating children, §59-40-140 was updated to declare that any building that is owned, leased or rented for the purpose of being used as a charter school would not be assessed *property* tax. These reforms are not to be dismissed, but so much more must be done to avoid siphoning dollars from charter classroom budgets to fund capital expenditures.

LEADERSHIP

The U.S. Department of Education conducted at least one audit of charter school leadership.⁴⁹ It found that charter leaders enjoyed more autonomy, but were under a greater pressure to succeed than TPS leaders.⁵⁰ Among studies of leaders, it is no surprise that facilities are almost always a concern for charter leaders. Some studies also show that charter leaders are more likely to communicate with the public than TPS leaders.

OUTCOMES

Research into the academic side of charter schools, or “outcomes” has been the subject of a host of studies, but most of the studies analyze urban-based charters. Many of those studies in turn drill down even further to seek to determine if children of color who attend charter schools in cities learn more than similar students in similar TPS.

In the case of Denver, Colorado and New York, New York, studies by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University showed a clear “win” for the urban charters. In New York City, according to the school days assessment yardstick favored by CREDO, children of color in charters in NYC tested out at the equivalent of 23 days more of reading and 57 days more of math instruction than the TPS around the corner.⁵¹ In Denver, black students from charter schools posted greater learning gains in reading and similar gains in math to TPS students and among all students, Denver char-

ter students showed stronger gains than the state average for public schools.⁵² “Making It Count: The Productivity of Public Charter Schools in Seven U.S. Cities,” is a 2021 report that confirms the power of charters to close achievement gaps in the seven cities it studied. *Making It Count* analyzes National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores to determine “cost-effectiveness,” by making adjustments to NAEP results based on per pupil funding for charters versus traditional publics in Indianapolis, Denver, New Orleans, Camden (NJ), San Antonio, Washington (DC) and Memphis. Camden was the most “cost-effective.”⁵³ A creative research strategy to be sure.

Two recent studies by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute led to similar findings. “Rising Tide: Charter School Market Share and Student Achievement” found that “for large urban districts, the more black and Hispanic students enrolled in charter schools, the greater achievement for black and Hispanic students.” Put another way, “black charter market share” is associated with significant achievement gains for black students in all schools.⁵⁴ A more recent Fordham study⁵⁵ that looks at student outcomes in Ohio for the period 2016-2019 produced seven overall findings, but two are most relevant for our purposes here: 1). Students attending Ohio charter schools demonstrate larger achievement gains than students attending TPS, and 2) black and low-achieving students in urban environments benefit most from Ohio charter schools. Neither is particularly surprising.

Outside of urban settings, the evidence for the competitiveness of charter outcomes is more mixed. For that reason, South Carolina’s preponderantly non-urban charter schools face challenges for the advocate and the analyst. The academic picture of charter schools in the Palmetto State has been the subject of two very recent major studies.⁵⁶ **“Charter School Performance in South Carolina”** is another in the CREDO series⁵⁷ assessing the performance of charters in various states and some cities.*

“The Past and Future Funding of Charter Schools in South Carolina,” authored by Dr. Larry Miller and commissioned by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC), plows similar ground in response to a legislative directive in the 2019-2020 General Appropriations Act.⁵⁸ The Miller study covers not only finance but enrollment, achievement, and performance funding. The Miller study used the SC READY assessment (Grades 3-8) for ELA and Mathematics along with the End of Course (EOCEP) assessments for English, Algebra, Biology and U.S. History and the Constitution over four years (2016-2019). The CREDO study used standardized test scores from 2014-2018.

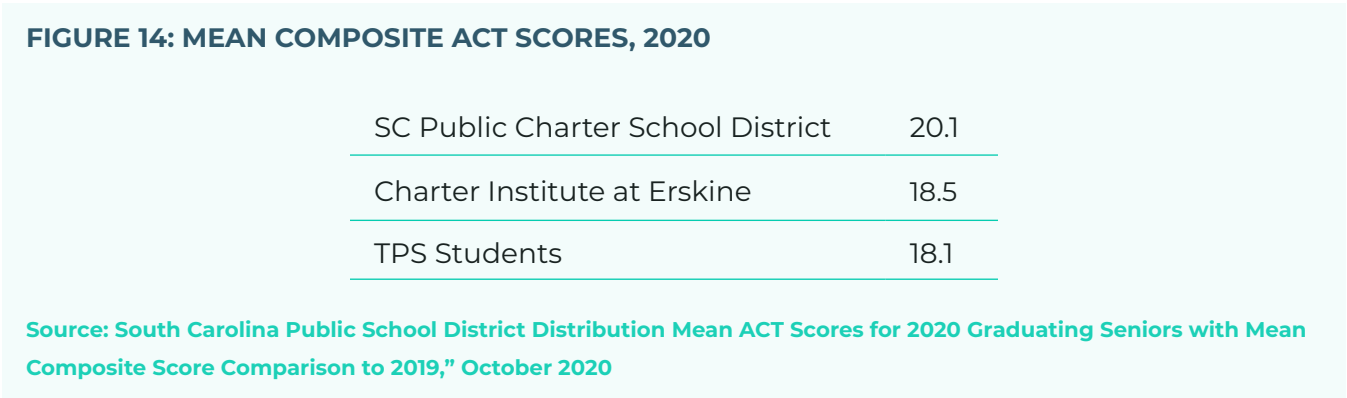
The findings of the two studies, appearing within six months of one another are similar. As a broad generalization from the data analyzed, it appears that charter schools in South Carolina are faring about as well in teaching English Language Arts (ELA) as TPS but are not seeing growth in student outcomes in Mathematics to match the TPS. The exception to the math finding is for middle school, where charters are seeing positive growth in outcomes exceeding TPS. In reading, only charter students in their fourth year in a school did better than their TPS peers. Of 28 statistically significant findings in reading, charters were similar to TPS in 22. For math, charters were similar in 13 and weaker than TPS in 14.

Hovering over both studies is the effect of online charters, which educate nearly one in three charter students tested. The CREDO study characterized the effect of virtual charters in one of its findings: “The poor performance of online charter schools wipes out the positive impact of brick-and-mortar charter schools in reading.”⁵⁹

* The results of Stanford’s CREDO studies of public charter schools by state and certain cities break down as follows. Charters did **better** than TPS in Maryland (2019), New York (2017), Texas (2017), Michigan (2013), New Jersey (2012), the City of New Orleans (2013), and the City of Boston (2013). Charters were **similar** in outcomes to TPS in Washington (2020) and New Mexico (2019). Results were **mixed** in Pennsylvania (2019), Ohio (2019), Louisiana (2013), and Indiana (2012).

But that could be changing. Based on the data reported as a part of the 2019-2020 Annual School Report Card, we find a TPS graduation rate of 82% and a graduation rate across all charters of 81%. In a recent presentation to the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, Erskine reported a districtwide graduation rate of 75% for 2019-2020 (an aggregate of the brick and mortar 91% rate and the virtual 60% rate). The graduation rate among its virtual students was low, but a full 9% above the previous year’s percentage.⁶⁰

Using the measuring stick of Mean Composite ACT scores, the 2020 data⁶¹ shows:



There is little value in disputing the data. Virtuals struggle. But if this snapshot in time is telling, virtuals seem to be improving. In any case, the improvement in outcomes among the virtual component of charter education in South Carolina must be a part of the conversation about the future of charter schooling in the Palmetto State.

There is additional state report card data available for our analysis—SC Ready’s ELA and Math for students in Grades 3-8 and End of Course [EOCEP’s] for English, Algebra, Biology and U.S. History-Constitution for high school students.⁶² We use pre-COVID (2019) data and cite SCPCSD primarily given that Erskine’s first school year of operation was 2018-19.

Middle School Assessments

On the 2019 Grades 3-8 **ELA** assessment, the statewide percentage “Meeting or Exceeding Expectations” was **45.4** for all districts, and **49.1** for the SCPCSD. 28 SCPCSD and Erskine charters beat the state average. This increases to 41 charters in total if you include those authorized by their TPS district.
SCPCSD rank among all 81 school districts: **16**

In Grades 3-8 **Mathematics**, the state was at **45.1** and the SCPCSD at **42.4**. But, 21 individual statewide authorized charter schools beat the state average in Math (33 including TPS-authorized charters).
SCPCSD rank among all 81 school districts: **33**

High School Assessments

In **English**, the SCPCSD (59.3) exceeded the state average for A-B-or-C grades (56.3) and eleven charter high schools beat the state average. SCPCSD schools finished 4th and 8th.
SCPCSD rank among all 81 school districts: **26**

In **Biology**, the statewide average (54.4) exceeded the SCPCSD (52) but ten charter high schools beat the state average. SCPCSD and Erskine schools finished 3rd, 8th, and 12th.

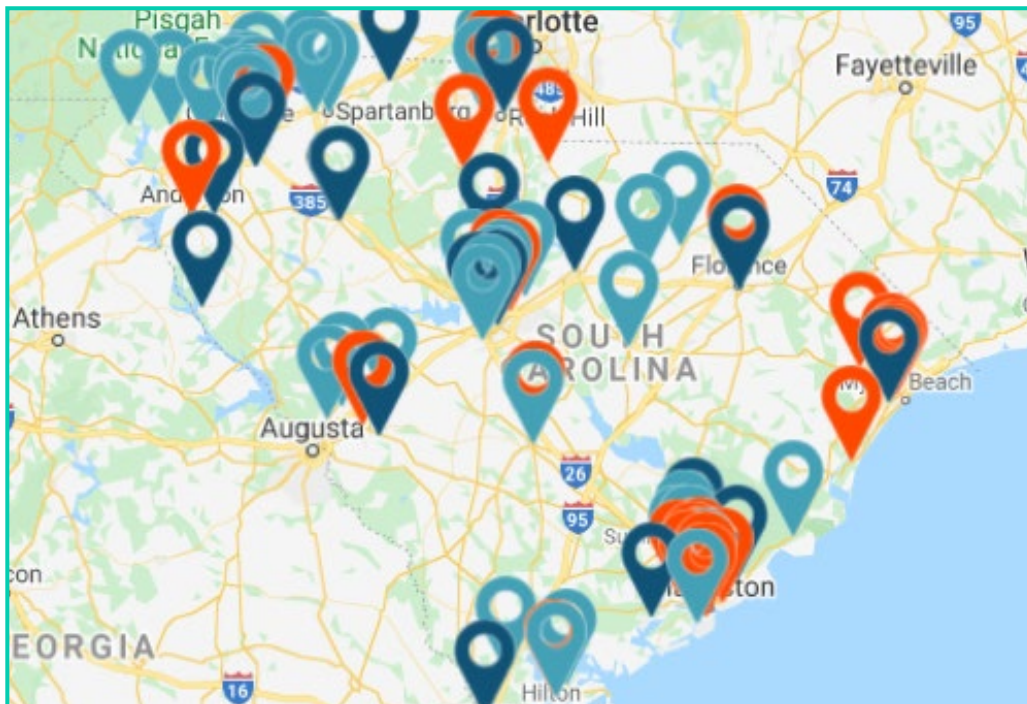
SCPCSD rank among all 81 school districts: **42**

In **Algebra**, the statewide average (54.9) was slightly higher than the SCPCSD (50.4) and eight charters beat the state average. SCPCSD and Erskine schools finished 8th and 10th.

SCPCSD rank among all 81 school districts: **55**

In **U.S. History**, the SCPCSD average (43.9) narrowly trailed the state average (47.7), but nine charters exceeded the state average. SCPCSD and Erskine schools finished 3rd and 4th.

SCPCSD rank among all 81 school districts: **37**



LOCATIONS

With the advent of statewide sponsors, fewer cities are unserved by charters. But there is work to do to bring more charter schools to rural areas and other “corridors of opportunity.” The map above is a snapshot from the Palmetto Promise Institute website mapping public charter schools across South Carolina. The digital version provides a better 25,000-foot view, but even this flat image clearly shows three bands with charter schools and two bands without. The most glaring band without is the I-95 Corridor. Educators have explained to the legislature on a regular basis that teaching what the Education Finance Act calls “pupils in poverty” is a special challenge and a special skill. The flexibility that charter schools enjoy could attract those skills and methods and be transformative in Abbeville plaintiff areas, if recommendations like those presented in this report are implemented.

SOUTH CAROLINA VS. THE COMPETITION

An important consideration in the assessment of the value of charter schools in the state is how the charter sectors fare in comparison to that of other states. The Southeast and particularly the Deep South is highly competitive for economic development. Education quality plays a vital role in that equation—to grow and sustain that competitiveness over the long-term.

In enrollment growth, driven by the new statewide authorizers, South Carolina is second only to Tennessee among the states on its border. Even with prudent growth, South Carolina could eclipse Georgia and Tennessee in number of students enrolled within one to two years. (We use 2005 and 2019 numbers from NAPCS for consistency across states.)

FIGURE 15: CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT GROWTH: SOUTH CAROLINA & NEIGHBORING STATES, 2005-2019

State	2005-06	2018-19	Growth #	Growth %
SC	4,104	37,546	33,442	815%
GA	31,538	69,855	38,317	121%
NC	27,441	110,605	83,164	303%
TN	1,685	40,524	38,839	2305%
FL	92,363	312,368	220,005	238%

Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

In number of schools, South Carolina is in a strong position, but Florida's aggressive approach in opening (and closing) charter schools is a model, as are most student-centered education initiatives in the Sunshine State since the Governorship of Jeb Bush.

FIGURE 16: CHARTER SCHOOL GROWTH: SOUTH CAROLINA & NEIGHBORING STATES, 2005-2019

State	2005-06	2018-19	Growth #	Growth %
SC	26	78	52	200%
GA	61	94	33	54%
NC	99	188	89	90%
TN	12	114	102	850%
FL	339	654	315	93%

Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Another factor tracked by the NAPCS are the types of Charter Network Operators (CNOs) that are allowed by state statute to manage charter schools. Most charter schools in South Carolina are Independent and have no CNO. (NAPSC terms independent schools "free.")

The Charter Management Organization (CMO), is usually a non-profit that manages certain aspects of a charter school. An Education Management Organization (EMO) which can be a for profit entity, manages all aspects of a charter school. An example of a CMO would be KIPP.⁶³ An active EMO is Charter Schools USA. The CMO model is not permitted in South Carolina while the EMO model is not allowed by Tennessee law. A provision of legislation filed by Senator Greg Hembree in 2017 would have made it clear that South Carolina welcomes all management organizations (both CMOs and EMOs)

as charter “education service providers.”⁶⁴ Opening up this section of the statute could also lead to strengthening of EMO-sponsor relationships.

FIGURE 17: CHARTER SCHOOL MANAGMENT: SOUTH CAROLINA & NEIGHBORING STATES, 2019

State	CMO	EMO	Free	Enrollment	Management Organization Types
SC	0%	30%	70%	37,546	Freestanding & EMO Only
GA	6%	10%	84%	69,855	Freestanding, CMO and EMO Only
NC	10%	19%	71%	110,605	Freestanding, CMO and EMO Only
TN	45%	0%	55%	40,524	Freestanding & CMO Only
FL	8%	47%	45%	312,368	Freestanding, CMO and EMO Only

Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

On racial balance, the issue that almost upended charter schools in South Carolina at the starting gate, the Palmetto State is faring quite well. Charters here as a whole are within 10% of the racial balance of TPS.⁶⁵ (Virtual charter schools in South Carolina tend to be less racially balanced than brick and mortar charters.) This is encouraging since most charters’ inability to provide transportation can be a barrier to access for minority students.

FIGURE 18: CHARTER SCHOOL AND TRADITIONAL SCHOOL RACIAL VARIANCE: SOUTH CAROLINA & NEIGHBORING STATES, 2019

State	Charter				Public Students	TPS			Racial
	Students	White	Black	Hispanic		White	Black	Hispanic	Variance
SC	37,546	61%	26%	8%	743,266	50%	34%	10%	-8%
GA	69,855	37%	46%	10%	1,697,361	39%	36%	16%	9%
NC	110,605	54%	26%	11%	1,443,025	47%	25%	19%	1%
TN	40,524	8%	72%	18%	965,785	64%	20%	11%	52%
FL	312,368	31%	20%	43%	2,534,403	38%	22%	33%	-2%

Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

In terms of poverty, **42%** of South Carolina charter schools were rated as serving students in high poverty. That's on point with traditional districts that come in at **38%**.

FIGURE 19: CHARTER SCHOOL AND TPS POVERTY VARIANCE: SOUTH CAROLINA & NEIGHBORING STATES, 2019

State	Charter Poverty				Traditional School Poverty				Poverty
	High**	Low	Total	% High	High	Low	Total	% High	Variance
SC	18	25	43	42%	324	519	843	38%	3%
GA	47	45	92	51%	764	1446	2210	35%	17%
NC	59	124	183	32%	798	1663	2461	32%	0%
TN	81	33	114	71%	626	1055	1681	37%	34%
FL	196	448	644	30%	1084	2155	3239	33%	-3%

Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Another important statistic kept by the NAPCS is digital access. This is obviously crucial in the era of COVID. About one quarter of South Carolina charter students face limited access to broadband, which is about average for the region.

FIGURE 20: CHARTER SCHOOL DIGITAL DIVIDE: SOUTH CAROLINA AND NEIGHBORING STATES, 2019

State	Students with Low Digital Access	Total Students Enrolled in In-Person	Percentage Low Access
SC	2,955	12,394	24%
GA	11,862	53,480	22%
NC	20,886	103,169	20%
TN	14,826	40,524	37%
FL	50,704	276,284	18%

Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

*NAPCS defines high poverty the same across all states: United States census tracts where 20% or more of the population lives below the federal poverty line.

FUNDING

Our comprehensive look at charter school funding in South Carolina is found in the subsequent chapter, but references to South Carolina in fiscal studies of all states with charter schools is worth mentioning here.

Comprehensive scholarly studies have shown gaps between public allocations for TPSs and public charters. The calculations used to determine the gaps vary by study, but the gaps identified are summarized in Figure 21. The purpose of showing these calculations is to present the legacy of charter school funding in South Carolina. The next chapter will provide a snapshot of current disparities.⁶⁶

FIGURE 21: CHARTER-TPS NATIONAL AND SOUTH CAROLINA FUNDING GAPS IDENTIFIED

Funding Gap	Aggregate National Funding Gap	South Carolina Funding Gap
The Fordham Institute (2005) ⁶⁷	21.7%	39.5%
Ball State University (2010) ⁶⁸	19.2%	16.9%
University of Arkansas (2014) ⁶⁹	28.4%	17.6%

Sources: Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Ball State University, University of Arkansas

In a Thomas B. Fordham Institute study (using 2002-2003 data) the researchers had difficulty finding reliable charter financial data from five states, including South Carolina, but with proxy data found the Palmetto State gap between traditional district and charter school per pupil revenue (PPR) to be the widest in the nation. The variance was rated “severe,” the lowest possible rating.

Ball State University researchers followed up five years later (using 2006-2007 data). Reliable data⁷⁰ was again a problem, but the ongoing existence of a disparity was clear. Among the conclusions was the familiar refrain “the chief culprit was charter schools lack of access to local and capital funding.”⁷¹

A University of Arkansas Department of Education Reform study (using 2010-2011 data) was a useful update and plowed new ground as well. Arkansas found that South Carolina charters were less likely to receive their share of federal assistance, and that local funding and state foundational aid based on pupil counts is lacking. Researchers found that the Palmetto State’s basic foundation component of charter funding was by their calculations the lowest in the country at 15%. As for competitors in the region, as compared to the South Carolina variance of 17.6%, the North Carolina gap was 17.1%, while Florida came in at 20.9% and Georgia at a dismal 35.1%. At the time of that writing, Tennessee was the only state to have no disparity between district and charter funding and was ranked #1 for that accomplishment.

The Arkansas study was complimentary of South Carolina for increased state funding for charters for the period FY 2007-2011, but cited the Palmetto State for not treating charters as LEAs for federal funding purposes and failing the “95% Test”. State charter schools did not receive 95% of what TPS districts received in federal funding for the final year of the study (2011).

The University of Arkansas study includes the following observation on charter funding nationally that provides a strong introduction to our next chapter on South Carolina funding:

South Carolina funding mechanisms are excessively complex. When a state's original funding mechanism does not achieve equity, years of legislative and administrative tweaking often ensue, adding complexity with little commensurate improvement in equity. In general, the more complex the mechanism, the more funding levels differ from original legislative intent.

In addition to being one of the *most* complex in the entire nation, charter funding in South Carolina is (technically) *temporary*. Charter funding allocations are found in legislative provisos instructing how Education Improvement Act (EIA) dollars are to be distributed.⁷² Funds flowing from the EIA ebb and flow with the state economy and provide no stability for the 40,000 students and their families who depend on that funding each year. At the very least, charter schools should be funded from the part of the state education budget that is foundational, not ad hoc. We turn to options for solving this shortchanging of our students in the next two chapters.



PART TWO: THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina's system of financing K-12 education has evolved over the past four decades in a piecemeal fashion to become a complex spider web of funding. Because of this, monetary inputs vary at significant rates across school districts.⁷³

Charter schools entered this educational landscape some 30 years later, and with no simple, prescribed state funding system, were incorporated in an ad hoc manner. As a result, vast inequities in funding now exist not just across TPS districts, but across all districts.

AS IT TURNS OUT, THE PROBLEMS THAT PLAGUE CHARTER SCHOOLS IN RECEIVING EQUITABLE FUNDING ALSO PLAGUE THE ENTIRE K-12 LANDSCAPE IN SOUTH CAROLINA. THUS, AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION — THAT FOCUSES ON STUDENTS — WILL BENEFIT ALL DISTRICTS, STATEWIDE CHARTER DISTRICTS AND LOCAL DISTRICTS ALIKE, IN ENSURING A STABLE, FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE THAT PUTS STUDENTS FIRST.

In this chapter and the next, we dissect the state's K-12 operational funding system (particularly as it relates to charter schools), outline existing issues, and compare four options for providing a more effective funding system. As it turns out, the problems that plague charter schools in receiving equitable funding also plague the entire K-12 landscape in South Carolina. Thus, an effective solution — one that focuses on students — will benefit all districts, statewide charter districts and local TPS districts alike, in ensuring a stable, fair and sustainable system for the future that puts students first.

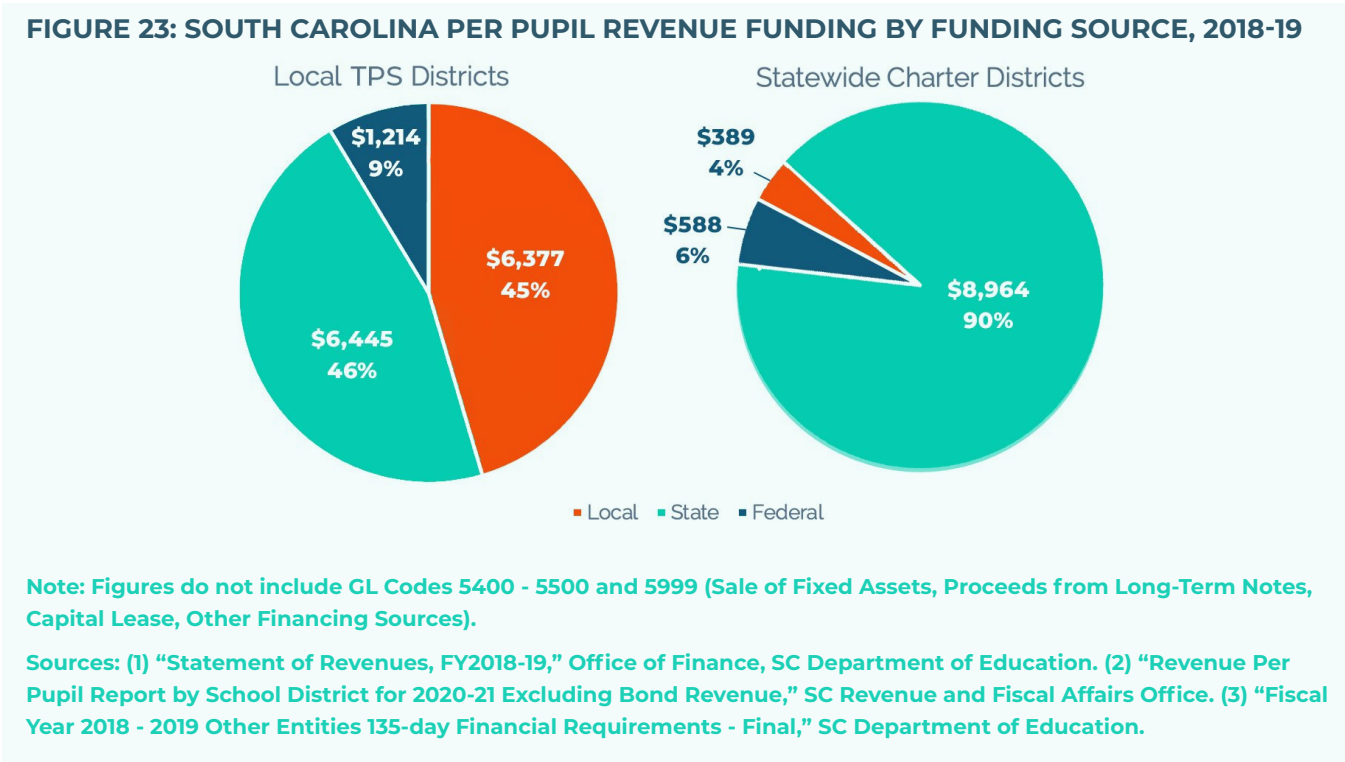
While a new operational funding formula will provide stability and equity, it will not address all issues of funding. For example,

capital expenditures (i.e.-for facility construction, school bus purchases, etc.) are largely outside the scope of this work, as are any revenues from federal sources.

Further, differentiation exists between charters authorized by statewide charter districts (48 schools) and those authorized by local districts (33 charter schools).⁷⁴ Local charter financing is undertaken at the local TPS district level, with financing information in each individual district's annual financial reports. Thus, it is difficult to evaluate their financing comprehensively without performing 33 individual analyses.⁷⁵ While this paper does not focus on the finances of these schools, the solutions proposed, when applied to locally (TPS district)-authorized charters, will have the same effect of equitably distributing funds to them as well.

STATEWIDE AND LOCAL FINANCE TRENDS

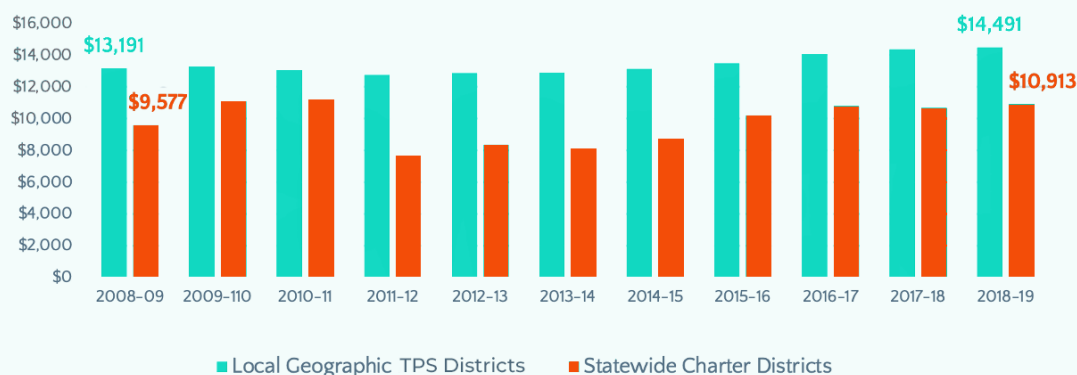
South Carolina's 81 public school districts (79 local and 2 statewide charter) receive funding from a combination of Federal, State, and Local sources. The makeup of these funds varies dramatically, not only across local geographic TPS districts and statewide charter district types but also between individual local geographic TPS districts of the same type. In particular, local funds play a large funding role for local districts, making up 45% of their total funding while only accounting for 4% of statewide-sponsored charter district total funding. As a result, state funds supplement the statewide-sponsored charter districts, accounting for 90% of their funding⁷⁶ (Figure 23).



Over time, total revenues per pupil for statewide-sponsored charter schools have lagged their local geographic TPS district counterparts (Figure 24). However, there is more to the choice of sponsor than the financial bottom line. In South Carolina we have seen some charters shift from a local TPS district to a statewide authorizer due to the better fit a statewide authorizer provides in the view of the individual charter school.



FIGURE 24: REVENUES PER PUPIL, 2008-09 TO 2018-19 (2020 INFLATION-ADJUSTED US\$)



Source: “Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

SOURCES OF FUNDS

Public school districts in South Carolina receive revenues from numerous state and local funding streams, many containing separate funding allocations within each stream. Each component of the formula treats programs and resulting allocations very differently, resulting in funding levels that vary dramatically by student and by district.

STATE FUNDING SOURCES

EDUCATION FINANCE ACT (EFA)

The Education Finance Act (1977) established funding for a minimum level of education services based on students and those students’ individual needs. It requires a contribution amount by local government based on its ability to pay, with the statewide average being 30% funded by local sources and 70% from the state. The EFA base formula includes three components:

Base Student Cost (BSC): Originally developed in 1977, this amount originally represented the “minimum cost to educate” a student, although its input factors and total amount are no longer necessarily aligned with this concept.⁷⁷

Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU): To account for differences in educational needs based on various student populations, this index assigns weights based on physical and emotional handicaps, learning disabilities, autism, vocational education, high achieving, students in poverty or with limited English proficiency, etc. (See Appendix for complete list of EFA weighting factors.)

Index of Taxpaying Ability (ITA): The ITA ensures each district contributes according to its ability to pay. Dividing the value of all taxable property in a district by all taxable property in the state yields the district’s ITA, which is used to develop the minimum local share of education funding. Voters in districts with larger tax bases often elect to spend above this baseline requirement.

Here is how the EFA might work in practice for public charter schools with different authorizers (sponsors):

Example 1 details the funding flowing through the EFA to two sample districts—a traditional public school (TPS) district and a statewide-sponsored charter. Each district is based on the 2018-19 school year and contains:

- **9,128** students (the average ADM across the state’s 81 districts)
- **12,538** weighted pupil units (the average number of WPU’s across the state’s 81 districts)
- **\$2,485** base student cost (BSC)
- **0.01266** Index of Taxpaying Ability (the average ITA across the state’s 81 districts)
- **\$2,557,135,549** total EFA funds allocated by formula, with
 - \$1,818,038,634 provided by the state
 - \$739,096,915 matched by local funds

Both districts are allocated **\$3,413** per student (ADM) in funds based on weighting factors. The local district is required to provide **\$1,025** (30%) per student in funds, based on the district’s ITA. The state provides the remaining **\$2,388** per student in funding. Because the statewide charter districts do not encompass a specific area with taxable property, they have ITA’s equal to zero and, thus, receive all of their funding from the state.

EXAMPLE 1: EFA REVENUE ALLOCATION ACROSS SAMPLE DISTRICTS IN 2018-19

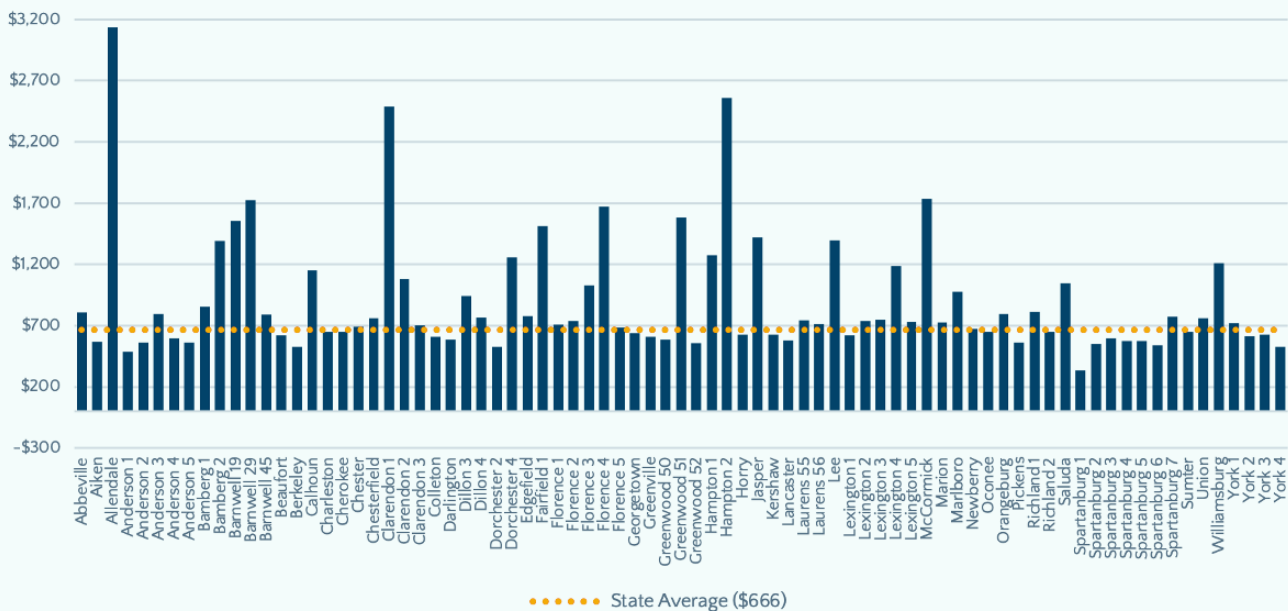
Total EFA Funding	Sample Local TPS District	Sample Statewide Charter District
WPU’s <i>multiplied by BSC</i> Total EFA Allocation per student (ADM)	12,538 x \$2,485 \$31,156,388 \$3,413	12,538 x \$2,485 \$31,156,388 \$3,413
Local EFA Portion		
Index of Taxpaying Ability <i>multiplied by total state EFA Local Share</i> District’s Local Required Share per student (ADM)	0.01266 x \$739,096,901 \$9,355,657 \$1,025	0 x \$739,096,901 \$0 \$0
State EFA Portion		
State’s Required Share per student (ADM)	\$21,800,731 \$2,388	\$31,156,388 \$3,413

Source: Author’s calculations based on (1) “Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19,” Office of Finance, SC Department of Education. (2) “Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. (3) “Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 Other Entities 135-day Financial Requirements - Final,” SC Department of Education. (4) “45 Day and 135 Day Membership Counts Reports, 2018-19.” SC Department of Education.

EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT (EIA)

The Education Improvement Act (1984) implemented a new 1% statewide sales tax (raising it from 4% to 5%) to be **held in trust** fund for EIA expenditures, and distributed these funds to districts based on specific initiatives and categorical programs (rather than per student, like the EFA). As a result, the per student allocation of EIA dollars is vastly different across districts. (Figure 25)

FIGURE 25: PER STUDENT EIA ALLOCATION BY DISTRICT, 2018-19



Source: "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education.

EIA programs include Technology, Arts, Professional Development, Assessments, Science Kits, Teacher Salary Supplements & Fringe Benefits, Reading Coaches, Students at Risk of Failure, Teacher Supplies, Nurses, Capital Improvement Plan, and many others. Programs and amounts vary significantly by district (both local TPS and statewide charter), and statewide charter districts do not receive any funding for several EIA programs (Reading Coaches, Capital Improvement Plan, etc.).

To address the lack of local funding, the EIA provides a supplement to statewide charter districts based on their weighted pupil units (WPUs). Proviso 1A.50 (SDE-EIA: South Carolina Public Charter School Funding)⁷⁸ stipulates that funds from EIA revenue be allocated as follows:

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 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 per weighted pupil.

Because the EIA is limited to the funds provided from the 1% sales tax, as the charter supplements grow, they displace other EIA funds.

Continuing with the same sample districts, **Example 2** details the EIA funding allocated during the 2018-19 school year, in which:

1. \$603,296,334 in EIA funds were allocated across all districts, of which \$493,053,634 were for EIA programs, where:
 - \$666 was the average per student (ADM) EIA allocation to local TPS
 - \$451 was the average per student (ADM) EIA allocation to statewide charters
2. \$110,242,700 were supplements to statewide charter districts, with
 - \$28,144,700 for virtual schools (based on 14,813 WPUs)
 - \$82,098,000 for physical (brick-and-mortar) schools (based on 22,805 WPUs)

Of 37,618 statewide charter district WPUs, 14,813 (39%) were virtual.⁷⁹

EXAMPLE 2: EIA REVENUE ALLOCATION ACROSS SAMPLE DISTRICTS IN 2018-19

Programmatic EIA Funding	Sample Local TPS District	Sample Statewide Charter District
Students (ADM)	9,128	9,128
Average EIA funds per ADM	<u>x \$666</u>	<u>x \$451</u>
Total Programmatic EIA Funds	\$6,081,090	\$4,113,427
EIA Charter Supplement		
WPUs	12,538	12,538
Virtual WPUs (39%) <i>multiplied by \$1900</i>		<u>x \$1900</u>
Total EIA Virtual Supplement per student (ADM)	-	\$9,380,406 \$2,676
Physical WPUs (61%) <i>multiplied by \$3600</i>		<u>x \$3600</u>
Total EIA Virtual Supplement per student (ADM)	-	\$27,362,614 \$4,867
Total EIA Funding		
Total EIA Funding	\$6,081,090	\$40,856,447
per student (ADM)	\$666	\$4,476

Source: Author's calculations based on (1) "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education. (2) "Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. (3) "Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 Other Entities 135-day Financial Requirements - Final," SC Department of Education. (4) "45 Day and 135 Day Membership Counts Reports, 2018-19." SC Department of Education.

EDUCATION LOTTERY

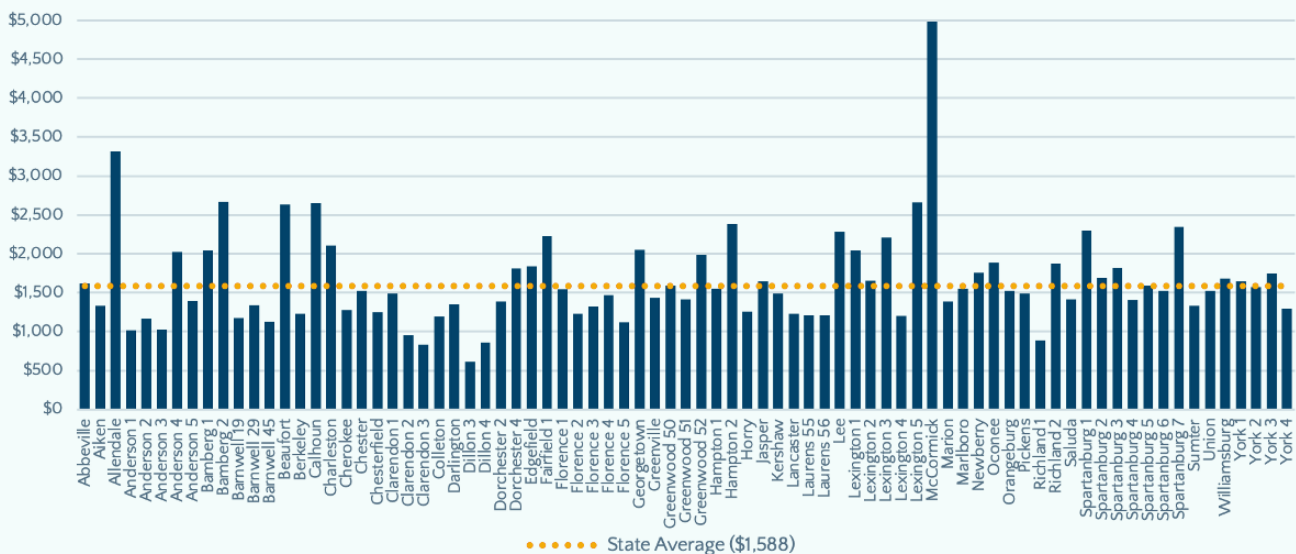
Proceeds from the Education Lottery are appropriated annually by the General Assembly to supplement existing resources for educational programs. Like the EIA, Lottery funds are allocated in varied amounts across districts. They provide funding in an ad hoc manner to programs such as K-12 Technology Initiative, Classroom Libraries, School Safety-Facility and Infrastructure Safety Upgrades, and others. In 2018-19, TPS received **\$10** per student (ADM) on average, while statewide-sponsored charter schools received **\$21**.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (1994) AND ACT 388 (2006)

These acts, together, exempted all owner-occupied homes from school district operations taxes. They guaranteed reimbursement to local districts for lost property tax revenues from the state. These reimbursements are known as Tier 1 (for the 1994 Act) and Tier 3 (for the 2006 Act) Tax Relief. However, it also includes other tax reimbursements from prior legislation, such as Tier 2 (the \$50,000 Homestead Exemption for individuals over 65). Act 388 also added a 1% state sales tax (increasing it from 5% to 6%) to help fund the reimbursements.

The amount reimbursed to local districts changed dramatically (Figure 26). While original reimbursement amounts were once based on property values by districts, the amounts have long since become either capped or revised in ways that no longer make them representative of the taxes they were originally intended to reimburse.

FIGURE 26: PER STUDENT PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT BY DISTRICT, 2018-19



Source: "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education.

Example 3 details property tax reimbursements in the same sample average district in 2018-19. Statewide charter districts do not receive these funds.

EXAMPLE 3: PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT ACROSS SAMPLE DISTRICTS IN 2018-19

Property Tax Reimbursement	Sample Local TPS District	Sample Statewide Charter District
ADM	9,128	9,128
Property Tax Reimbursement		-
Tier 1	3,234,256	-
Tier 2	1,386,263	-
Tier 3	9,152,411	-
Other	<u>725,669</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Reimbursement	\$14,498,599	\$0
per student (ADM)	\$1,588	\$0

Source: Author's calculations based on (1) "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education. (2) "Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. (3) "South Carolina Property Tax Rates by County, 2016 to 2020," South Carolina Association of Counties.

DIRECT GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

Finally, in addition to these individual, disconnected funding streams, funds may also be allocated to school districts directly by the state legislature from the state's General Fund and cover items such as Employee Retirement, Fringe Benefits, Agriculture Program, Career Specialists, PE Teachers, Bus Driver Salaries, Nurses, Digital Instruction Materials, and so on. These funds are also not necessarily distributed based on *students*, but rather *programs*, and amounts vary across districts. The average local TPS district received **\$1,663** per student in 2018-19, while the average statewide charter district received **\$1,236**.

LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES

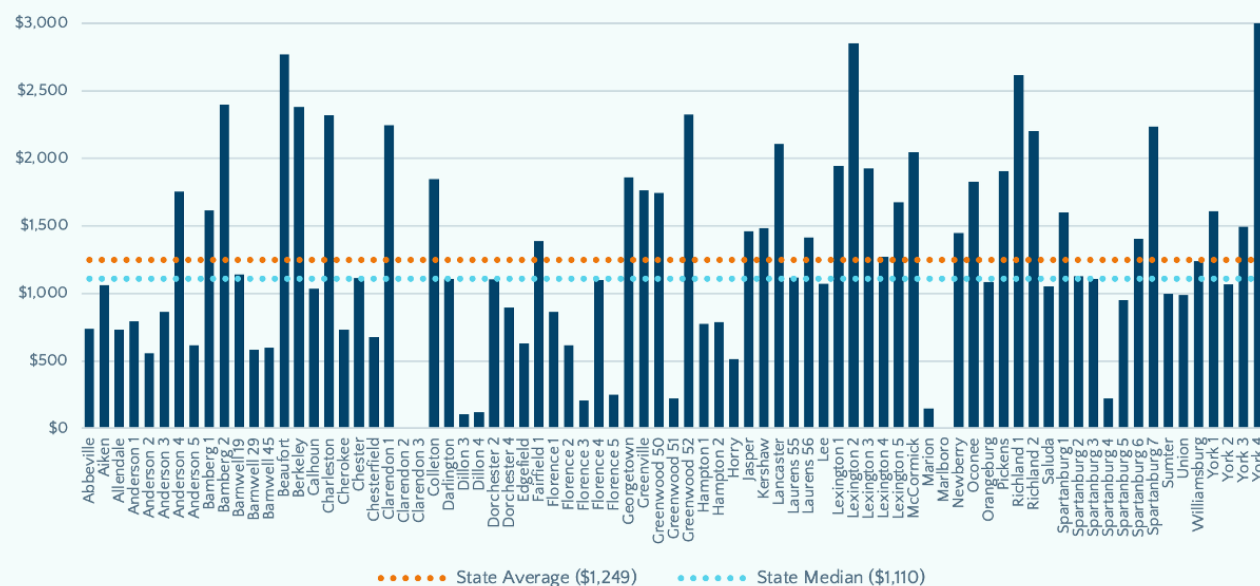
TAXES AND FEES

Property taxes and, to a small extent, other local fees and taxes, form the major portion of the local funds to the TPS districts. These revenues can be divided into three major components by use:

EFA Required Local Match: The amount the district is required to fund by the EFA formula based on Index of Taxpayer Ability (ITA) calculations.

Debt Service: Local property taxes raised through a dedicated "Debt Service" millage rate⁸⁰ that can only be applied to the repayment of bonds, typically for the purpose of capital expenditures (i.e.-facility construction). Currently, statewide charter districts have no mechanism to raise funds for such use.

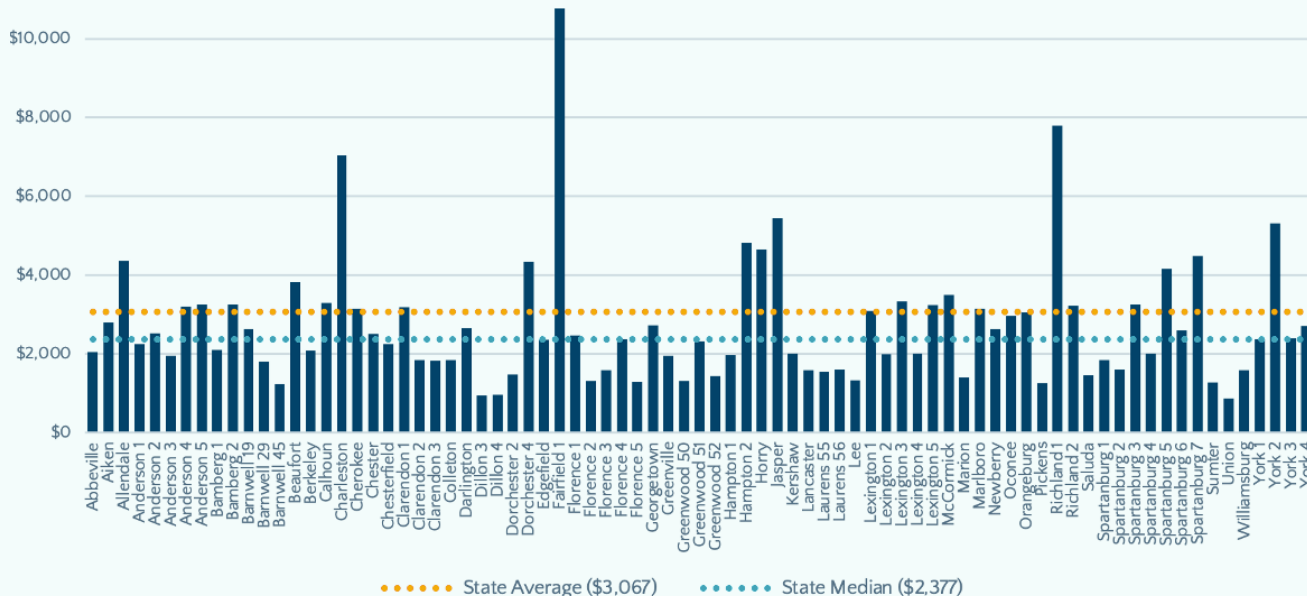
FIGURE 27: PER STUDENT LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR DEBT SERVICE BY DISTRICT, 2018-19



Source: Author's calculations based on (1) "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education. (2) "South Carolina Property Tax Rates by County, 2016 to 2020." South Carolina Association of Counties. (3) Source: School District Detailed Index of Taxpaying Ability dataset, Tax Years 2016 - 2020. South Carolina Department of Revenue.

Optional/Discretionary: The amount the district raises for school operations above what is required by the EFA. This amount varies by district, from a low of **\$884** per pupil in Union County to a high of **\$10,762** in Fairfield County. (Figure 28) The median district raises **\$2,377** per pupil in optional local tax revenues. Again, statewide charter districts have no capacity to raise such funds.

FIGURE 28: PER STUDENT OPTIONAL/DISCRETIONARY LOCAL TAX REVENUES BY DISTRICT, 2018-19



Source: "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education.

OTHER LOCAL FUNDS

Finally, districts can raise funds through provided auxiliary services (food, transportation, tuition, event admissions, student fees, etc.)⁸¹, investments, rentals, donations, and other sources. On average, statewide charter districts raised **\$389** per student from these sources in 2018-19 versus **\$719** for TPS districts. **Example 4** details local revenues for the average sample local and statewide charter districts in South Carolina.

EXAMPLE 4: LOCAL REVENUES ACROSS SAMPLE DISTRICTS IN 2018-19

	Sample Local TPS District		Sample Statewide Charter District	
	Total	Per Student	Total	Per Student
Local Taxes & Fees				
ADM		9,128		9,128
EFA Required	\$9,355,657	\$1,025	-	-
Debt Service	\$14,289,668	\$1,565	-	-
Optional/Discretionary	\$27,998,220	\$3,067	-	-
Total Local Taxes & Fees	\$51,643,545	\$5,658	-	\$0
Other Local				
District Services	\$3,688,669	\$404	\$2,032,505	\$223
Investments	\$1,065,595	\$117	\$263,968	\$29
Rentals, Donations & Other	\$1,810,871	\$198	\$1,252,984	\$137
Total Other	\$6,565,136	\$719	\$3,549,457	\$389

Sources: Author's calculations based on (1) "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education. (2) "South Carolina Property Tax Rates by County, 2016 to 2020." South Carolina Association of Counties. (3) "Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 135-day Financial Requirements - Final," SC Department of Education.

DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED: EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Raising revenues in a stable, sustainable and transparent manner is an obstacle faced not just by statewide charter districts, but also by local TPS school districts. In November 2014, the South Carolina Supreme Court's decision in *Abbeville County School District, et al. v. The State of South Carolina* found the state's "educational funding scheme is a fractured formula denying students... the constitutionally required opportunity." In 2019, national education research institute, ExcelinEd, published "Fairness & Opportunity: Bringing Student-Centered Education Funding to South Carolina Students." That report put it this way: "school funding in South Carolina is extraordinarily complex, with a multitude of funding streams each of which has its own allocation methodology."⁸² The fractured nature of the formula fails students for several reasons.⁸³

1. EXPENDITURES ARE NOT DIRECTLY TIED TO ACTUAL STUDENT COSTS.

The EFA was originally designed to be the primary funding source for students. However, the funding it provides is low, and its share of total education funding has shrunk over time to only **27%** of state and local funds. Further the gradual addition of funds from the EIA, Education Lottery, tax relief reimbursements, and other state and local appropriations, many of which have categorical use requirements, have effectively removed the link between funding and student costs. Rather than allocating funds by actual need, they are based on specific revenue streams, compete with other state budget priorities, and are subject to fluctuating economic conditions.

2. REVENUE STREAMS ARE UNSTABLE AND UNPREDICTABLE, CAUSING SIGNIFICANT YEAR-OVER-YEAR VARIATION IN FUNDING.

State level K-12 education dollars flow from variable sources and lack a mechanism to ensure consistent funding levels, instead suffering the ups and downs of economic or political cycles. As a result, school districts are unable to set reliable budgets based on predictable income. Lottery ticket sales and recessions are unpredictable.

3. OVERLY-COMPLEX FUNDING FORMULAS PRECLUDE TRANSPARENCY AND DISGUISE INEFFICIENCY.

The numerous revenue streams, coupled with multiple reimbursement requirements, spending mandates and calculation factors, makes the current system incredibly complex.

- Burdensome administrative costs are required to calculate multiple funding mandates.⁸⁴ (The current SC Department of Education Funding Manual is 182 pages.)
- Complication leads to a lack of transparency. Taxpayers, educators and lawmakers are unable to follow money, verify calculations, and ensure it is being spent appropriately.

4. STATE/LOCAL COST-SHARING FORMULA DOES NOT EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE EQUITY ACROSS DISTRICTS.

In 1977 the EFA established an equitable cost sharing formula in which the state provided **on average** 70% of the funding, with local districts receiving more or less than that according to their ability to raise funds through property tax. The ITA no longer accurately reflects each district's relative property wealth due to exemptions and tax law changes which have unequally eroded the tax base. Further, over time piecemeal changes and additions to the funding formula have eroded cost sharing equity, with the state currently paying 51% overall,⁸⁵ and the funds no longer corresponding to the district's ability to raise local funds.

ULTIMATELY, BOTH STATEWIDE CHARTER AND LOCAL TPS DISTRICTS FACE SIMILAR, INTERTWINED ISSUES THAT REQUIRE A JOINT SOLUTION TO PROVIDE ONGOING SUSTAINABILITY AND SUCCESS FOR EACH.

PART THREE: ELEMENTS OF A SUSTAINABLE K-12 FUNDING SYSTEM

FOUR OPTIONS FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

In the current system, educational **inputs** are not aligned to create excellent student **outcomes**. Instead, the state is funding a hodgepodge of programs that, taken in sum, are too often not creating what matters most: student success. Building on the best of South Carolina's experience, refined by national best practices, a new funding model can be structured with key elements for success:

SINGLE STUDENT-CENTERED FORMULA

The patchwork of education funding streams and formulas in South Carolina is not student-centered. A single, accurate formula that funds *students* rather than *programs* or *systems* will improve autonomy and accountability of districts and schools. Such a system will also equitably target funds based on individual student characteristics which will lead to better academic outcomes.*

SIMPLIFIED FUNDING

Removing ties with multiple funding streams will eliminate volatility and complexity. A simple funding structure that merges all current education revenue sources (EFA, EIA, Education Lottery and property tax reimbursements) and assigns state funds based on formula from a single source—the General Fund—will guarantee appropriate revenue in a predictable manner every year. Further, it will increase efficiency and transparency and lower the administrative burden.

EQUITABLE LOCAL AND STATE COST-SHARING

The displacement of the EFA as the primary revenue source, combined with increasing property tax exemptions and reimbursement schemes, has transformed the cost sharing ratio, so that less wealthy districts are not assisted by the state as originally intended by the EFA. Restoring this balance will ensure equitable funding to students regardless of district.

PHASE-IN PERIOD AND HOLD HARMLESS PROVISIONS

A clear, reliable, predictable estimate of budget changes over a phase-in period (5 to 7 years) can facilitate a smooth transition by enabling districts to properly plan and innovate. Further, districts which stand to lose state funding would be held harmless (provided funds so no district experiences a loss in state appropriations) during the phase-in period.

DATA ANALYSIS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, EVALUATION, AUDITING AND FEEDBACK

Ensuring a sustainable funding formula requires ongoing monitoring and updating from feedback data (inflation, weights, achievement, expenditures, revenues, etc.). Annual evaluation and optimi-

* Changes to the Education Improvement Act (EIA) require a 2/3 vote of each house of the General Assembly according to the statute. The Attorney General has opined that this statutory provision, which is not in the Constitution, may not be enforceable. In *Pinckney et al v Peeler et al* (September 2021), the SC Supreme Court ruled that supermajority requirements in statutes are unconstitutional as they attempt to bind future legislatures.

zation will not only keep the system from becoming obsolete, but it will result in improvements and ensure targeted funds reach their intended destination.

FUNDING ANALYSIS

In 2019, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives requested the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) to develop a funding model representative of “21st century education” in South Carolina.⁸⁶ The RFA embarked on an in-depth analysis of revenues and expenditures that provided the state with the most accurate and detailed work in state education funding history (RFA Model).

This chapter builds on that ground-breaking work by using its (1) detailed categorization of revenue streams, sources and purposes, as well as its (2) insight into property tax valuation and cost-sharing structures across districts. This analysis uses updated school revenue data from the 2018-19 school year (the latest available from the SC Department of Education) as well as data from the most current tax years.

We analyze four options to provide sustainable, equitable funding to students across all public school districts—local TPS districts and statewide charter districts alike. These options include:

1. Continuation of the current framework (i.e. – doing nothing)
2. Current framework with a new EFA weight for charter students
3. Combining state funding (per the RFA Model) with a new EFA weight for charter students
4. Simplified, streamlined formula (EFA 2.0)⁸⁷

Each section presents a detailed breakdown of that option using 2018-19 school year revenue data. The final section presents the funding projections of each option through 2023-24.



OPTION A: CURRENT FRAMEWORK

Table 1 provides a detailed breakdown of funds by source for local TPS and statewide charter districts. These figures include ALL funding (federal, state and local).

TABLE 1: CURRENT TOTAL FUNDING DETAILED BY SOURCE, 2018-2019

		Local TPS Districts		Statewide Charter Districts	
		Total	Per Pupil	Total	Per Pupil
Federal		\$859,680,243	\$1,192	\$16,366,293	\$583
Local	District Services	\$291,408,999	\$404	\$6,245,959	\$223
	Investments	\$84,183,241	\$117	\$811,183	\$29
	Rentals, Donations & Other	\$143,060,872	\$198	\$3,850,463	\$137
	Taxes & Fees				
	EFA Required Match	\$739,096,915	\$1,025		
	Debt Service	\$1,128,899,822	\$1,565		
	Optional/Discretionary	\$2,211,890,784	\$3,067		
Total		\$4,598,540,633	\$6,377	\$10,907,605	\$389
State	Direct General Fund	\$1,199,093,028	\$1,663	\$34,669,136	\$1,236
	Education Lottery	\$7,241,111	\$10	\$598,183	\$21
	EFA				
	Formula	\$1,725,511,857	\$2,393	\$93,479,160	\$3,333
	Additional	\$12,891,715	\$18	\$181,254	\$6
	EIA				
	Programs	\$480,412,931	\$666	\$12,640,703	\$451
	Charter Supplement (Physical)			\$82,096,455	\$4,752
	Charter Supplement (Virtual)			\$28,144,319	\$2,612
	Property Tax Reimbursement				
	Tier 1	\$255,509,824	\$354		
	Tier 2	\$109,516,303	\$152		
	Tier 3	\$723,050,759	\$1,003		
	Other	\$57,328,694	\$79		
Total		\$4,570,556,222	\$6,338	\$251,09,209	\$8,977
Grand Total		\$10,028,777,098	\$13,907	\$279,083,107	\$9,949

Note: Figures do not include GL Codes 5400 - 5500 and 5999 (Sale of Fixed Assets, Proceeds from Long-Term Notes,

Capital Lease, Other Financing Sources). Also excluded are Adult Education and pre-Kindergarten programs (GL Codes 1330, 1340, 3134, 3156, 3540, 3541, 3556, 4400, 4410, 4430, 4490, 4520). Sources: (1) "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education. (2) "Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. (3) "Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 135-day Financial Requirements - Final," SC Department of Education. (3) "South Carolina Property Tax Rates by County, 2016 to 2020." South Carolina Association of Counties. Online: <https://www.sccounties.org/research-information/property-tax-rates> (4) Source: School District Detailed Index of Taxpaying Ability dataset, Tax Years 2016 - 2020. South Carolina Department of Revenue. Online: <https://dor.sc.gov/lgs/reports-school-index>

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAM

Federal revenues as well as district-generated “Other Funds” (revenues from services, investments, rentals, donations, etc.) are not under the purview of the state program and are omitted. Because part of local revenues support the state-mandated EFA program and other parts support optional operations and debt service (for capital expenditures), a simplified Table 2 compares just the state revenues and the “Taxes and Fees” portion of the local revenues.

TABLE 2 : CURRENT FRAMEWORK: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS FUNDING PER PUPIL (ADM) BY SOURCE, 2018-19

	Local TPS Districts	Statewide Charter Districts		Difference*
		Virtual	Physical	
State Programs				
Direct General Fund	\$1,663	\$1,236	\$1,236	
Education Lottery	\$10	\$21	\$21	
EFA	\$2,411	\$3,339	\$3,339	
Required Local Match	\$1,025	-	-	
EIA	\$666	\$451	\$451	
Charter Supplement		\$2,612	\$4,752	
Property Tax Reimbursement	\$1,588	-	-	
Total	\$7,363	\$7,659	\$9,799	+\$2,436
Local Taxes & Fees				
Operations (Optional**)	\$2,377			
Total	\$3,487	\$0	\$0	(\$2,377)
Grand Total	\$9,740	\$7,659	\$9,799	\$59
Local Taxes & Fees				
Debt Service***	\$1,110			
Grand Total (with Debt Service)	\$10,850	\$7,659	\$9,799	(\$1,052)

Note: *Shows the difference between physical (brick-and-mortar) statewide charters and locally-sponsored schools.

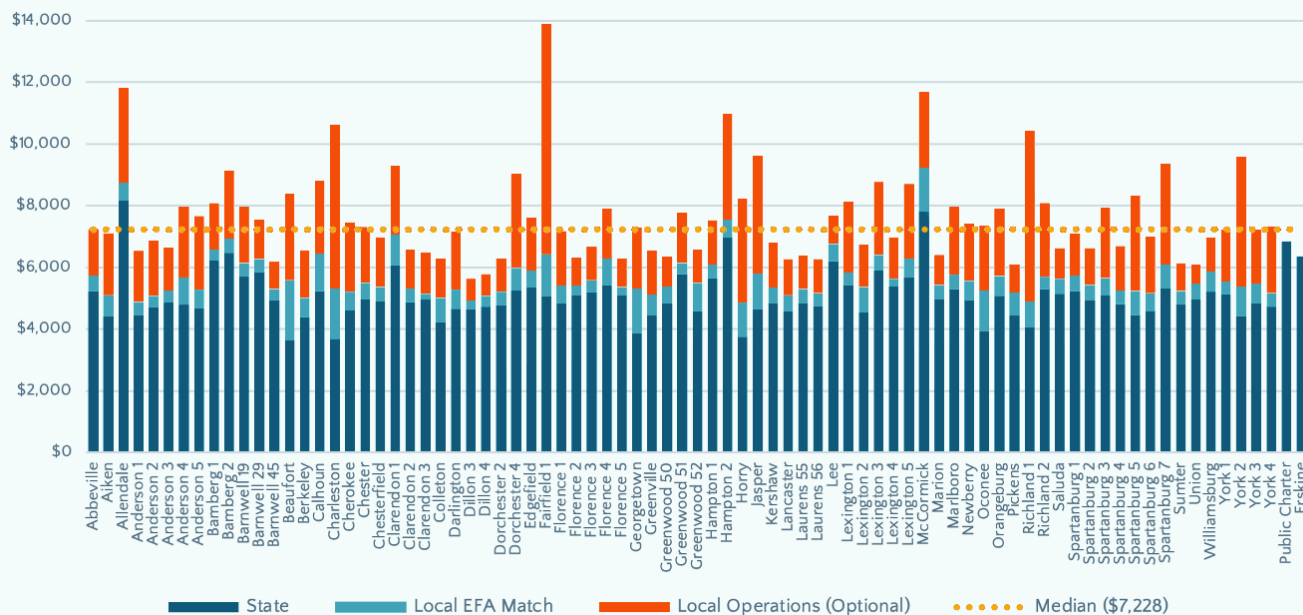
****Represents the median amount of optional/discretionary local revenues across 79 locally-sponsored schools in 2018-19. Actual amounts range from \$884 per pupil in Union to a high of \$10,762 in Fairfield.**

Of note, TPS districts receive a median amount of \$2,377 in local optional/discretionary tax and fee revenues for school operations, which statewide charter districts cannot receive. This is offset by the fact that physical (brick-and-mortar) statewide charter district schools receive, on average, \$2,436 more from the state program. (While these additional state funds cover the operational program, they do not make up for the median \$1,110 in local district revenues raised for debt service.)

The larger issue is that state and local program funds vary immensely across districts. The combined operational program ranges from \$7,714 per pupil in Dillon 3 to \$20,058 in Fairfield. A comparison of WPU, which more accurately reflects equity in funding, also exhibits large variance, ranging from \$5,626 per WPU in Dillon 3 to \$13,895 in Fairfield (Figure 29). Here, charter school districts fall below

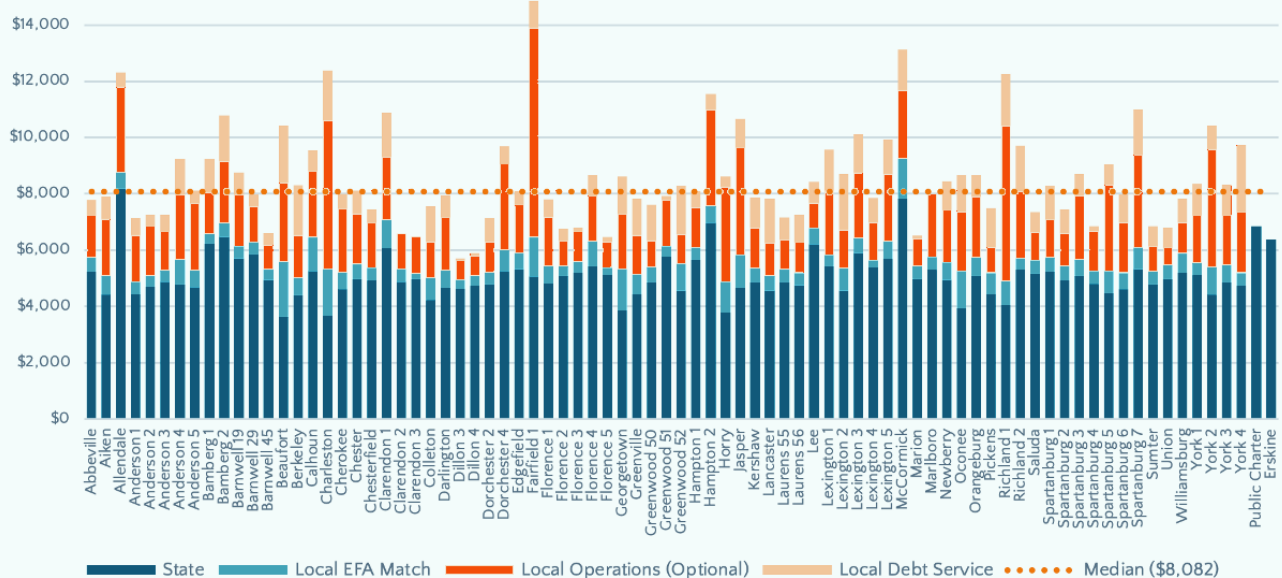
the state median of \$7,288. **Under an equitable, student-centered system, the funding level per WPU should be equal across all districts.**

FIGURE 29: CURRENT FRAMEWORK: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS FUNDING PER WPU, 2018-19



When adding in the local tax and fee revenues for debt service, the disparity in funding is even larger, ranging from \$5,702 per WPU in Dillon 3 to \$14,855 in Fairfield. (Figure 30) A full list of all district funds by source is found in the Appendix.

FIGURE 30: CURRENT FRAMEWORK: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS WITH DEBT SERVICE FUNDING PER WPU, 2018-19



BENEFITS AND ISSUES WITH OPTION A

The perceived benefit to continuing the current system is that it is already in place, thus, alleviating pressure from the need to “do something.” In reality, however, the administrative cost and burden built into this current system is enormous, complex, and inefficient. Any step toward streamlining the funding method and combining revenue streams will necessarily make the functioning easier and more transparent. In other words, there is a significant cost to doing nothing.

The larger issue with continuing the current ad hoc, piecemeal system is that students and schools are not funded equally by any real measure. Funding is not based on a method (1) that incorporates students and their needs or (2) that can be tracked or followed or understood. Further, it is not leading to successful outcomes.

The current funding system also has no mechanism to report on dollars that go to the classroom as opposed to administration and overhead. PPI’s school district consolidation study, *Stronger Together*, showed enormous administrative expenses as a percentage of revenues among school districts, particularly in tiny, shrinking rural ones.

OPTION B: CURRENT FRAMEWORK WITH EFA WEIGHT FOR CHARTER STUDENTS

One particular issue with the current K-12 finance system lies in the EIA program being the source that provides supplements to statewide charter districts. Because the EIA is funded by a **1%** statewide sales tax that must be held in trust fund for EIA expenditures, any use of EIA funds for statewide charter supplements necessarily utilizes EIA funds that could be used for other purposes. As a result, it has been suggested that a weight for charter students be added to the EFA program.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAM

A revenue-neutral charter supplement “swap” from the EIA to the EFA (or in Statehouse terms, including it in State Aid to Classrooms line) leaves all other aspects of the current funding program the same. The EIA money previously used for charter supplements must still be used by the EIA for other EIA programs. To be revenue neutral, it is assumed that some of the programs funded directly through the General Fund can be shifted to being funded by the new EIA money.

The EFA add-on weight for charter students requires translation from the current WPU-based allocation used under EIA to an ADM-based weight used under the EFA. Table 3 lists the revenue-neutral EFA add-on weight for 2018-19 (with a Base Student Cost of \$2,485).

TABLE 3: REVENUE-NEUTRAL EFA ADD-ON WEIGHT FOR CHARTER STUDENT, 2018-19 (BASE STUDENT COST = \$2,485)

	Amount per WPU	Amount per ADM	Revenue-Neutral EFA Add-on Weight
EIA Virtual Charter Supplement	\$1,900	\$2,612	1.05
EIA Physical Charter Supplement	\$3,600	\$4,752	1.91

The overall funding picture does not change, it simply swaps from the EIA line item to the EFA, as shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4: CURRENT FRAMEWORK WITH EFA WEIGHT FOR CHARTER STUDENT: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS FUNDING PER PUPIL (ADM) BY SOURCE, 2018-19

	Local TPS Districts	Statewide Charter Districts		
		Virtual	Physical	Difference*
State Programs				
Direct General Fund	\$1,516	\$1,089	\$1,089	
Education Lottery	\$10	\$21	\$21	
EFA	\$2,411	\$3,339	\$3,339	
Required Local Match	\$1,025			
Charter Add-on Weight		\$2,612	\$4,752	
EIA	\$813	\$598	\$598	
Property Tax Reimbursement	\$1,588	\$0	\$0	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$7,363</i>	<i>\$7,659</i>	<i>\$9,799</i>	<i>\$2,436</i>
Local Taxes & Fees				
Operations (Optional**)	\$2,377			
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$3,487</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>(\$2,377)</i>
Grand Total	\$9,740	\$7,659	\$9,799	\$59
Local Taxes & Fees				
Debt Service***	\$1,110			
Grand Total (with Debt Service)	\$10,850	\$7,659	\$9,799	(\$1,052)

Note: *Shows the difference between physical (brick-and-mortar) statewide charters and local geographic districts. **Represents the median amount of optional/discretionary local revenues across 79 local geographic districts in 2018-19. Actual amounts range from \$884 per pupil in Union to a high of \$10,762 in Fairfield. ***Represents median debt service revenues across 79 local geographic districts in 2018-19. Actual amounts range from \$0 per pupil in in Marlboro, Clarendon2 and Clarendon3 to \$3,002 in York 4.

A full list of all funds by district is found in the Appendix.

BENEFITS AND ISSUES WITH OPTION B

As with Option A, the exact same allocations accrue across districts (Table 2). The primary benefit to this option over Option A is the greater flexibility allowed from the charter add-on weight in: (1) not limiting expenditures from the EIA, (2) enacting the charter supplement in law rather than via annual provisos, and (3) providing the ability to modify the charter add-on weight as the overall cost formula changes over time.

OPTION C: COMBINING STATE FUNDING WITH EFA WEIGHT FOR CHARTER STUDENTS

The RFA Model proposes collapsing (“rolling up” in Statehouse speak), the state’s multiple funding streams into a single pool of money from which funds are allocated to districts via a formula. Following that proposal, we have developed Option C:

- Combines the EFA, EIA, Education Lottery, Property Tax Reimbursements, Direct General Fund programs into a single, combined state funding source.
- Distributes all funds to districts based on the student-centered EFA formula.
- Allots supplemental funds to statewide charter districts via an EFA add-on weight.
- Uses the existing ITA to determine the local district match.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAM

The revenue-neutral solution to Option C combines (“rolls up”) funds from all state programs with the required local EFA match. It assumes the local match will remain the same (revenue neutral), with the state program thus making up **87%**. The effective new Base Student Cost is **\$5,405**. Charter add-on weights are calculated to ensure they make up for the optional/discretionary local tax revenue (Table 5).

Total State Program	\$4,822,365,431
EFA Required Local Match	\$739,096,915
% State Support	86.7%
Total WPU	1,029,028
Total 135 Day ADMs	749,173
New BSC (Revenue Neutral)	\$5,357
Charter Add-on Weight (Virtual)	0.089
Charter Add-on Weight (Physical)	0.478

Because funding is allocated equitably, districts which had not been receiving their appropriate share of state funds will receive more and vice versa. Under the revenue-neutral solution, **49** districts would see a reduction in state funds, an issue that can be mitigated by either (1) increasing the BSC, or (2) holding districts harmless (providing them additional funds to make up for the reduction).

Table 6 shows the Revenue Neutral solution and the Hold Harmless solution, in which an additional \$139M in state funds is provided to districts to allow them time to adjust their budgets to the new, low-

er funding levels. The Hold Harmless solution would be implemented as a “minimum distribution”⁸⁸ per pupil, which is gradually phased out over a period of time not to exceed seven years.

TABLE 6: COMBINED STATE FUNDING—REVENUE NEUTRAL VS. HOLD HARMLESS SOLUTIONS: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS FUNDING PER PUPIL (ADM) BY SOURCE, 2018-19

	Revenue Neutral			Hold Harmless		
	Local TPS Districts	Charter Districts Virtual	Physical	Local TPS Districts	Charter Districts Virtual	Physical
State Programs						
Combined State Formula	\$6,339	\$7,184	\$7,184	\$6,531	\$7,184	\$7,243
Required Local Match	\$1,025			\$1,025		
Charter Add-on		\$476	\$2,558		\$476	\$2,558
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$7,364</i>	<i>\$7,659</i>	<i>\$9,742</i>	<i>\$7,556</i>	<i>\$7,659</i>	<i>\$9,801</i>
Local Taxes & Fees						
Operations (Optional*)	\$2,377			\$2,377		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2,377</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$2,377</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Grand Total	\$9,742	\$7,659	\$9,742	\$9,933	\$7,659	\$9,801
Local Taxes & Fees						
Debt Service**	\$1,110			\$1,110		
Grand Total (with Debt Service)	\$10,852	\$7,659	\$9,742	\$11,043	\$7,659	\$9,801

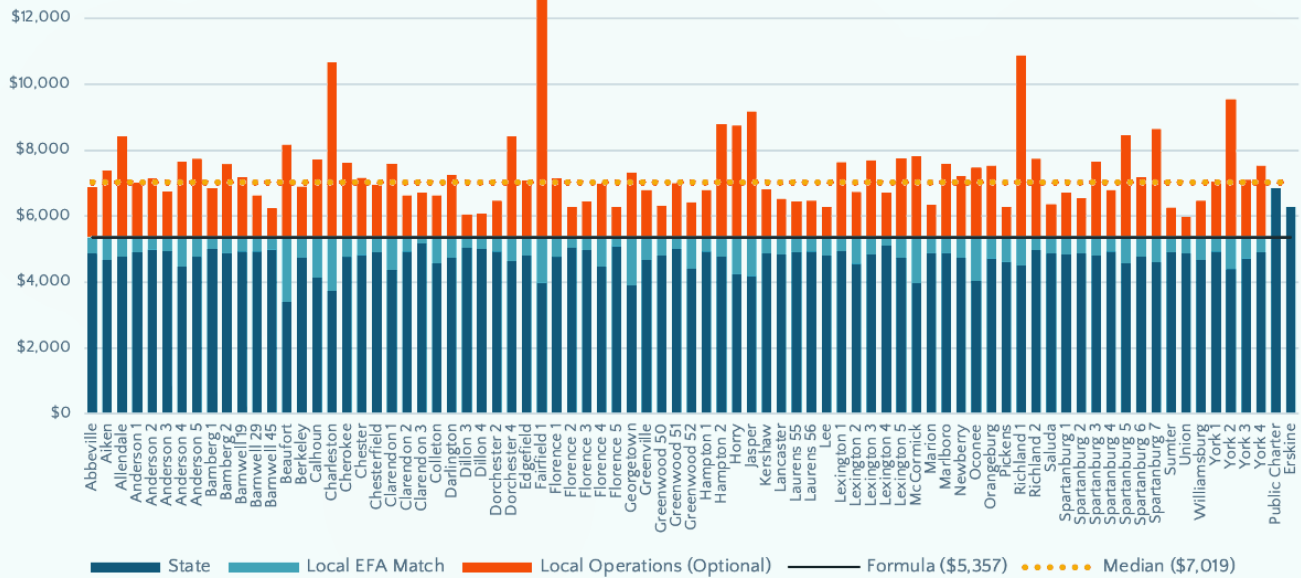
Note: *Represents the median amount of optional/discretionary local revenues across 79 local geographic districts in 2018-19. Actual amounts range from \$884 per pupil in Union to a high of \$10,762 in Fairfield. **Represents median debt service revenues across 79 local geographic districts in 2018-19. Actual amounts range from \$0 per pupil in in Marlboro, Clarendon3 and Clarendon3 to \$3,002 in York 4.

Because the combination of funds allows the base state program to better allocate funds, charter schools receive larger base funding and do not need as large a supplement to obtain parity with TPS for operational funds. (Funds for debt service still remain disparate across all districts.)

Most importantly, because this option distributes funds under an equitable, student-centered system, the funding level per WPU is equal at **\$5,357** (averaging **\$7,364** per ADM) across all schools for the state-required operational program (Table 5). Unfortunately, the issue of funding variance still remains when accounting for local optional/discretionary funds.

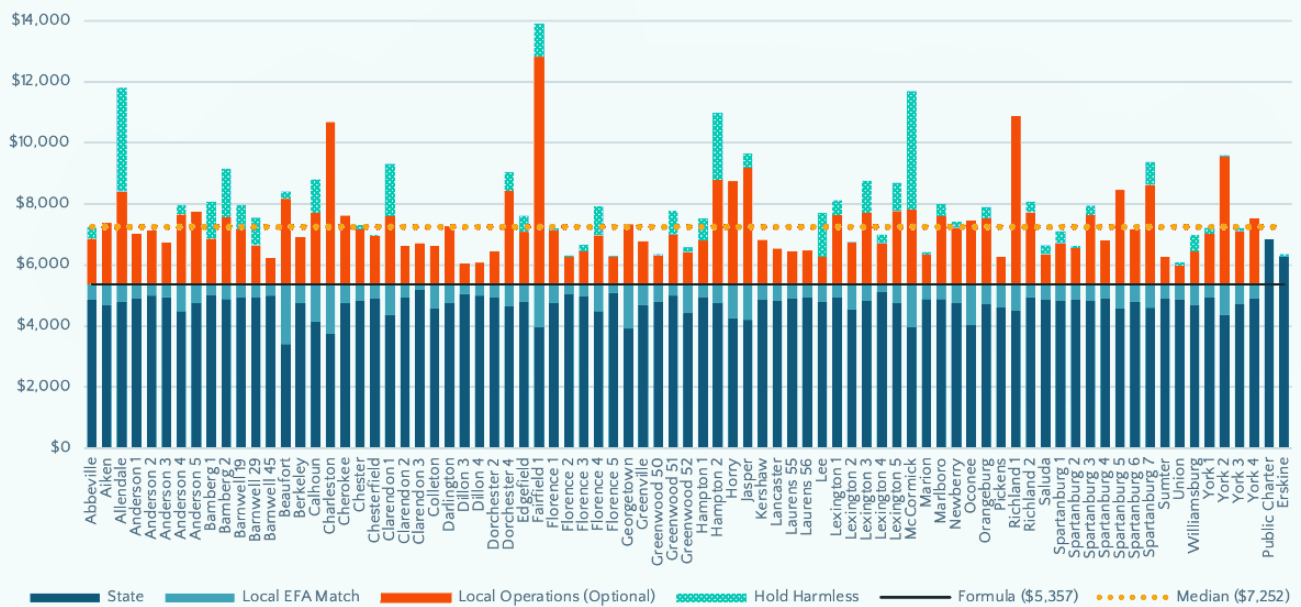
*Although this solution is much improved over current funding from the state’s perspective, the combined program ranges from a low of **\$5,979** per WPU in Union to **\$12,812** per WPU in Fairfield. Statewide charter school districts, on the whole, appear to receive less than the median amount, but this is simply due to the large number of virtual students (Figure 31).*

FIGURE 31: COMBINED FUNDING: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS FUNDING PER WPU, 2018-19



The impact of the addition of the \$139M in hold harmless funds is shown in Figure 32. It has the effect of further increasing the inequity in funding, with levels ranging from **\$6,045** per WPU in Dillon 3 to **\$13,895** per WPU in Fairfield.

FIGURE 32: COMBINED FUNDING WITH HOLD HARMLESS FUNDS: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS FUNDING PER WPU, 2018-19



BENEFITS AND ISSUES WITH OPTION C

Option C provides an infinitely simplified funding system, which distributes funds transparently and fairly from a single source. It dramatically simplifies administrative burden associated with programmatic mandates and record keeping. It allows schools to spend funds where needed most, ensuring both flexibility and accountability. Finally, funding is distributed in an understandable, consistent manner enabling districts to plan for the current and future accordingly.

Perhaps most importantly, it provides fairness in state funding across all districts—local TPS districts, as well as statewide charter districts—with funds based on the actual **students**.

However, the amount of the required local match, which uses the ITA, does not fully reflect a district's relative ability to raise property tax revenues due to exemptions and tax law changes which have unequally altered the tax base.

Although the local optional/discretionary funding for operations still makes up enough of the program to drive inequity in funding across districts, this issue can be mitigated by either (1) raising the BSC, (2) modifying the state contribution percentage, or (3) some combination of both. Further, local debt service funding is not currently incorporated in Option C.

Finally, Option C requires re-writing portions of the SC State Code of Laws to conform to the streamlined combination of funding sources and student-centered distribution thereof. This model is attractive because reduction of mandates would come along with simplification of funding streams.

OPTION D: EFA 2.0

Similar to South Carolina's original Education Finance Act (EFA) of 1977, Option D, EFA Version 2.0 is a simplified, streamlined student-centered formula.

- Combines the EFA, EIA, Education Lottery, Property Tax Reimbursements, Direct General Fund programs into a single, combined state funding source (like Option C).
- Distributes all funds to districts based on a student-centered formula with simplified Student Weighting Factors (see Appendix), which include weights for charter students.
- Determines how much TPS districts must contribute based on a minimum millage, in which districts levy a state-determined minimum millage rate, and the state provides the remainder.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAM

LIKE OPTION C, UNDER THE REVENUE-NEUTRAL SOLUTION, 47 DISTRICTS WOULD SEE A REDUCTION IN STATE FUNDS TOTALING \$139.9M. AGAIN, THIS ISSUE THAT CAN BE MITIGATED BY EITHER (1) INCREASING THE BSC, OR (2) HOLDING DISTRICTS HARMLESS.

The revenue-neutral solution to Option D uses the same combined funds of Option C (all state programs plus the required local EFA match). It also assumes the local match will remain the same (revenue neutral), with the state program thus making up **87%**. The simplified weights result in fewer WPU's and a larger effective Base Student Cost of **\$5,594**. Charter weights are calculated to ensure they make up for the optional/discretionary local tax revenue. The minimum school operations millage rate each district must set to raise required tax revenues is 27.9 mills. (Table 7)

TABLE 7: OPTION D REVENUE-NEUTRAL INPUT VALUES, 2018-19

Total State Program	\$4,822,365,431
Required Local Match	\$739,096,915
% State Support	86.7%
State Minimum Millage	27.9
Total WPU's	994,101
Total 135 Day ADMs	749,173
New BSC (Revenue Neutral)	\$5,594
Charter Weight (Virtual)	0.2
Charter Weight (Physical)	0.388

Like Option C, under the revenue-neutral solution, **47** districts would see a reduction in state funds totaling **\$139.9M**. Again, this issue that can be mitigated by either (1) increasing the BSC, or (2) holding districts harmless.

Table 8 shows the Revenue Neutral solution and the Hold Harmless solution, in which the state provides each district additional funds (totaling \$139.9M) to ensure they receive no reduction in state funds. These Hold Harmless funds would be gradually phased out over time as the BSC increases due to inflation.



TABLE 8: EFA 2.0—REVENUE NEUTRAL VS. HOLD HARMLESS SOLUTIONS: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS FUNDING PER PUPIL (ADM) BY SOURCE, 2018-19

	Revenue Neutral			Minimum Distribution (Hold Harmless)		
	Local TPS Districts	Charter Districts		Local TPS Districts	Charter Districts	
		Virtual	Physical		Virtual	Physical
State Programs						
Combined State Formula	\$6,340	\$7,599	\$9,770	\$6,531	\$7,671	\$9,841
Required Match	\$1,025			\$1,025		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$7,365</i>	<i>\$7,599</i>	<i>\$9,770</i>	<i>\$7,556</i>	<i>\$7,671</i>	<i>\$9,841</i>
County Discretionary						
Taxes & Fees (Optional)	\$2,405			\$2,405		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2,405</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$2,405</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Grand Total	\$9,769	\$7,599	\$9,770	\$9,960	\$7,671	\$9,841
Local Taxes & Fees						
Debt Service**	\$1,110			\$1,110		
Grand Total (with Debt Service)	\$10,879	\$7,599	\$9,770	\$11,070	\$7,671	\$9,841

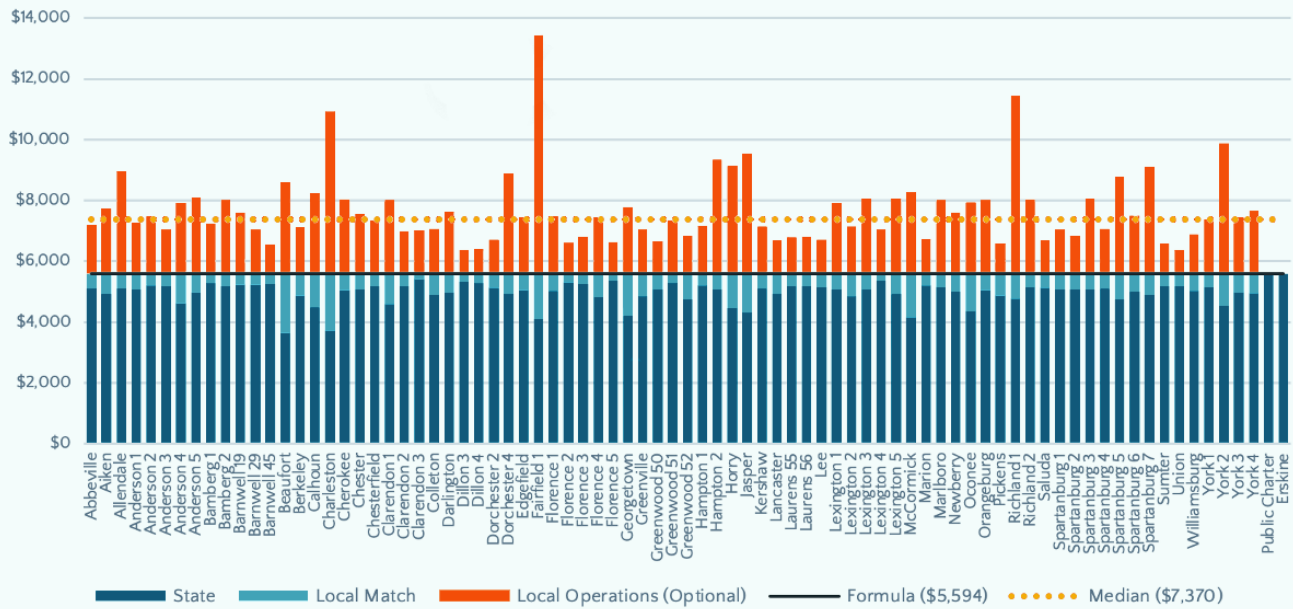
Note: *Represents the median amount of optional/discretionary local revenues across 79 local geographic districts in 2018-19. Actual amounts range from \$884 per pupil in Union to a high of \$10,762 in Fairfield. **Represents median debt service revenues across 79 local geographic districts in 2018-19. Actual amounts range from \$0 per pupil in in Marlboro, Clarendon2 and Clarendon3 to \$3,002 in York 4.

As with Option C, the combination of funds allows the base state program to better allocate funds. Thus, charter schools receive larger base funding and do not need as large a supplement to obtain parity with TPS.

Also, like Option C, operational funds are distributed on an equitable, student-centered basis, with the funding level per WPU equal at **\$5,594** (averaging **\$7,364** per ADM) across all TPS districts for the state-required program (Figure 33). Again, funding variance still remains when accounting for local optional/discretionary funds for operations, although much improved over current funding, the combined program ranges from a low of **\$6,372** per WPU in Union to **\$13,439** per WPU in Fairfield.

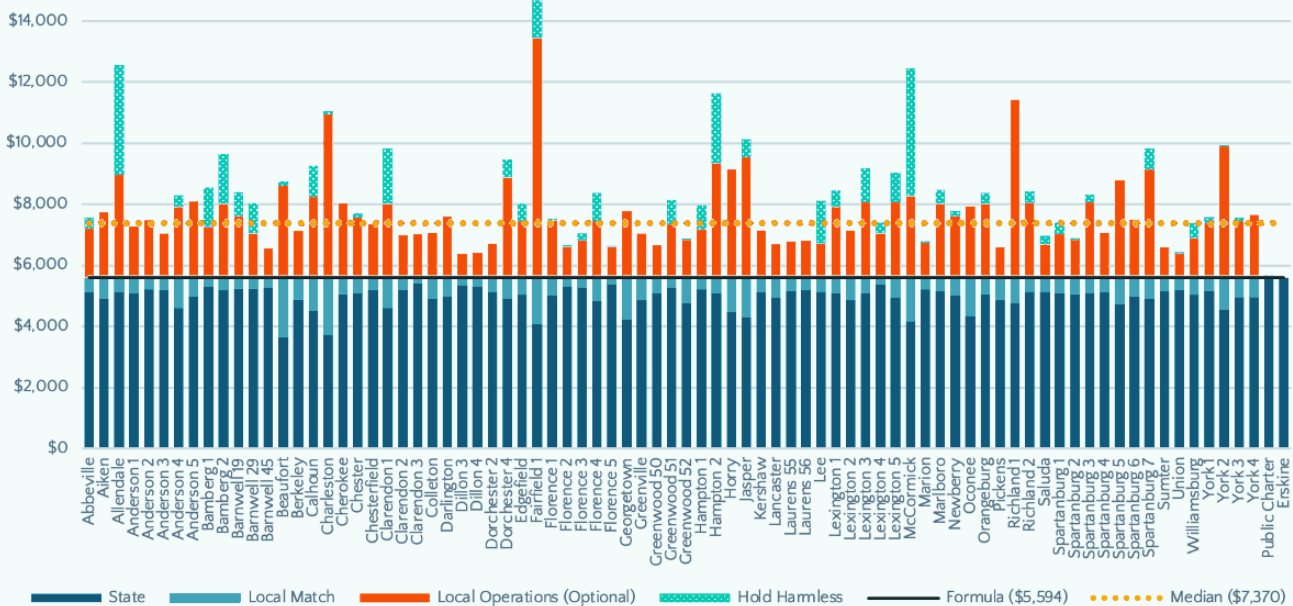


FIGURE 33: EFA 2.0: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS FUNDING PER WPU, 2018-19



The impact of the addition of the **\$139.9M** in hold harmless funds further increases the inequity in funding, with levels ranging from \$6,374 per WPU in Dillon 3 to **\$14,685** per WPU in Fairfield. (Figure 34)

FIGURE 34: EFA 2.0 WITH HOLD HARMLESS FUNDS: STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS FUNDING PER WPU, 2018-19



BENEFITS AND ISSUES WITH OPTION D

Like Option C, the EFA 2.0 provides an even more simplified funding system, providing all the benefits described regarding transparency, efficiency, and equity in state funding across all districts, with funds based on **students**.

Requiring districts to levy a state-specified minimum millage rate (with the option for districts to levy higher rates if desired) is an effective means to achieve “ability to pay” for lower wealth districts and is a slightly improved method over the current ITA. However, to achieve a truly effective cost-sharing program based on property tax would require several tax law changes.

- Reinstating property exempted in the Property Tax Relief Act of 1994 and Act 388 of 2006 would enable *lower* tax rates on a *larger* property tax base, preventing the shifting of tax burden from homeowners to renters and commercial/small businesses.
- Requiring future FILOTs to be subject to increases in school millages would further prevent the shifting of tax burden to other property owners.

Although the local optional/discretionary funding for operations still makes up enough of the program to drive inequity in funding across districts, this issue can be mitigated by either (1) raising the BSC, or (2) modifying the state contribution percentage, or (3) some combination of both. Local debt service funding is also not incorporated into this option.

Finally, Option D (like Option C) requires re-writing portions of the SC State Code of Laws to conform to the streamlined combination of funding sources, student-centered distribution, and state/local cost sharing.

OTHER OPTIONS

Other K-12 funding options that have been suggested but are not presented in this study for reasons discussed below, are listed here.

LOCAL REVENUE FUNDS FOLLOW THE STUDENT TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

Having local funds (primarily from property tax revenues) follow students out of TPS districts to statewide-sponsored charter schools has been discussed as one possible solution to remedy the imbalance between state and local funds available to statewide charter districts.

Several difficulties exist in implementing such a solution and are reviewed according to the category of use of these local tax revenues.

EFA REQUIRED LOCAL MATCH: This amount is already made up to statewide charter districts because they have ITA's equal to zero and, thus, receive all of their EFA funding from the state. Local funds could potentially offset the state's contribution but would not provide additional funds to the charter districts. However, such an arrangement would prevent the state from paying the entirety and invest locals in charters in their own district. This effort would need to be tied to comprehensive tax reform.

DEBT SERVICE: While funding for facility construction (and servicing the debt incurred) is outside the scope of this paper, diversion of these funds may be difficult and vary by school district, dependent upon how bond referendums and local ordinances have been written regarding the use of revenues from these property tax levies. This amount varies significantly across local geographic TPS districts as well, from **\$0** (in Marlboro, Clarendon 2 and Clarendon 3) to **\$3,002** per pupil (in York 4).

OPTIONAL/DISCRETIONARY: The amount the district raises for school operations above that required by the EFA appears the most likely set of local funds to follow the student. Again, it faces several challenges.

1. That amount varies greatly—from **\$884** per pupil in Union to a high of **\$10,762** in Fairfield, with a median of **\$2,377**. Thus, it provides no predictability in per pupil funding.
2. It ensures no equity between students. The current per pupil state funding to statewide charter districts is currently higher than the state and local operations program in 13 TPS districts, with the per WPU funding higher in 26 TPS districts (see Table 9 and Appendix). Having funds follow the student out of these TPS districts will further drive inequity in funding. While it may be possible to simply divert these funds to offset the state's contribution, it will not necessarily provide additional funds to the charter districts.
3. To calculate the exact amount of local tax funds available for optional/discretionary use will pose an administrative challenge, likely to be undertaken by the state's Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. It will require waiting to find out the EFA required portion and estimating the portion attributable to the debt millage, among other calculations. Results will likely be published an annual list where next year's allocation is based on last year's figures. Further, it will require a request and verification of eligibility for each student, along with a verification of transfer of funds from each local geographic TPS district. Such an option would represent another ad hoc, piecemeal change that further increases complexity and reduces transparency and disguises inefficiency.

Ultimately, with this solution, vast inequity will still remain in the system, as it is still not funding students or schools, but instead funding programs and historical ad hoc mandates. Options C or D (with an EFA weight) can provide a far superior supplement as well as equitable allocation across all districts.

STATE FUNDS ENTIRE K-12 PROGRAM

Given the hodge-podge of South Carolina's education statutes, a state-centric option would be a heavy lift for the Palmetto State. But this option has been proposed by a number of researchers and national education organizations, as it promotes equity and consistency in funding, making all funds completely portable by student across schools and districts. While some argue state-centric is the fairest system, it would require complicated legislation, a large increase in state funding, and it would need to be determined whether school districts would be allowed to raise additional funds locally as they do now. An entire separate option may not be required for this proposal, however, as it can be enacted through modifications to either Option C or Option D.

PROJECTIONS THROUGH 2023-24

A summary of the four options is shown in Table 9, including per student (ADM) amounts and total state and required local amounts for revenue neutral solutions using school year 2018-19 financial data.

TABLE 9: OPTION SUMMARY FOR REVENUE NEUTRAL SOLUTIONS, 2018-19

	State	Local		Total		Range		Total Amount		
		Required	Optional*	State + Local	with Hold Harmless	Min	Max	State	Hold Harmless	Required Local
Option A. Current Framework w/EIA Weight & Option B. Current Framework w/EFA Weight										
TPS	\$6,338	\$1,025	\$2,377	\$9,740		\$7,714	\$20,058	\$4,570,556,222		\$739,096,915
Statewide Charter										
Virtual	\$7,659	-	-	\$7,659				\$251,809,209		-
Physical	\$9,799	-	-	\$9,799						
Totals								\$4,822,365,431		\$739,096,915
Option C. Combined Funding with EFA Charter Weight										
TPS	\$6,339	\$1,025	\$2,377	\$9,742	\$9,933	\$8,185	\$18,495	\$4,571,543,740	\$137,984,252	\$739,096,915
Statewide Charter										
Virtual	\$7,659	-	-	\$7,659	\$7,659			\$250,821,691	\$1,029,942	-
Physical	\$9,742	-	-	\$9,742	\$9,801					
Totals								\$4,822,365,431	\$139,014,194	\$739,096,915
Option D. EFA 2.0										
TPS	\$6,340	\$1,025	\$2,405	\$9,769	\$9,960	\$8,237	\$18,356	\$4,571,703,994	\$137,915,211	\$739,096,915
Statewide Charter										
Virtual	\$7,599	-	-	\$7,599	\$7,671			\$250,661,437	\$1,996,362	-
Physical	\$9,770	-	-	\$9,770	\$9,841					
Totals								\$4,822,365,431	\$139,911,573	\$739,096,915

The longer term projections for each of these options is shown in Table 10. Options B and C grow at slower rates than the current program. These amounts are dictated by the growth rate of the Base Student Cost as well as the percentage of the state and local sharing contributions.

TABLE 10: LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS, 2018-19 TO 2023-24

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Students¹						
135 Day ADM	749,173	753,594	743,568	762,915	768,376	772,675
Local Geographic Districts	721,122	723,263	705,046	721,384	722,105	722,827
Statewide Charter Districts	28,051	30,331	38,521	41,531	45,186	49,162
Virtual	10,774	11,149	16,120	17,380	18,909	20,573
Physical	17,277	19,182	22,401	24,151	26,276	28,589
WPU²	1,029,028	1,033,939	1,016,778	1,045,653	1,053,138	1,059,030
Local Geographic Districts	991,411	993,094	965,635	990,514	991,505	992,496
Statewide Charter Districts	37,617	40,845	51,143	55,139	61,633	66,534
Virtual	14,813	15,523	20,954	22,591	25,252	27,260
Physical	22,805	25,322	30,190	32,548	36,381	39,274
Option A: Current State K-12 Education Finance Program						
EFA³ Base Student Cost	\$2,485	\$2,489	\$2,489	\$2,501	\$2,514	\$2,527
State Formula	\$1,818,991,017	\$1,831,930,946	\$1,809,720,788	\$1,871,995,499	\$1,899,796,228	\$1,923,757,578
State Additional	\$13,072,969	\$13,072,969	\$13,072,969	\$13,072,969	\$13,072,969	\$13,072,969
Required Local	\$739,096,915	\$741,543,544	\$721,039,655	\$743,182,654	\$747,792,704	\$752,411,232
EIA⁴ Charter Payments Programs	\$110,240,773	\$120,652,138	\$148,496,491	\$160,095,331	\$178,951,982	\$193,180,504
	\$493,053,634	\$499,111,000	\$482,028,354	\$490,089,452	\$494,304,164	\$506,994,398
Property Tax Reimbursement⁵	\$1,145,405,580	\$1,173,187,160	\$1,201,056,905	\$1,232,249,344	\$1,268,568,403	\$1,257,942,193
Education Lottery⁶	\$7,839,294	\$7,934,260	\$8,987,157	\$8,360,053	\$8,360,053	\$8,360,053
Direct General Fund⁷	\$1,233,762,164	\$1,434,441,810	\$1,410,416,231	\$1,372,898,520	\$1,370,087,741	\$1,372,207,863
Total State	\$4,822,365,431	\$5,080,330,283	\$5,073,778,894	\$5,148,761,169	\$5,233,141,540	\$5,275,515,559
Growth (\$)	\$257,964,852	(\$6,551,389)	\$74,982,275	\$84,380,371	\$42,374,019	\$0.8%
Growth (%)	5.3%	-0.1%	1.5%	1.6%	0.8%	
Option C: Combined State Funding						
Base Student Cost⁸	\$5,357	\$5,454	\$5,521	\$5,549	\$5,576	\$5,604
State Formula	\$4,773,046,780	\$4,889,428,841	\$4,867,593,945	\$5,030,855,587	\$5,092,201,828	\$5,146,294,668
Charter Supplement (Virtual)	\$5,124,545	\$5,399,273	\$7,902,808	\$8,562,929	\$9,363,049	\$10,237,932
Charter Supplement (Physical)	\$44,194,106	\$49,956,102	\$59,059,784	\$63,992,442	\$69,971,896	\$76,510,070
Required Local	\$739,096,915	\$749,375,348	\$746,028,836	\$771,051,033	\$780,453,227	\$788,743,733
Total State	\$4,822,365,431	\$4,944,784,216	\$4,934,556,538	\$5,103,410,958	\$5,171,536,772	\$5,233,042,670
Growth (\$)	\$122,418,785	(\$10,227,678)	\$168,854,421	\$68,125,814	\$61,505,898	1.2%
Growth (%)	2.5%	-0.2%	3.4%	1.3%	1.2%	
With Hold Harmless Total	\$139,014,194	\$106,704,485	\$89,172,976	\$82,452,961	\$76,039,308	\$70,260,520
	\$4,961,379,624	\$5,051,488,700	\$5,023,729,514	\$5,185,863,920	\$5,247,576,081	\$5,303,303,190
Option D: EFA 2.0						
Base Student Cost	\$5,594	\$5,696	\$5,766	\$5,795	\$5,824	\$5,853
State Minimum Millage⁹	27.9	27.0	26.3	26.5	26.1	25.7
State Formula	\$4,822,365,431	\$4,938,719,417	\$4,933,131,076	\$5,086,794,339	\$5,148,822,696	\$5,203,517,002
Required Local	\$739,096,915	\$756,929,838	\$756,073,345	\$779,624,452	\$789,131,190	\$797,513,880
Total State	\$4,822,365,431	\$4,938,719,417	\$4,933,131,076	\$5,086,794,339	\$5,148,822,696	\$5,203,517,002
Growth (\$)	\$116,353,986	(\$5,588,341)	\$153,663,263	\$62,028,357	\$54,694,306	1.1%
Growth (%)	2.4%	-0.1%	3.1%	1.2%	1.1%	
With Hold Harmless Total	\$139,911,573	\$103,219,182	\$87,408,930	\$81,647,667	\$76,081,876	\$70,670,879
	\$4,962,277,003	\$5,041,938,599	\$5,020,540,006	\$5,168,442,006	\$5,224,904,572	\$5,274,187,881

Blue = RFA Projections. Orange = Author's calculations based on RFA projections.

1. RFA Projections for ADM and WPU levels in 2021-22. See "ADM and WPU Historical Analysis - Regular and Charter Districts for web FY 22." SC Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Office. 1/11/2021 Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/student-count-projections>
2. RFA WPU projections for 2022-23 through 2023-24. See "Three-Year General Fund Financial Outlook FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances>
3. RFA Base Student Cost projections through 2023-24. See "ADM and WPU Historical Analysis - Regular and Charter Districts for web FY 22." SC Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Office. 1/11/2021 Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/student-count-projections>
4. EIA growth rate based on RFA EIA revenue estimates 2021-22 to 2023-24. See "South Carolina Long Range General Fund Revenue Forecast FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances/general-fund-forecast>
5. RFA Property Tax Reimbursement estimates. See "Trust Fund for Property Tax Relief - Table," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/local-government/property-tax/reimb> and "Homestead Exemption Fund (Tier III) - Table," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/local-government/property-tax/reimb>
6. RFA Education Lottery projections through 2023-24. See "South Carolina Long Range General Fund Revenue Forecast FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances/general-fund-forecast>
7. Based on State Aid to Classroom projections. See "2019-2020 Bill H.5201" South Carolina General Assembly. Online: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess123_2019-2020/appropriations2020/hpplb.htm and "Three-Year General Fund Financial Outlook FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances>
8. BSC increases use CPI figures for 2018-19 to 2020-12 and use RFA assumed inflation rate for 2021-22 to 2023-24. See "Three-Year General Fund Financial Outlook FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances>
9. Calculated using 10-year annual average growth (2.59%) in state assessed property value.

PART FOUR: RECOMMENDATIONS

STATUTE

1.1 SET FUNDING SOURCES IN STATUTE. In its recommendations for improvement to the state statute, the National Association for Public Charter Schools suggests “ensuring equitable funding by increasing per-pupil funding, providing equitable access to capital funding, and ensuring access to vacant and underutilized facilities.” South Carolina Public Charter Schools are 25 years old. Their funding should be made permanent, not housed only within EIA and provisos.

1.2 ALLOW NON-PROFIT MANAGERS. Another statutory change would be to amend the state charter law to allow KIPP-type non-profit managers to operate in South Carolina. A provision in legislation filed by Senator Greg Hembree (R-Horry) in 2017 would have made it clear that South Carolina welcomes all management organizations (both CMOs and EMOs) as charter “education service providers.”⁸⁹

1.3 ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RECENT STUDIES. A number of the changes to the charter law found in the House Ad Hoc Committee rewrite of the statute (2020), as well as recommendations from the Legislative Audit Council (2021) would improve the statute.

FACILITIES

Several of the recommendations of the South Carolina charter facilities study (2013) have been adopted, but those not enacted are worth repeating:

2.1 PROVIDE A FACILITIES ALLOWANCE. A pro-rata per-pupil facilities allowance based on annual TPS tax revenues for capital debt service per student could be provided to charter schools by the state.

Given that most of the recommendations from the 2013 facilities study have not been enacted, it is now even more urgent for the Palmetto State to settle the charter facilities finance issue. Inadequate facilities prevent charter schools from growing.

Capital markets would provide better financing terms and more favorable interest rates to charter schools if the state were to provide dedicated, predictable charter facility funding. This, in turn, would utilize state taxpayer dollars more efficiently as lending to charter schools would rise and interest rates would fall.

The prevailing scenario today in which rents or the bond/loan payments come out of the operating budget, takes dollars from the classroom. This is also viewed negatively by capital markets.

While this innovation would not represent premium funding by any means, a consistent and reliable source of funds to pay rent on buildings, to repay local bank loans, or to pay investors in the bond market would be a step in the direction of providing the type of capital funding enjoyed by TPS districts.

2.2 GUARANTEE EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL TPS CAPITAL FUNDING PROGRAMS. If a facilities funding program is available to a TPS district, then it should be available to a charter school district.

2.3 ENACT PRIORITY ACCESS TO SURPLUS TPS PROPERTY. Charters should enjoy a priority right of refusal to purchase or lease at or below fair market value a closed, unused, or underused public school facility or property.

2.4 PREVENT UNEQUAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS. Facility-related requirements should never be stricter for charter schools than TPS.

2.5 ASSISTING CHARTERS WITH ACCESS TO BOND MARKETS. Access to bond markets, in addition to JEDA, would be a robust solution to the need for capital. The Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcellinEd) has found⁹⁰ that even though few charter schools close, most who borrow funds for capital purposes are paying the same rates as businesses that are considered *high risk*. Often that means that owning is not cheaper than renting. But bonding carries fees and other expenses, like conduits and underwriters, not to mention high rates. That's why only about 10% of charter schools have accessed bond markets.⁹¹

ExcellinEd has called for states to step up and back bonds for strong charter schools as is the practice in Arizona and Texas. The Arizona program⁹² requires a school to show a history of strong academic performance and financial management ability to participate in its program. Earnings from bonds are exempt from federal and state taxes and charters could use the instrument to borrow up to 100% of the cost of a facility. In Colorado and Utah, the state provides a "moral obligation," which is less than a guarantee.

2.6 ENACT LEGISLATION TO ASSIST CHARTERS IN ENHANCING THEIR CREDIT.

South Carolina has a Charter School Facility Revolving Loan Program but it is not robust. A bill filed in the South Carolina General Assembly in 2017⁹³ would have allowed the State Treasurer use funds in the Program to assist charter schools with credit enhancement. According to the legislation:

...the State Treasurer may use money in the Charter School Facility Revolving Loan Program, as specified by the General Assembly, to create a debt reserve fund to enhance the ability of a charter school to obtain favorable financing terms on bonds issued on behalf of the charter school for the purpose of financing charter school capital construction, purchase, renovation or maintenance. In using monies from the Charter School Facility Revolving Loan Program for credit enhancement, the State Treasurer shall maintain a reasonable ratio of leverage not to exceed 15:1 of dollars of outstanding bonded debt by the charter schools to dollars provided from the Charter School Facility Revolving Loan Program as credit enhancement. The State Treasurer shall establish guidelines and procedures for application, approval, allocation, and the duration of the credit enhancements with input from stakeholders. The State Treasurer may approve a credit enhancement instrument from monies in the Charter School Revolving Loan Program to a charter school, upon application by the charter school.

The bill could be refiled at any time.

INCUBATION

3.1 DEVELOP A STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL INCUBATION PLAN WITH EMPHASIS ON THE I-95 CORRIDOR. This begs the question: where do solid charter applications come from? For rural communities to recruit founders and to develop a solid application for a new

charter school, technical assistance will be required. Existing incubation efforts are better than efforts just a short time ago, but few new charters are opening, particularly in underserved areas of the state. A strategy must be developed that involves all stakeholders at both the state and local levels to give birth to sustainable, high-quality charters with an emphasis on the areas of the state classified as Tier IV (12 counties) and Tier III (12 counties).

3.2 TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE RIPENESS OF WORKPLACES FOR HOSTING CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Legislation introduced in the House (2017) and the Senate (2019) authorized “corporate partners” or a consortium of corporate partners to establish “charter schools in the workplace” if the entities were willing to donate facilities or land or capital improvements.⁹⁴ The early years of the charter movement in South Carolina saw great interest on the part of businesses. That interest can be recaptured through tax credits that lead to the creation of Charter School Opportunity Zones, incentivizing in-kind donations of housing for teachers, facilities, transportation, technology, even meals.

3.3 REPLICATION. ENCOURAGE MULTIPLE SCHOOLS UNDER ONE BOARD.

OUTCOMES

The Miller report to the Education Oversight Committee (June, 2020), “The Past and Future Funding of Charter Schools in South Carolina,” indicated that using the metrics that are currently being used in the state accountability scorecard to measure the academic performance of virtual charters will always have the effect of bringing down the ratings of the entire charter sector. There is the nature of online instruction itself, but also the fact that virtual charters in the Palmetto State have become home to students who struggled academically or behaviorally in TPS.

4.1 CONSIDER A SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT CARD FOR VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS BASED ON ACHIEVEMENT.

For the virtual charter school, as with all virtual education, including VirtualSC (the South Carolina TPS virtual school district), what is needed is an additional performance measure that is based on *achievement* not *seat time as is currently the case*. This would be in addition to federal reporting requirements. (Federal report cards must measure all schools by the same yardstick.)

PUBLIC AWARENESS

5.1 RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CHARTER PARENT SATISFACTION. Surveys of citizens show a high level of approval of public charter schools, but more surveys of charter school families would provide the evidence for a public awareness campaign that would deepen public knowledge and lead to even more parents embracing charter education for their children.

DIGITAL ACCESS

6.1 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BROADBAND FUNDING TO BRING VIRTUAL CHARTERS TO RURAL AREAS. Broadband funding is available, and if the digital divide can be crossed, virtual charter schools could expand to unreached territory in South Carolina.

FUNDING

*The South Carolina Public Charter School District may retain no more than two percent of the total state appropriations for each charter school it authorizes to cover the costs for overseeing its charter schools. The sponsor's administrative fee does not include costs incurred in delivering services that a charter school may purchase at its discretion from the sponsor. The sponsor's fee is not applicable to federal money or grants received by the charter school. The sponsor shall use its funding provided pursuant to this section exclusively for the purpose of fulfilling sponsor obligations in accordance with this chapter.*⁹⁵

7.1 REVISE THE 2% ADMINISTRATIVE FORMULA. To be in compliance with state law, statewide authorizers (SCPCSD and Erskine) may not retain more than 2% of the funding their schools receive for their duties as both an authorizer/sponsor and an LEA ("Local Education Agency" or those who maintain administrative control over schools). How does this administrative percentage compare to other LEAs? Palmetto Promise Institute's *Stronger Together* study on school district consolidation (2018) found that some school districts in South Carolina were creeping up on double digits in spending for overhead. The comparison isn't entirely apples to apples, but most TPS districts could not meet the 2% ceiling. A more comprehensive education finance reform package should address this issue as well. Charters could also use flexibility in the ability to carry forward funds and in amending their enrollment numbers to reflect actual membership.

7.2 RECOGNIZE THE SPECIFIC FAILURES OF THE CURRENT SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION FUNDING SYSTEM. This analysis has addressed the key question of how to fund charter schools in South Carolina. In its evaluation, it shows that statewide charter districts and TPS (local geographic) districts are plagued by the same disease: a fragmented, inefficient, complex and non-transparent system that provides vastly inequitable funding across districts. Thus, any effective solution to K-12 finance in the Palmetto State will necessarily encompass not just charters but *all* K-12 schools across South Carolina.

In November 2014, the South Carolina Supreme Court's decision in *Abbeville County School District, et al. v. The State of South Carolina* found the state's "educational funding scheme is a fractured formula denying students... the constitutionally required opportunity." In 2019, national education research institute, ExcelinEd, published "Fairness & Opportunity: Bringing Student-Centered Education Funding to South Carolina Students." That report put it this way: "school funding is South Carolina is extraordinarily complex, with a multitude of funding streams each of which has its own allocation methodology."⁹⁶

The fractured nature of the formula fails students for several reasons.⁹⁷

1. EXPENDITURES ARE NOT DIRECTLY TIED TO ACTUAL STUDENT COSTS

The EFA was originally designed to be the primary funding source for students. However, the funding it provides is low, and its share of total education funding has shrunk over time to only 27% of state and local funds. Further the gradual addition of funds from the EIA, Education Lottery, tax relief reimbursements, and other state and local appropriations, many of which have categorical use requirements, have effectively removed the link between funding and student costs. Rather than allocating funds by actual need, they are based on specific revenue streams, compete with other state budget priorities, and are subject to fluctuating economic conditions.

2. **REVENUE STREAMS ARE UNSTABLE AND UNPREDICTABLE, CAUSING SIGNIFICANT YEAR-OVER-YEAR VARIATION IN FUNDING.**

State level K-12 education dollars flow from variable sources and lack a mechanism to ensure consistent funding levels, instead suffering the ups and downs of economic or political cycles. As a result, school districts are unable to set reliable budgets based on predictable income.

3. **OVERLY-COMPLEX FUNDING FORMULAS PRECLUDE TRANSPARENCY AND DISGUISE INEFFICIENCY.**

The numerous revenue streams, coupled with multiple reimbursement requirements, spending mandates and calculation factors, makes the current system incredibly complex.

- Burdensome administrative costs are required to calculate multiple funding mandates.⁹⁸ (The current SC Department of Education Funding Manual is 182 pages.)
- Complication leads to a lack of transparency. Taxpayers, educators and lawmakers are unable to follow money, verify calculations, and ensure it is being spent appropriately.

4. **STATE/LOCAL COST-SHARING FORMULA DOES NOT EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE EQUITY ACROSS DISTRICTS.**

In 1977 the EFA established an equitable cost sharing formula in which the state provided on average 70% of the funding, with local districts receiving more or less that that according to their ability to raise funds through property tax. The ITA no longer accurately reflects each district's relative property wealth due to exemptions and tax law changes which have unequally eroded the tax base. Further, over time piecemeal changes and additions to the funding formula have eroded cost sharing equity, with the state currently paying 51% overall,⁹⁹ and the funds no longer corresponding to the district's ability to raise local funds.

Ultimately, both statewide charter and local school districts and the charters they sponsor face similar, intertwined issues that require a joint solution to provide ongoing sustainability and success for each.

***7.3 SPECIFICALLY, ADOPT AN “EFA 2.0” FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.** Of the four options evaluated in this paper to provide a more effective funding system, the first two **A. Current Framework** and **B. Current Framework with EFA Charter Weight** perpetuate the current ineffective system.

The last two **C. Combined Funding with EFA Charter Weight** and **D. EFA 2.0** each establish a clear, simple funding formula to ensure that dollars are equitably distributed, based on students, in a consistent manner that creates sustainability for schools and accountability to taxpayers. Option C maintains more elements from the current EFA (like weights and ITA).

While the *Revenue Neutral* solution would cause reductions in state funding to 49 districts, the *Hold Harmless* solution would cost \$139M and could be phased in over multiple years using projected growth from the state's General Fund revenues.

Though none of these solutions perfectly addresses issues of funding differences from optional additional local property tax revenues, Options C and D establish a state foundation with enormous flexibility for further future refinements in both state and local funding structures.

Further, recommendations for Options C and D are not new. Rather, they represent the collective body of both state and national best practices designed to embody the essential elements of a stable, equitable system, which:

- 1.** Funds students rather than countless programs or systems, improving autonomy and accountability of districts, as well as equitability and outcomes of students;
- 2.** Consolidates the myriad of funding streams and assigns state funds based on a formula from a single source—the General Fund—to simplify the funding structure and increase efficiency and transparency; and
- 3.** Distributes funding based on an “ability to pay,” ensuring funding equity for lower wealth districts.

Re-inventing the K-12 education funding formula will require a shift in the finance and accounting methods for the state, districts, and schools. A smooth transition can be planned through a phase-in period of 5 to 7 years. Finally, annual auditing, evaluation, and updating is necessary to ensure the formula does not become obsolete, that targeted funds reach their destination, and that they are used effectively.

APPENDIX

TABLE A1: ENROLLMENT BY DISTRICT, 2012-13 TO 2020-21

District	2012-13		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		Growth 12-13 to 19-20	
	45 Day HC	135 Day ADM	45 Day HC	135 Day ADM	45 Day HC	135 Day ADM	45 Day HC6	45 Day ADM	ADM	%
Abbeville School District	3,171	3,046	3,028	2,916	2,974	2,862	2,924	2,837	-184	-6.0%
Aiken School District	24,749	23,783	24,119	23,247	24,170	23,337	22,538	21,932	-446	-1.9%
Allendale School District	1,332	1,255	1,120	1,029	1,111	1,033	1,071	997	-222	-17.7%
Anderson School District 1	9,407	9,101	10,203	9,875	10,260	9,879	10,116	9,855	778	8.5%
Anderson School District 2	3,715	3,668	3,778	3,619	3,685	3,514	3,404	3,319	-154	-4.2%
Anderson School District 3	2,565	2,509	2,617	2,479	2,617	2,488	2,549	2,437	-21	-0.8%
Anderson School District 4	2,916	2,814	2,842	2,744	2,861	2,778	2,755	2,669	-36	-1.3%
Anderson School District 5	12,733	12,239	13,202	12,672	13,151	12,606	12,771	12,337	367	3.0%
Bamberg School District 1	1,435	1,367	1,317	1,257	1,246	1,203	1,194	1,166	-164	-12.0%
Bamberg School District 2	806	767	678	638	667	635	639	614	-132	-17.2%
Barnwell School District 19	821	770	600	587	595	575	565	557	-195	-25.3%
Barnwell School District 29	932	913	840	823	829	806	802	780	-107	-11.7%
Barnwell School District 45	2,444	2,356	2,189	2,117	2,140	2,050	2,038	1,970	-306	-13.0%
Beaufort School District	20,532	19,637	22,328	21,287	22,391	21,416	21,219	20,530	1,779	9.1%
Berkeley School District	30,999	29,927	36,191	34,520	37,192	35,591	36,575	35,286	5,664	18.9%
Calhoun School District	1,727	1,614	1,693	1,587	1,703	1,587	1,590	1,501	-27	-1.7%
Charleston School District	44,755	42,869	49,755	46,485	50,312	46,892	48,330	46,283	4,023	9.4%
Cherokee School District	9,051	8,601	8,754	8,259	8,680	8,159	7,882	7,516	-442	-5.1%
Chester School District	5,536	5,281	5,165	4,970	5,102	4,862	4,860	4,724	-419	-7.9%
Chesterfield School District	7,488	7,256	6,965	6,691	7,003	6,724	6,772	6,611	-532	-7.3%
Clarendon School District 1	832	769	747	710	690	658	654	637	-111	-14.4%
Clarendon School District 2	3,049	2,922	2,893	2,754	2,893	2,747	2,604	2,517	-175	-6.0%
Clarendon School District 3	1,246	1,183	1,305	1,253	1,293	1,227	1,236	1,203	44	3.8%
Colleton School District	6,150	5,830	5,541	5,264	5,409	5,094	5,138	5,058	-736	-12.6%
Darlington School District	10,298	10,224	9,968	9,607	9,843	9,479	9,239	9,031	-745	-7.3%
Dillon School District 3	1,651	1,555	1,622	1,528	1,576	1,493	1,546	1,470	-62	-4.0%
Dillon School District 4	4,295	4,092	4,120	3,982	3,995	3,857	3,901	3,782	-235	-5.7%
Dorchester School District 2	23,759	23,174	26,239	25,440	26,283	25,298	24,684	24,270	2,124	9.2%
Dorchester School District 4	2,213	2,106	2,286	2,145	2,265	2,151	2,101	2,035	45	2.1%
Edgefield School District	3,508	3,348	3,375	3,225	3,301	3,185	3,207	3,098	-163	-4.9%
Fairfield School District	3,033	2,757	2,634	2,373	2,588	2,281	2,414	2,208	-476	-17.3%
Florence School District 1	16,136	15,434	16,148	15,667	15,929	15,390	15,186	14,876	-44	-0.3%
Florence School District 2	1,222	1,178	1,157	1,091	1,086	1,049	1,094	1,047	-129	-10.9%
Florence School District 3	3,763	3,571	3,408	3,269	3,341	3,154	3,263	3,142	-417	-11.7%
Florence School District 4	790	738	668	656	699	654	681	649	-84	-11.4%
Florence School District 5	1,469	1,409	1,233	1,182	1,193	1,157	1,180	1,166	-252	-17.9%
Georgetown School District	9,733	9,365	9,325	8,930	9,195	8,810	8,479	8,306	-555	-5.9%
Greenville School District	73,725	71,783	76,176	74,162	77,272	75,179	74,094	72,662	3,396	4.7%
Greenwood School Dist 50	9,045	8,638	8,889	8,515	8,875	8,518	8,646	8,431	-120	-1.4%
Greenwood School Dist 51	1,017	954	951	899	943	891	934	897	-63	-6.6%
Greenwood School Dist 52	1,730	1,639	1,566	1,516	1,569	1,516	1,492	1,445	-123	-7.5%
Hampton School District 1	2,491	2,384	2,209	2,088	2,134	2,010	1,948	1,861	-374	-15.7%
Hampton School District 2	954	908	697	662	670	634	645	619	-274	-30.1%
Horry School District	40,072	38,502	45,106	43,530	45,817	44,250	44,479	43,345	5,748	14.9%
Jasper School District	2,923	2,724	2,561	2,405	2,683	2,475	2,664	2,468	-249	-9.1%
Kershaw School District	10,409	10,192	10,769	10,526	10,915	10,499	10,763	10,387	307	3.0%
Lancaster School District	11,819	11,581	13,507	13,258	14,182	13,936	13,940	14,011	2,355	20.3%
Laurens School District 55	5,893	5,554	5,762	5,388	5,685	5,316	5,333	5,141	-238	-4.3%
Laurens School District 56	3,068	2,911	3,096	2,980	2,874	2,771	2,827	2,727	-140	-4.8%

District	2012-13		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		Growth 12-13 to 19-20	
	45 Day HC	135 Day ADM	45 Day HC	135 Day ADM	45 Day HC	135 Day ADM	45 Day HC6	45 Day ADM	ADM	%
Lee School District	2,240	2,133	1,822	1,730	1,690	1,611	1,565	1,496	-522	-24.5%
Lexington School District 1	23,590	22,935	26,786	25,999	27,353	26,507	27,072	26,391	3,572	15.6%
Lexington School District 2	8,868	8,522	8,968	8,633	9,028	8,654	8,582	8,217	132	1.5%
Lexington School District 3	1,990	1,880	2,083	1,939	2,089	1,966	2,020	1,931	86	4.6%
Lexington School District 4	3,510	3,139	3,512	3,124	3,479	3,118	3,245	3,069	-21	-0.7%
Lexington School District 5	16,452	16,238	17,432	16,899	17,505	16,979	16,780	16,375	741	4.6%
McCormick School District	818	777	696	666	671	630	657	629	-147	-18.9%
Marion School District	5,206	4,928	4,369	4,231	4,358	3,997	4,150	4,049	-931	-18.9%
Marlboro School District	4,311	4,118	3,964	3,684	3,848	3,702	3,667	3,605	-416	-10.1%
Newberry School District	5,936	5,717	6,004	5,751	5,972	5,685	5,760	5,572	-32	-0.6%
Oconee School District	10,578	10,442	10,615	10,100	10,523	10,004	10,168	9,791	-438	-4.2%
Orangeburg School District	13,944	12,966	12,546	11,992	12,276	11,692	11,739	11,340	-1,274	-9.8%
Pickens School District	16,751	16,107	16,259	15,618	16,371	15,575	15,689	15,208	-532	-3.3%
Richland School District 1	24,166	22,849	23,782	22,502	23,386	22,109	22,202	21,426	-740	-3.2%
Richland School District 2	26,582	25,866	28,411	27,587	28,589	27,603	27,761	26,964	1,737	6.7%
Saluda School District	2,190	2,110	2,321	2,197	2,317	2,220	2,315	2,229	110	5.2%
Spartanburg School District 1	5,033	4,836	5,200	4,905	5,281	4,986	5,047	4,863	150	3.1%
Spartanburg School District 2	10,088	9,730	10,254	9,921	10,501	10,113	10,459	10,018	383	3.9%
Spartanburg School District 3	2,943	2,824	2,873	2,737	2,757	2,645	2,629	2,533	-179	-6.4%
Spartanburg School District 4	2,848	2,658	2,900	2,669	2,892	2,695	2,718	2,560	37	1.4%
Spartanburg School District 5	7,814	7,538	8,796	8,533	9,085	8,816	9,028	8,780	1,278	17.0%
Spartanburg School District 6	11,037	10,602	11,467	10,967	11,482	10,745	11,254	10,904	143	1.4%
Spartanburg School District 7	7,202	6,822	7,423	7,107	7,536	7,187	7,052	6,843	365	5.4%
Sumter School District	16,836	16,275	16,587	15,889	16,356	15,657	15,586	15,217	-618	-3.8%
Union School District	4,150	4,129	3,964	3,787	4,017	3,787	3,814	3,673	-342	-8.3%
Williamsburg School District	4,598	4,420	3,589	3,426	3,374	3,140	3,194	3,084	-1,280	-29.0%
York School District 1	5,146	4,906	5,246	4,956	5,217	4,976	4,889	4,730	70	1.4%
York School District 2	6,737	6,487	8,037	7,694	8,322	7,973	8,372	8,134	1,486	22.9%
York School District 3	17,540	16,980	17,776	17,132	17,603	16,987	16,652	16,280	7	0.0%
York School District 4	11,066	11,043	16,114	15,937	16,990	16,829	16,883	16,729	5,786	52.4%
SC Public Charter School Dist	11,659	11,499	20,313	19,636	20,761	20,507	15,773	15,618	9,008	78.3%
Charter Institute at Erskine	0	0	8,450	8,415	10,003	9,824	23,750	22,903	9,824	
South Carolina (Charter)	11,659	11,499	28,763	28,051	30,764	30,331	39,523	38,521	18,832	163.8%
South Carolina (Geographic)	723,577	697,174	751,138	721,122	754,755	723,263	725,915	705,046	26,089	3.7%
South Carolina Total	735,236	708,673	779,901	749,173	785,519	753,594	765,438	743,568	44,921	6.3%

Sources: "45 Day District Headcount by Gender, Ethnicity and Pupils in Poverty, 2012-13 to 2020-21," SC Department of Education. Online: <https://ed.sc.gov/data/other/student-counts/active-student-headcounts/>; "Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/education/education-finance-projections/>; "FY20-21 45-Day Financial Requirements Report," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education. Online: <https://ed.sc.gov/finance/financial-services/budget-plan-n-ing-for-upcoming-fiscal-year/fiscal-year-2020-2021/>

TABLE A2: VIRTUAL AND PHYSICAL ENROLLMENT BY STATEWIDE CHARTER DISTRICT, 2018-19 TO 2020-21

	<u>135 Day ADM</u>			<u>WPU's</u>		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21*	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21*
Virtual						
SC Public School Charter	5,643	5,629	430	7,604	7,728	546
Charter Institute at Erskine	5,131	5,520	15,690	7,209	7,795	20,408
Total	10,774	11,149	16,120	14,813	15,523	20,954
Physical						
SC Public School Charter	13,993	14,878	15,188	18,273	19,438	19,674
Charter Institute at Erskine	3,284	4,304	7,213	4,532	5,883	10,516
Total	17,277	19,182	22,401	22,805	25,322	30,190

Note: School Year 2020-21 is 45-day ADM, as 135-day figures are not yet available.

Source: "45 Day and 135 Day Membership Counts Reports, 2018-19 to 2020-21." SC Department of Education. Online: <https://ed.sc.gov/finance/financial-services/student-data/membership-counts/>

TABLE A3: EFA WEIGHTS

Factor	Weight
Full Weights	
Kindergarten	1
Primary	1
Elementary	1
High School	1
Educable Mentally Handicapped	1.74
Learning Disabilities	1.74
Trainable Mentally Handicapped	2.04
Emotionally Handicapped	2.04
Orthopedically Handicapped	2.04
Visually Handicapped	2.57
Autism	2.57
Hearing Handicapped	2.57
Speech Handicapped	1.90
Homebound	1
Career & Technical Education	1.29
Add-on Weights	
High Achieving	0.15
Academic Assistance	0.15
Dual Enrollment	0.15
Limited English Proficiency	0.20
Pupils in Poverty	0.20

Source: 2019-20 Funding Manual. South Carolina Department of Education. Online: <https://ed.sc.gov/finance/financial-services/manual-handbooks-and-guidelines/funding-manuals/>

TABLE A4: EFA 2.0 WEIGHTS

Category	Weight
Poverty	0.20
Limited English Proficiency	0.20
Gifted	0.15
Career & Tech Education	0.29
Special Needs	
Tier 1 (Low)	0.74
Tier 2 (Medium)	1.04
Tier 3 (High)	1.57
Charters	
Virtual	0.20
Physical	0.39

Source: “Funding Out Children for Success: A Strategy for Sustainable and Equitable K-12 Finance Reform in South Carolina,” Acuitas Economics for Palmetto Promise Institute, November 2017.

TABLE A5: CURRENT REVENUE PER PUPIL BY SOURCE AND DISTRICT, 2018-19

	Federal	Local							State												
		District		Rentals, Donations & Other	Taxes & Fees				Direct General Fund	Education Lottery	EFA		EIA		Property Tax Reimbursement					Grand Total	
District	Total	Services	Investments		EFA Required	Debt Service	Optional	Total			Formula	Additional	Programs	Charter	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Other	Total		
Abbeville School District	\$1,316	\$538	\$7	\$213	\$674	\$739	\$2,055	\$4,226	\$1,915	\$20	\$2,717	\$70	\$808	\$0	\$453	\$293	\$820	\$56	\$7,152	\$12,695	
Aiken School District	\$1,090	\$213	\$178	\$57	\$937	\$1,063	\$2,794	\$5,243	\$1,701	\$0	\$2,491	\$4	\$567	\$0	\$350	\$114	\$869	\$0	\$6,098	\$12,431	
Allendale School District	\$3,474	\$185	\$134	\$304	\$819	\$732	\$4,368	\$6,543	\$2,344	\$76	\$2,737	\$98	\$3,140	\$0	\$402	\$354	\$2,431	\$132	\$11,716	\$21,733	
Anderson School District 1	\$776	\$607	\$73	\$24	\$605	\$793	\$2,249	\$4,351	\$1,731	\$3	\$2,757	\$5	\$488	\$0	\$174	\$96	\$671	\$72	\$5,998	\$11,125	
Anderson School District 2	\$1,047	\$512	\$34	\$79	\$533	\$554	\$2,532	\$4,244	\$1,954	\$11	\$3,006	\$5	\$562	\$0	\$265	\$213	\$632	\$59	\$6,708	\$11,999	
Anderson School District 3	\$1,537	\$444	\$68	\$936	\$572	\$861	\$1,957	\$4,839	\$2,043	\$0	\$2,935	\$71	\$795	\$0	\$218	\$169	\$525	\$110	\$6,866	\$13,241	
Anderson School District 4	\$1,130	\$520	\$149	\$1,091	\$1,225	\$1,756	\$3,205	\$7,946	\$1,754	\$47	\$2,230	\$4	\$598	\$0	\$381	\$224	\$1,191	\$231	\$6,661	\$15,737	
Anderson School District 5	\$1,102	\$441	\$127	\$54	\$819	\$618	\$3,260	\$5,319	\$1,855	\$2	\$2,578	\$5	\$564	\$0	\$293	\$161	\$842	\$98	\$6,398	\$12,818	
Bamberg School District 1	\$1,553	\$518	\$208	\$10	\$482	\$1,615	\$2,098	\$4,931	\$2,165	\$48	\$2,984	\$597	\$855	\$0	\$378	\$350	\$1,241	\$70	\$8,687	\$15,172	
Bamberg School District 2	\$3,726	\$336	\$64	\$209	\$706	\$2,397	\$3,260	\$6,973	\$2,208	\$91	\$2,963	\$228	\$1,394	\$0	\$547	\$523	\$1,541	\$55	\$9,552	\$20,250	
Barnwell School District 19	\$3,410	\$460	\$9	\$170	\$629	\$1,139	\$2,635	\$5,043	\$2,246	\$6	\$2,959	\$300	\$1,558	\$0	\$312	\$178	\$651	\$33	\$8,243	\$16,697	
Barnwell School District 29	\$2,835	\$423	\$27	\$20	\$602	\$586	\$1,817	\$3,474	\$2,254	\$10	\$2,931	\$71	\$1,726	\$0	\$282	\$149	\$667	\$238	\$8,329	\$14,638	
Barnwell School District 45	\$2,232	\$393	\$10	\$103	\$517	\$598	\$1,246	\$2,866	\$1,986	\$43	\$3,024	\$82	\$788	\$0	\$254	\$161	\$650	\$60	\$7,049	\$12,147	
Beaufort School District	\$1,008	\$98	\$76	\$300	\$2,645	\$2,772	\$3,827	\$9,719	\$959	\$10	\$739	\$1	\$619	\$0	\$331	\$151	\$2,135	\$20	\$4,965	\$15,693	
Berkeley School District	\$1,072	\$210	\$67	\$104	\$826	\$2,379	\$2,095	\$5,681	\$1,663	\$1	\$2,544	\$5	\$527	\$0	\$229	\$104	\$857	\$37	\$5,966	\$12,719	
Calhoun School District	\$1,971	\$401	\$53	\$30	\$1,700	\$1,034	\$3,307	\$6,525	\$1,626	\$43	\$1,787	\$103	\$1,150	\$0	\$495	\$195	\$1,575	\$384	\$7,358	\$15,854	
Charleston School District	\$1,467	\$336	\$164	\$295	\$2,162	\$2,321	\$7,035	\$12,313	\$994	\$1	\$1,130	\$4	\$650	\$0	\$365	\$105	\$1,556	\$78	\$4,882	\$18,662	
Cherokee School District	\$1,353	\$293	\$37	\$196	\$827	\$734	\$3,149	\$5,236	\$1,825	\$20	\$2,638	\$24	\$651	\$0	\$362	\$196	\$689	\$25	\$6,430	\$13,020	
Chester School District	\$1,551	\$481	\$118	\$55	\$730	\$1,115	\$2,502	\$5,001	\$1,818	\$0	\$2,698	\$122	\$689	\$0	\$408	\$256	\$675	\$185	\$6,851	\$13,403	
Chesterfield School District	\$1,516	\$438	\$52	\$127	\$638	\$677	\$2,261	\$4,192	\$2,005	\$13	\$2,860	\$31	\$763	\$0	\$278	\$163	\$617	\$191	\$6,921	\$12,630	
Clarendon School District 1	\$3,310	\$281	\$25	\$1,117	\$1,415	\$2,244	\$3,195	\$8,277	\$2,287	\$144	\$2,134	\$136	\$2,489	\$0	\$434	\$150	\$834	\$71	\$8,679	\$20,266	
Clarendon School District 2	\$2,307	\$495	\$24	\$90	\$642	\$0	\$1,845	\$3,096	\$2,007	\$0	\$2,966	\$81	\$1,082	\$0	\$201	\$109	\$627	\$14	\$7,089	\$12,492	
Clarendon School District 3	\$1,215	\$804	\$4	\$47	\$242	\$0	\$1,838	\$2,936	\$2,046	\$48	\$3,148	\$6	\$701	\$0	\$226	\$115	\$487	\$7	\$6,783	\$10,934	
Colleton School District	\$1,868	\$314	\$47	\$128	\$1,139	\$1,845	\$1,855	\$5,329	\$1,830	\$10	\$2,472	\$35	\$611	\$0	\$399	\$199	\$547	\$45	\$6,148	\$13,344	
Darlington School District	\$1,466	\$338	\$363	\$762	\$863	\$1,107	\$2,657	\$6,091	\$1,869	\$93	\$2,621	\$5	\$588	\$0	\$390	\$187	\$607	\$168	\$6,528	\$14,085	
Dillon School District 3	\$1,380	\$429	\$3	\$114	\$416	\$104	\$944	\$2,010	\$1,800	\$0	\$2,991	\$5	\$943	\$0	\$120	\$68	\$390	\$35	\$6,353	\$9,744	
Dillon School District 4	\$1,895	\$214	\$3	\$21	\$486	\$120	\$962	\$1,806	\$1,870	\$0	\$2,865	\$5	\$767	\$0	\$168	\$80	\$579	\$38	\$6,371	\$10,072	
Dorchester School District 2	\$662	\$237	\$92	\$336	\$586	\$1,105	\$1,476	\$3,831	\$1,733	\$4	\$2,755	\$14	\$527	\$0	\$242	\$81	\$1,024	\$39	\$6,418	\$10,911	
Dorchester School District 4	\$1,626	\$441	\$73	\$132	\$1,016	\$896	\$4,345	\$6,904	\$1,880	\$11	\$2,510	\$4	\$1,256	\$0	\$421	\$37	\$1,328	\$26	\$7,472	\$16,002	
Edgefield School District	\$1,203	\$883	\$32	\$135	\$761	\$628	\$2,361	\$4,800	\$1,971	\$63	\$2,635	\$5	\$780	\$0	\$482	\$196	\$1,082	\$81	\$7,295	\$13,297	
Fairfield School District	\$2,192	\$280	\$136	\$66	\$1,999	\$1,386	\$10,762	\$14,630	\$1,852	\$38	\$1,588	\$78	\$1,512	\$0	\$588	\$306	\$1,264	\$71	\$7,296	\$24,119	
Florence School District 1	\$1,065	\$336	\$64	\$190	\$818	\$864	\$2,469	\$4,740	\$1,815	\$1	\$2,642	\$9	\$710	\$0	\$270	\$128	\$1,047	\$102	\$6,722	\$12,527	
Florence School District 2	\$1,666	\$569	\$71	\$102	\$454	\$616	\$1,319	\$3,130	\$2,029	\$230	\$3,142	\$6	\$738	\$0	\$336	\$188	\$686	\$21	\$7,376	\$12,173	
Florence School District 3	\$2,904	\$343	\$34	\$216	\$565	\$207	\$1,591	\$2,956	\$2,112	\$21	\$3,081	\$55	\$1,030	\$0	\$245	\$142	\$628	\$310	\$7,626	\$13,485	
Florence School District 4	\$3,262	\$168	\$64	\$90	\$1,284	\$1,098	\$2,377	\$5,081	\$2,433	\$20	\$2,363	\$4	\$1,669	\$0	\$471	\$206	\$672	\$119	\$7,959	\$16,301	
Florence School District 5	\$1,528	\$877	\$54	\$47	\$394	\$251	\$1,304	\$2,928	\$2,210	\$98	\$3,140	\$6	\$688	\$0	\$234	\$132	\$734	\$16	\$7,258	\$11,714	
Georgetown School District	\$1,379	\$313	\$31	\$150	\$2,028	\$1,860	\$2,738	\$7,119	\$1,274	\$7	\$1,441	\$3	\$636	\$0	\$517	\$149	\$1,216	\$165	\$5,408	\$13,906	
Greenville School District	\$910	\$592	\$159	\$224	\$935	\$1,764	\$1,959	\$5,633	\$1,572	\$10	\$2,479	\$6	\$607	\$0	\$316	\$133	\$879	\$108	\$6,110	\$12,653	
Greenwood School District 50	\$1,477	\$310	\$49	\$62	\$768	\$1,747	\$1,321	\$4,256	\$1,850	\$7	\$2,670	\$5	\$586	\$0	\$392	\$228	\$876	\$88	\$6,703	\$12,436	
Greenwood School District 51	\$1,862	\$460	\$90	\$112	\$510	\$222	\$2,318	\$3,711	\$2,091	\$108	\$3,021	\$5	\$1,587	\$0	\$377	\$249	\$735	\$49	\$8,223	\$13,796	
Greenwood School District 52	\$816	\$512	\$116	\$76	\$1,277	\$2,324	\$1,443	\$5,749	\$1,548	\$0	\$2,086	\$4	\$554	\$0	\$178	\$193	\$1,092	\$521	\$6,177	\$12,741	
Hampton School District 2	\$2,874	\$164	\$76	\$354	\$815	\$787	\$4,821	\$7,016	\$2,128	\$46	\$2,674	\$5	\$2,562	\$0	\$670	\$429	\$1,076	\$204	\$9,793	\$19,682	
Horry School District	\$1,038	\$381	\$122	\$135	\$1,517	\$513	\$4,651	\$7,319	\$1,392	\$0	\$1,901	\$3	\$626	\$0	\$269	\$106	\$859	\$24	\$5,181	\$13,538	
Jasper School District	\$2,489	\$316	\$86	\$334	\$1,669	\$1,462	\$5,449	\$9,316	\$1,649	\$40	\$1,878	\$3	\$1,423	\$0	\$408	\$179	\$1,040	\$19	\$6,639	\$18,444	
Kershaw School District	\$935	\$280	\$207	\$235	\$692	\$1,484	\$2,018	\$4,915	\$1,840	\$0	\$2,753	\$5	\$627	\$0	\$352	\$179	\$874	\$81	\$6,711	\$12,562	
Lancaster School District	\$1,116	\$468	\$152	\$227	\$709	\$2,105	\$1,585	\$5,247	\$1,710	\$0	\$2,647	\$5	\$581	\$0	\$281	\$187	\$725	\$35	\$6,171	\$12,534	
Laurens School District 55	\$1,268	\$335	\$63	\$70	\$658	\$1,119	\$1,548	\$3,793	\$1,927	\$1	\$2,899	\$151	\$745	\$0	\$339	\$149	\$706	\$19	\$6,936	\$11,996	
Laurens School District 56	\$2,571	\$379	\$71	\$130	\$620	\$1,416	\$1,607	\$4,223	\$1,988	\$12	\$3,006	\$5	\$714	\$0	\$313	\$156	\$625	\$113	\$6,933	\$13,727	
Lee School District	\$3,229	\$219	\$38	\$319	\$803	\$1,072	\$1,334	\$3,786	\$2,289	\$140	\$2,787	\$79	\$1,400	\$0	\$445	\$323	\$1,446	\$70	\$8,978	\$15,993	
Lexington School District 1	\$607	\$589	\$136	\$64	\$570	\$1,945	\$3,088	\$6,393	\$1,868	\$2	\$2,791	\$5	\$618	\$0	\$310	\$148	\$1,460	\$123	\$7,325	\$14,325	
Lexington School District 2	\$1,280	\$354	\$253	\$220	\$1,165	\$2,855	\$1,991	\$6,838	\$1,714	\$4	\$2,433	\$59	\$738	\$0	\$579	\$249	\$691	\$132	\$6,599	\$14,718	
Lexington School District 3	\$1,622	\$409	\$177	\$240	\$728	\$1,924	\$3,342	\$6,819	\$2,005	\$44	\$2,814	\$605	\$747	\$0	\$512	\$377	\$1,214	\$102	\$8,420	\$16,861	
Lexington School District 4	\$1,606	\$278	\$283	\$330	\$355	\$1,272	\$2,014	\$4,532	\$2,204	\$42	\$3,344	\$63	\$1,188	\$0	\$292	\$177	\$715	\$14	\$8,040	\$14,178	
Lexington School District 5	\$913	\$523	\$92	\$50	\$833	\$1,675	\$3,251	\$6,424	\$1,750	\$0	\$2,527	\$5	\$733	\$0	\$626	\$159	\$1,839	\$38	\$7,677	\$15,014	
McCormick School District	\$3,093	\$570	\$1	\$1,138	\$1,998	\$2,045	\$3,497	\$9,249	\$2,699	\$157	\$1,532	\$3	\$1,734	\$0	\$607						

Note: Figures do not include GL Codes 5400 - 5500 and 5999 (Sale of Fixed Assets, Proceeds from Long-Term Notes, Capital Lease, Other Financing Sources).

Sources: (1) “Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19,” Office of Finance, SC Department of Education. (2) “Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. (3) “Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 135-day Financial Requirements - Final,” SC Department of Education. (3) “South Carolina Property Tax Rates by County, 2016 to 2020.” South Carolina Association of Counties. Online: <https://www.sccounties.org/research-information/property-tax-rates> (4) Source: School District Detailed Index of Taxpaying Ability dataset, Tax Years 2016 - 2020. South Carolina Department of Revenue. Online: <https://dor.sc.gov/lgs/reports-school-index>

TABLE A6: OPTION B: CURRENT FRAMEWORK WITH EFA WEIGHT FOR CHARTER STUDENT: REVENUE PER PUPIL BY SOURCE AND DISTRICT, 2018-19

	Federal	Local							State													
					Rentals, Donations & Other	Taxes & Fees EFA Required	Debt Service	Optional	Total	Direct General Fund	Education Lottery	EFA Charter Add-on	Additional	EIA Programs	Reapportioned Funds	Property Tax Reimbursement				Total	Grand Total	
District	Total	District Services	Investments													Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Other			
Abbeville School District	\$1,316	\$538		\$7	\$213	\$674	\$739	\$2,055	\$4,226	\$1,768	\$20	\$2,717	\$0	\$70	\$808	\$147	\$453	\$293	\$820	\$56	\$7,152	\$12,695
Aiken School District	\$1,090	\$213	\$178		\$57	\$937	\$1,063	\$2,794	\$5,243	\$1,554	\$0	\$2,491	\$0	\$4	\$567	\$147	\$350	\$114	\$869	\$0	\$6,098	\$12,431
Allendale School District	\$3,474	\$185	\$134	\$304	\$819	\$732	\$4,368	\$6,543	\$2,197	\$76	\$2,737	\$0	\$98	\$3,140	\$147	\$402	\$354	\$2,431	\$132	\$11,716	\$21,733	
Anderson School District 1	\$776	\$607	\$73	\$24	\$605	\$793	\$2,249	\$4,351	\$1,584	\$3	\$2,757	\$0	\$5	\$488	\$147	\$174	\$96	\$671	\$72	\$5,998	\$11,123	
Anderson School District 2	\$1,047	\$512	\$34	\$79	\$533	\$554	\$2,532	\$4,244	\$1,807	\$11	\$3,006	\$0	\$5	\$562	\$147	\$265	\$213	\$632	\$59	\$6,708	\$11,999	
Anderson School District 3	\$1,537	\$444	\$68	\$936	\$572	\$861	\$1,957	\$4,839	\$1,896	\$0	\$2,935	\$0	\$71	\$795	\$147	\$218	\$169	\$525	\$110	\$6,866	\$13,241	
Anderson School District 4	\$1,130	\$520	\$149	\$1,091	\$1,225	\$1,756	\$3,205	\$7,946	\$1,607	\$47	\$2,230	\$0	\$4	\$598	\$147	\$381	\$224	\$1,191	\$231	\$6,661	\$15,737	
Anderson School District 5	\$1,102	\$441	\$127	\$54	\$819	\$618	\$3,260	\$5,319	\$1,708	\$2	\$2,578	\$0	\$5	\$564	\$147	\$293	\$161	\$842	\$98	\$6,398	\$12,818	
Bamberg School District 1	\$1,553	\$518	\$208	\$10	\$482	\$1,615	\$2,098	\$4,931	\$2,018	\$48	\$2,984	\$0	\$597	\$855	\$147	\$378	\$350	\$1,241	\$70	\$8,687	\$15,172	
Bamberg School District 2	\$3,726	\$336	\$64	\$209	\$706	\$2,397	\$3,260	\$6,973	\$2,061	\$91	\$2,963	\$0	\$228	\$1,394	\$147	\$547	\$523	\$1,541	\$55	\$9,552	\$20,250	
Barnwell School District 19	\$3,410	\$460	\$9	\$170	\$629	\$1,139	\$2,635	\$5,043	\$2,099	\$6	\$2,959	\$0	\$300	\$1,558	\$147	\$312	\$178	\$651	\$33	\$8,243	\$16,697	
Barnwell School District 29	\$2,835	\$423	\$27	\$20	\$602	\$586	\$1,817	\$3,474	\$2,107	\$10	\$2,931	\$0	\$71	\$1,726	\$147	\$282	\$149	\$667	\$238	\$8,329	\$14,638	
Barnwell School District 45	\$2,232	\$393	\$10	\$103	\$517	\$598	\$1,246	\$2,866	\$1,839	\$43	\$3,024	\$0	\$82	\$788	\$147	\$254	\$161	\$650	\$60	\$7,049	\$12,147	
Beaufort School District	\$1,008	\$98	\$76	\$300	\$2,645	\$2,772	\$3,827	\$9,719	\$812	\$10	\$739	\$0	\$1	\$619	\$147	\$331	\$151	\$2,135	\$20	\$4,965	\$15,693	
Berkeley School District	\$1,072	\$210	\$67	\$104	\$826	\$2,379	\$2,095	\$5,681	\$1,516	\$1	\$2,544	\$0	\$5	\$527	\$147	\$229	\$104	\$857	\$37	\$5,966	\$12,719	
Calhoun School District	\$1,971	\$401	\$53	\$30	\$1,700	\$1,034	\$3,307	\$6,525	\$1,479	\$43	\$1,787	\$0	\$103	\$1,150	\$147	\$495	\$195	\$1,575	\$384	\$7,358	\$15,854	
Charleston School District	\$1,467	\$336	\$164	\$295	\$2,162	\$2,321	\$7,035	\$12,313	\$847	\$1	\$1,130	\$0	\$4	\$650	\$147	\$365	\$105	\$1,556	\$78	\$4,882	\$18,662	
Cherokee School District	\$1,353	\$293	\$37	\$196	\$827	\$734	\$3,149	\$5,236	\$1,678	\$20	\$2,638	\$0	\$24	\$651	\$147	\$362	\$196	\$689	\$25	\$6,430	\$13,020	
Chester School District	\$1,551	\$481	\$118	\$55	\$730	\$1,115	\$2,502	\$5,001	\$1,671	\$0	\$2,698	\$0	\$122	\$689	\$147	\$408	\$256	\$675	\$185	\$6,851	\$13,403	
Chesterfield School District	\$1,516	\$438	\$52	\$127	\$638	\$677	\$2,261	\$4,192	\$1,858	\$13	\$2,860	\$0	\$31	\$763	\$147	\$278	\$163	\$617	\$191	\$6,921	\$12,630	
Clarendon School District 1	\$3,310	\$281	\$25	\$1,117	\$1,415	\$2,244	\$3,195	\$8,277	\$2,140	\$144	\$2,134	\$0	\$136	\$2,489	\$147	\$434	\$150	\$834	\$71	\$8,679	\$20,266	
Clarendon School District 2	\$2,307	\$495	\$24	\$90	\$642	\$0	\$1,845	\$3,096	\$1,860	\$0	\$2,966	\$0	\$81	\$1,082	\$147	\$201	\$109	\$627	\$14	\$7,089	\$12,492	
Clarendon School District 3	\$1,215	\$804	\$4	\$47	\$242	\$0	\$1,838	\$2,936	\$1,898	\$48	\$3,148	\$0	\$6	\$701	\$147	\$226	\$115	\$487	\$7	\$6,783	\$10,934	
Colleton School District	\$1,868	\$314	\$47	\$128	\$1,139	\$1,845	\$1,855	\$5,329	\$1,683	\$10	\$2,472	\$0	\$35	\$611	\$147	\$399	\$199	\$547	\$45	\$6,148	\$13,344	
Darlington School District	\$1,466	\$338	\$363	\$762	\$863	\$1,107	\$2,657	\$6,091	\$1,722	\$93	\$2,621	\$0	\$5	\$588	\$147	\$390	\$187	\$607	\$168	\$6,528	\$14,085	
Dillon School District 3	\$1,380	\$429	\$3	\$114	\$416	\$104	\$944	\$2,010	\$1,653	\$0	\$2,991	\$0	\$5	\$943	\$147	\$120	\$68	\$390	\$35	\$6,353	\$9,744	
Dillon School District 4	\$1,895	\$214	\$3	\$21	\$486	\$120	\$962	\$1,806	\$1,723	\$0	\$2,865	\$0	\$5	\$767	\$147	\$168	\$80	\$579	\$38	\$6,371	\$10,072	
Dorchester School District 2	\$662	\$237	\$92	\$336	\$586	\$1,105	\$1,476	\$3,831	\$1,585	\$4	\$2,755	\$0	\$14	\$527	\$147	\$242	\$81	\$1,024	\$39	\$6,418	\$10,911	
Dorchester School District 4	\$1,626	\$441	\$73	\$132	\$1,016	\$896	\$4,345	\$6,904	\$1,733	\$11	\$2,510	\$0	\$4	\$1,256	\$147	\$421	\$37	\$1,328	\$26	\$7,472	\$16,002	
Edgefield School District	\$1,203	\$883	\$32	\$135	\$761	\$628	\$2,361	\$4,800	\$1,823	\$63	\$2,635	\$0	\$5	\$780	\$147	\$482	\$196	\$1,082	\$81	\$7,295	\$13,297	
Fairfield School District	\$2,192	\$280	\$136	\$66	\$1,999	\$1,386	\$10,762	\$14,630	\$1,704	\$38	\$1,588	\$0	\$78	\$1,512	\$147	\$588	\$306	\$1,264	\$71	\$7,296	\$24,119	
Florence School District 1	\$1,065	\$336	\$64	\$190	\$818	\$864	\$2,469	\$4,740	\$1,668	\$1	\$2,642	\$0	\$9	\$710	\$147	\$270	\$128	\$1,047	\$102	\$6,722	\$12,527	
Florence School District 2	\$1,666	\$569	\$71	\$102	\$454	\$616	\$1,319	\$3,130	\$1,882	\$230	\$3,142	\$0	\$6	\$738	\$147	\$336	\$188	\$686	\$21	\$7,376	\$12,173	
Florence School District 3	\$2,904	\$343	\$34	\$216	\$565	\$207	\$1,591	\$2,956	\$1,965	\$21	\$3,081	\$0	\$55	\$1,030	\$147	\$245	\$142	\$628	\$310	\$7,626	\$13,485	
Florence School District 4	\$3,262	\$168	\$64	\$90	\$1,284	\$1,098	\$2,377	\$5,081	\$2,286	\$20	\$2,363	\$0	\$4	\$1,669	\$147	\$471	\$206	\$672	\$119	\$7,959	\$16,301	
Florence School District 5	\$1,528	\$877	\$54	\$47	\$394	\$251	\$1,304	\$2,928	\$2,063	\$98	\$3,140	\$0	\$6	\$688	\$147	\$234	\$132	\$734	\$16	\$7,258	\$11,714	
Georgetown School District	\$1,379	\$313	\$31	\$150	\$2,028	\$1,860	\$2,738	\$7,119	\$1,127	\$7	\$1,441	\$0	\$3	\$636	\$147	\$517	\$149	\$1,216	\$165	\$5,408	\$13,906	
Greenville School District	\$910	\$592	\$159	\$224	\$935	\$1,764	\$1,959	\$5,633	\$1,425	\$10	\$2,479	\$0	\$6	\$607	\$147	\$316	\$133	\$879	\$108	\$6,110	\$12,653	
Greenwood School Dist 50	\$1,477	\$310	\$49	\$62	\$768	\$1,747	\$1,321	\$4,256	\$1,703	\$7	\$2,670	\$0	\$5	\$586	\$147	\$392	\$228	\$876	\$88	\$6,703	\$12,436	

TABLE A6 CONTINUED:

	Federal	Local							State													
		District Services	Investments	Rentals, Donations & Other	EFA Required	Debt Service	Optional	Total	Direct General Fund	Education Lottery	EFA Formula	Charter Add-on	Additional	EIA Programs	Reappraisal Funds	Property Tax Reimbursement				Total	Grand Total	
District	Total															Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Other	Total		
Greenwood School Dist 51	\$1,862	\$460	\$90	\$112	\$510	\$222	\$2,318	\$3,711	\$1,944	\$108	\$3,021	\$0	\$5	\$1,587	\$147	\$377	\$249	\$735	\$49	\$8,223	\$13,796	
Greenwood School Dist 52	\$816	\$512	\$116	\$76	\$1,277	\$2,324	\$1,443	\$5,749	\$1,401	\$0	\$2,086	\$0	\$4	\$554	\$147	\$178	\$193	\$1,092	\$521	\$6,177	\$12,741	
Hampton School District 1	\$2,362	\$546	\$7	\$95	\$588	\$773	\$1,979	\$3,987	\$1,954	\$14	\$2,837	\$0	\$32	\$1,273	\$147	\$402	\$255	\$853	\$45	\$7,810	\$14,160	
Hampton School District 2	\$2,874	\$164	\$76	\$354	\$815	\$787	\$4,821	\$7,016	\$1,980	\$46	\$2,674	\$0	\$5	\$2,562	\$147	\$670	\$429	\$1,076	\$204	\$9,793	\$19,682	
Horry School District	\$1,038	\$381	\$122	\$135	\$1,517	\$513	\$4,651	\$7,319	\$1,245	\$0	\$1,901	\$0	\$3	\$626	\$147	\$269	\$106	\$859	\$24	\$5,181	\$13,538	
Jasper School District	\$2,489	\$316	\$86	\$334	\$1,669	\$1,462	\$5,449	\$9,316	\$1,502	\$40	\$1,878	\$0	\$3	\$1,423	\$147	\$408	\$179	\$1,040	\$19	\$6,639	\$18,444	
Kershaw School District	\$935	\$280	\$207	\$235	\$692	\$1,484	\$2,018	\$4,915	\$1,693	\$0	\$2,753	\$0	\$5	\$627	\$147	\$352	\$179	\$874	\$81	\$6,711	\$12,562	
Lancaster School District	\$1,116	\$468	\$152	\$227	\$709	\$2,105	\$1,585	\$5,247	\$1,563	\$0	\$2,647	\$0	\$5	\$581	\$147	\$281	\$187	\$725	\$35	\$6,171	\$12,534	
Laurens School District 55	\$1,268	\$335	\$63	\$70	\$658	\$1,119	\$1,548	\$3,793	\$1,780	\$1	\$2,899	\$0	\$151	\$745	\$147	\$339	\$149	\$706	\$19	\$6,936	\$11,996	
Laurens School District 56	\$2,571	\$379	\$71	\$130	\$620	\$1,416	\$1,607	\$4,223	\$1,840	\$12	\$3,006	\$0	\$5	\$714	\$147	\$313	\$156	\$625	\$113	\$6,933	\$13,727	
Lee School District	\$3,229	\$219	\$38	\$319	\$803	\$1,072	\$1,334	\$3,786	\$2,142	\$140	\$2,787	\$0	\$79	\$1,400	\$147	\$445	\$323	\$1,446	\$70	\$8,978	\$15,993	
Lexington School District 1	\$607	\$589	\$136	\$64	\$570	\$1,945	\$3,088	\$6,393	\$1,721	\$2	\$2,791	\$0	\$5	\$618	\$147	\$310	\$148	\$1,460	\$123	\$7,325	\$14,325	
Lexington School District 2	\$1,280	\$354	\$253	\$220	\$1,165	\$2,855	\$1,991	\$6,838	\$1,567	\$4	\$2,433	\$0	\$59	\$738	\$147	\$579	\$249	\$691	\$132	\$6,599	\$14,718	
Lexington School District 3	\$1,622	\$409	\$177	\$240	\$728	\$1,924	\$3,342	\$6,819	\$1,858	\$44	\$2,814	\$0	\$605	\$747	\$147	\$512	\$377	\$1,214	\$102	\$8,420	\$16,861	
Lexington School District 4	\$1,606	\$278	\$283	\$330	\$355	\$1,272	\$2,014	\$4,532	\$2,057	\$42	\$3,344	\$0	\$63	\$1,188	\$147	\$292	\$177	\$715	\$14	\$8,040	\$14,178	
Lexington School District 5	\$913	\$523	\$92	\$50	\$833	\$1,675	\$3,251	\$6,424	\$1,603	\$0	\$2,527	\$0	\$5	\$733	\$147	\$626	\$159	\$1,839	\$38	\$7,677	\$15,014	
McCormick School District	\$3,093	\$570	\$1	\$1,138	\$1,998	\$2,045	\$3,497	\$9,249	\$2,552	\$157	\$1,532	\$0	\$3	\$1,734	\$147	\$607	\$553	\$3,755	\$67	\$11,107	\$23,448	
Marion School District	\$2,311	\$297	\$50	\$43	\$660	\$147	\$1,400	\$2,597	\$1,922	\$0	\$2,867	\$0	\$5	\$727	\$147	\$441	\$187	\$705	\$48	\$7,051	\$11,960	
Marlboro School District	\$2,424	\$209	\$77	\$122	\$656	\$0	\$3,144	\$4,207	\$1,861	\$37	\$2,854	\$0	\$49	\$977	\$147	\$269	\$190	\$679	\$419	\$7,482	\$14,113	
Newberry School District	\$1,385	\$355	\$102	\$366	\$855	\$1,448	\$2,630	\$5,756	\$1,736	\$13	\$2,642	\$0	\$5	\$672	\$147	\$374	\$283	\$1,020	\$75	\$6,966	\$14,106	
Oconee School District	\$1,075	\$542	\$101	\$146	\$1,843	\$1,830	\$2,964	\$7,427	\$1,196	\$6	\$1,643	\$0	\$3	\$648	\$147	\$391	\$213	\$1,190	\$94	\$5,530	\$14,031	
Orangeburg School District	\$1,935	\$429	\$68	\$367	\$893	\$1,086	\$3,069	\$5,912	\$1,853	\$41	\$2,605	\$0	\$199	\$793	\$147	\$551	\$196	\$596	\$182	\$7,163	\$15,010	
Pickens School District	\$892	\$541	\$28	\$77	\$1,008	\$1,905	\$1,255	\$4,814	\$1,468	\$6	\$2,379	\$0	\$10	\$564	\$147	\$378	\$190	\$859	\$59	\$6,060	\$11,767	
Richland School District 1	\$1,653	\$215	\$107	\$134	\$1,194	\$2,617	\$7,789	\$12,056	\$1,517	\$2	\$2,355	\$0	\$4	\$811	\$147	\$586	\$209	\$97	\$0	\$5,728	\$19,438	
Richland School District 2	\$1,015	\$454	\$89	\$100	\$543	\$2,204	\$3,231	\$6,622	\$1,692	\$1	\$2,833	\$0	\$5	\$653	\$147	\$318	\$69	\$1,441	\$46	\$7,205	\$14,841	
Saluda School District	\$1,497	\$425	\$10	\$250	\$713	\$1,054	\$1,465	\$3,917	\$1,917	\$9	\$2,922	\$0	\$72	\$1,049	\$147	\$379	\$205	\$798	\$36	\$7,533	\$12,947	
Spartanburg School District 1	\$1,015	\$441	\$46	\$155	\$699	\$1,598	\$1,842	\$4,782	\$1,631	\$12	\$2,678	\$0	\$5	\$336	\$147	\$424	\$325	\$1,515	\$32	\$7,106	\$12,902	
Spartanburg School District 2	\$883	\$547	\$116	\$207	\$684	\$1,129	\$1,612	\$4,295	\$1,594	\$6	\$2,685	\$0	\$5	\$552	\$147	\$322	\$171	\$1,156	\$42	\$6,680	\$11,858	
Spartanburg School District 3	\$1,161	\$484	\$20	\$116	\$786	\$1,110	\$3,262	\$5,777	\$1,884	\$53	\$2,752	\$0	\$5	\$598	\$147	\$399	\$265	\$812	\$344	\$7,259	\$14,197	
Spartanburg School District 4	\$1,070	\$500	\$97	\$9	\$617	\$223	\$2,006	\$3,452	\$1,682	\$47	\$2,851	\$0	\$5	\$575	\$147	\$334	\$176	\$813	\$78	\$6,709	\$11,230	
Spartanburg School District 5	\$782	\$513	\$82	\$75	\$1,041	\$952	\$4,161	\$6,825	\$1,392	\$7	\$2,304	\$0	\$4	\$575	\$147	\$197	\$137	\$1,163	\$92	\$6,019	\$13,626	
Spartanburg School District 6	\$1,079	\$556	\$73	\$104	\$818	\$1,404	\$2,598	\$5,552	\$1,622	\$6	\$2,729	\$0	\$5	\$538	\$147	\$261	\$151	\$965	\$151	\$6,574	\$13,205	
Spartanburg School District 7	\$1,668	\$795	\$163	\$221	\$1,039	\$2,236	\$4,496	\$8,949	\$1,677	\$0	\$2,365	\$0	\$4	\$771	\$147	\$713	\$323	\$1,059	\$248	\$7,307	\$17,925	
Sumter School District	\$1,621	\$246	\$26	\$87	\$631	\$998	\$1,278	\$3,265	\$1,765	\$0	\$2,886	\$0	\$5	\$649	\$147	\$268	\$146	\$847	\$66	\$7,779	\$11,665	
Union School District	\$1,365	\$296	\$30	\$239	\$707	\$990	\$884	\$3,146	\$1,765	\$23	\$2,822	\$0	\$28	\$760	\$147	\$413	\$313	\$660	\$138	\$7,068	\$11,579	
Williamsburg School District	\$3,048	\$360	\$62	\$197	\$975	\$1,240	\$1,599	\$4,432	\$1,797	\$65	\$2,641	\$0	\$51	\$1,210	\$147	\$399	\$254	\$730	\$297	\$7,590	\$15,070	
York School District 1	\$1,199	\$472	\$127	\$54	\$610	\$1,612	\$2,378	\$5,254	\$1,814	\$23	\$2,923	\$0	\$5	\$719	\$147	\$364	\$201	\$1,069	\$14	\$7,280	\$13,732	
York School District 2	\$558	\$482	\$208	\$125	\$1,231	\$1,065	\$5,317	\$8,427	\$1,328	\$26	\$1,920	\$0	\$3	\$617	\$147	\$1,493	\$75	\$0	\$6	\$5,615	\$14,600	
York School District 3	\$863	\$355	\$135	\$199	\$872	\$1,496	\$2,396	\$5,453	\$1,578	\$4	\$2,540	\$0	\$5	\$625	\$147	\$350	\$150	\$1,109	\$138	\$6,646	\$12,962	
York School District 4	\$444	\$527	\$377	\$951	\$577	\$3,002	\$2,720	\$8,154	\$1,408	\$4	\$2,546	\$0	\$5	\$528	\$147	\$131	\$90	\$1,036	\$40	\$5,934	\$14,532	
SC Public Charter School Dist.	\$618	\$277	\$18	\$128	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$424	\$1,074	\$18	\$3,275	\$4,137	\$4	\$412	\$147	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,068	\$10,110
Charter Institute at Erskine	\$502	\$96	\$54	\$158	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$308	\$1,123	\$29	\$3,467	\$3,447	\$12	\$540	\$147	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,765	\$9,575
South Carolina Total	\$1,169	\$397	\$113	\$196	\$987	\$1,507	\$2,952	\$6,153	\$1,500	\$10	\$2,428	\$147	\$17	\$658	\$147	\$341	\$146	\$965	\$77	\$6,437	\$13,759	

TABLE A7: OPTION C: COMBINED STATE FUNDING WITH EFA WEIGHT FOR CHARTER STUDENT: REVENUE PER PUPIL BY SOURCE AND DISTRICT, 2018-19

District	Federal	Local								State				Grand Total
	Total	District Services	Investments	Rentals, Donations &	Taxes & Fees			Total	Formula	Charter Add-on (Physical)	Charter Add-on (Virtual)	Total		
				Other	EFA Required	Debt Service	Optional							
Abbeville School District	\$1,316	\$538	\$7	\$213	\$674	\$739	\$2,055	\$4,226	\$6,636	\$0	\$0	\$6,636	\$12,178	
Aiken School District	\$1,090	\$213	\$178	\$57	\$937	\$1,063	\$2,794	\$5,243	\$6,453	\$0	\$0	\$6,453	\$12,786	
Allendale School District	\$3,474	\$185	\$134	\$304	\$819	\$732	\$4,368	\$6,543	\$6,847	\$0	\$0	\$6,847	\$16,865	
Anderson School District 1	\$776	\$607	\$73	\$24	\$605	\$793	\$2,249	\$4,351	\$6,643	\$0	\$0	\$6,643	\$11,770	
Anderson School District 2	\$1,047	\$512	\$34	\$79	\$533	\$554	\$2,532	\$4,244	\$7,096	\$0	\$0	\$7,096	\$12,387	
Anderson School District 3	\$1,537	\$444	\$68	\$936	\$572	\$861	\$1,957	\$4,839	\$6,988	\$0	\$0	\$6,988	\$13,364	
Anderson School District 4	\$1,130	\$520	\$149	\$1,091	\$1,225	\$1,756	\$3,205	\$7,946	\$6,224	\$0	\$0	\$6,224	\$15,300	
Anderson School District 5	\$1,102	\$441	\$127	\$54	\$819	\$618	\$3,260	\$5,319	\$6,504	\$0	\$0	\$6,504	\$12,924	
Bamberg School District 1	\$1,553	\$518	\$208	\$10	\$482	\$1,615	\$2,098	\$4,931	\$6,989	\$0	\$0	\$6,989	\$13,473	
Bamberg School District 2	\$3,726	\$336	\$64	\$209	\$706	\$2,397	\$3,260	\$6,973	\$7,203	\$0	\$0	\$7,203	\$17,901	
Barnwell School District 19	\$3,410	\$460	\$9	\$170	\$629	\$1,139	\$2,635	\$5,043	\$7,106	\$0	\$0	\$7,106	\$15,555	
Barnwell School District 29	\$2,835	\$423	\$27	\$20	\$602	\$586	\$1,817	\$3,474	\$7,014	\$0	\$0	\$7,014	\$13,323	
Barnwell School District 45	\$2,232	\$393	\$10	\$103	\$517	\$598	\$1,246	\$2,866	\$7,116	\$0	\$0	\$7,116	\$12,214	
Beaufort School District	\$1,008	\$98	\$76	\$300	\$2,645	\$2,772	\$3,827	\$9,719	\$4,651	\$0	\$0	\$4,651	\$15,378	
Berkeley School District	\$1,072	\$210	\$67	\$104	\$826	\$2,379	\$2,095	\$5,681	\$6,438	\$0	\$0	\$6,438	\$13,191	
Calhoun School District	\$1,971	\$401	\$53	\$30	\$1,700	\$1,034	\$3,307	\$6,525	\$5,816	\$0	\$0	\$5,816	\$14,312	
Charleston School District	\$1,467	\$336	\$164	\$295	\$2,162	\$2,321	\$7,035	\$12,313	\$4,933	\$0	\$0	\$4,933	\$18,714	
Cherokee School District	\$1,353	\$293	\$37	\$196	\$827	\$734	\$3,149	\$5,236	\$6,641	\$0	\$0	\$6,641	\$13,230	
Chester School District	\$1,551	\$481	\$118	\$55	\$730	\$1,115	\$2,502	\$5,001	\$6,660	\$0	\$0	\$6,660	\$13,212	
Chesterfield School District	\$1,516	\$438	\$52	\$127	\$638	\$677	\$2,261	\$4,192	\$6,904	\$0	\$0	\$6,904	\$12,612	
Clarendon School District 1	\$3,310	\$281	\$25	\$1,117	\$1,415	\$2,244	\$3,195	\$8,277	\$6,235	\$0	\$0	\$6,235	\$17,821	
Clarendon School District 2	\$2,307	\$495	\$24	\$90	\$642	\$0	\$1,845	\$3,096	\$7,135	\$0	\$0	\$7,135	\$12,538	
Clarendon School District 3	\$1,215	\$804	\$4	\$47	\$242	\$0	\$1,838	\$2,936	\$7,064	\$0	\$0	\$7,064	\$11,215	
Colleton School District	\$1,868	\$314	\$47	\$128	\$1,139	\$1,845	\$1,855	\$5,329	\$6,644	\$0	\$0	\$6,644	\$13,840	
Darlington School District	\$1,466	\$338	\$363	\$762	\$863	\$1,107	\$2,657	\$6,091	\$6,647	\$0	\$0	\$6,647	\$14,203	
Dillon School District 3	\$1,380	\$429	\$3	\$114	\$416	\$104	\$944	\$2,010	\$6,929	\$0	\$0	\$6,929	\$10,319	
Dillon School District 4	\$1,895	\$214	\$3	\$21	\$486	\$120	\$962	\$1,806	\$6,737	\$0	\$0	\$6,737	\$10,438	
Dorchester School District 2	\$662	\$237	\$92	\$336	\$586	\$1,105	\$1,476	\$3,831	\$6,616	\$0	\$0	\$6,616	\$11,110	
Dorchester School District 4	\$1,626	\$441	\$73	\$132	\$1,016	\$896	\$4,345	\$6,904	\$6,584	\$0	\$0	\$6,584	\$15,114	
Edgefield School District	\$1,203	\$883	\$32	\$135	\$761	\$628	\$2,361	\$4,800	\$6,559	\$0	\$0	\$6,559	\$12,562	
Fairfield School District	\$2,192	\$280	\$136	\$66	\$1,999	\$1,386	\$10,762	\$14,630	\$5,733	\$0	\$0	\$5,733	\$22,556	
Florence School District 1	\$1,065	\$336	\$64	\$190	\$818	\$864	\$2,469	\$4,740	\$6,640	\$0	\$0	\$6,640	\$12,445	
Florence School District 2	\$1,666	\$569	\$71	\$102	\$454	\$616	\$1,319	\$3,130	\$7,298	\$0	\$0	\$7,298	\$12,095	
Florence School District 3	\$2,904	\$343	\$34	\$216	\$565	\$207	\$1,591	\$2,956	\$7,295	\$0	\$0	\$7,295	\$13,155	
Florence School District 4	\$3,262	\$168	\$64	\$90	\$1,284	\$1,098	\$2,377	\$5,081	\$6,579	\$0	\$0	\$6,579	\$14,921	
Florence School District 5	\$1,528	\$877	\$54	\$47	\$394	\$251	\$1,304	\$2,928	\$7,224	\$0	\$0	\$7,224	\$11,681	
Georgetown School District	\$1,379	\$313	\$31	\$150	\$2,028	\$1,860	\$2,738	\$7,119	\$5,450	\$0	\$0	\$5,450	\$13,948	
Greenville School District	\$910	\$592	\$159	\$224	\$935	\$1,764	\$1,959	\$5,633	\$6,424	\$0	\$0	\$6,424	\$12,967	
Greenwood School District 50	\$1,477	\$310	\$49	\$62	\$768	\$1,747	\$1,321	\$4,256	\$6,643	\$0	\$0	\$6,643	\$12,376	
Greenwood School District 51	\$1,862	\$460	\$90	\$112	\$510	\$222	\$2,318	\$3,711	\$7,102	\$0	\$0	\$7,102	\$12,675	
Greenwood School District 52	\$816	\$512	\$116	\$76	\$1,277	\$2,324	\$1,443	\$5,749	\$5,972	\$0	\$0	\$5,972	\$12,536	
Hampton School District 1	\$2,362	\$546	\$7	\$95	\$588	\$773	\$1,979	\$3,987	\$6,794	\$0	\$0	\$6,794	\$13,143	
Hampton School District 2	\$2,874	\$164	\$76	\$354	\$815	\$787	\$4,821	\$7,016	\$6,706	\$0	\$0	\$6,706	\$16,595	
Horry School District	\$1,038	\$381	\$122	\$135	\$1,517	\$513	\$4,651	\$7,319	\$5,850	\$0	\$0	\$5,850	\$14,207	
Jasper School District	\$2,489	\$316	\$86	\$334	\$1,669	\$1,462	\$5,449	\$9,316	\$5,978	\$0	\$0	\$5,978	\$17,783	
Kershaw School District	\$935	\$280	\$207	\$235	\$692	\$1,484	\$2,018	\$4,915	\$6,735	\$0	\$0	\$6,735	\$12,585	
Lancaster School District	\$1,116	\$468	\$152	\$227	\$709	\$2,105	\$1,585	\$5,247	\$6,525	\$0	\$0	\$6,525	\$12,888	
Laurens School District 55	\$1,268	\$335	\$63	\$70	\$658	\$1,119	\$1,548	\$3,793	\$7,009	\$0	\$0	\$7,009	\$12,070	
Laurens School District 56	\$2,571	\$379	\$71	\$130	\$620	\$1,416	\$1,607	\$4,223	\$7,197	\$0	\$0	\$7,197	\$13,991	
Lee School District	\$3,229	\$219	\$38	\$319	\$803	\$1,072	\$1,334	\$3,786	\$6,935	\$0	\$0	\$6,935	\$13,950	
Lexington School District 1	\$607	\$589	\$136	\$64	\$570	\$1,945	\$3,088	\$6,393	\$6,674	\$0	\$0	\$6,674	\$13,674	
Lexington School District 2	\$1,280	\$354	\$253	\$220	\$1,165	\$2,855	\$1,991	\$6,838	\$6,591	\$0	\$0	\$6,591	\$14,709	
Lexington School District 3	\$1,622	\$409	\$177	\$240	\$728	\$1,924	\$3,342	\$6,819	\$6,907	\$0	\$0	\$6,907	\$15,348	
Lexington School District 4	\$1,606	\$278	\$283	\$330	\$355	\$1,272	\$2,014	\$4,532	\$7,618	\$0	\$0	\$7,618	\$13,756	
Lexington School District 5	\$913	\$523	\$92	\$50	\$833	\$1,675	\$3,251	\$6,424	\$6,409	\$0	\$0	\$6,409	\$13,746	
McCormick School District	\$3,093	\$570	\$1	\$1,138	\$1,998	\$2,045	\$3,497	\$9,249	\$5,611	\$0	\$0	\$5,611	\$17,952	
Marion School District	\$2,311	\$297	\$50	\$43	\$660	\$147	\$1,400	\$2,597	\$6,944	\$0	\$0	\$6,944	\$11,852	
Marlboro School District	\$2,424	\$209	\$77	\$122	\$656	\$0	\$3,144	\$4,207	\$6,909	\$0	\$0	\$6,909	\$13,541	
Newberry School District	\$1,385	\$355	\$102	\$366	\$855	\$1,448	\$2,630	\$5,756	\$6,683	\$0	\$0	\$6,683	\$13,823	
Oconee School District	\$1,075	\$542	\$101	\$146	\$1,843	\$1,830	\$2,964	\$7,427	\$5,673	\$0	\$0	\$5,673	\$14,174	
Orangeburg School District	\$1,935	\$429	\$68	\$367	\$893	\$1,086	\$3,069	\$5,912	\$6,647	\$0	\$0	\$6,647	\$14,494	
Pickens School District	\$892	\$541	\$28	\$77	\$1,008	\$1,905	\$1,255	\$4,814	\$6,293	\$0	\$0	\$6,293	\$12,000	
Richland School District 1	\$1,653	\$215	\$107	\$134	\$1,194	\$2,617	\$7,789	\$12,056	\$6,369	\$0	\$0	\$6,369	\$20,079	
Richland School District 2	\$1,015	\$454	\$89	\$100	\$543	\$2,204	\$3,231	\$6,622	\$6,735	\$0	\$0	\$6,735	\$14,371	
Saluda School District	\$1,497	\$425	\$10	\$250	\$713	\$1,054	\$1,465	\$3,917	\$7,122	\$0	\$0	\$7,122	\$12,536	
Spartanburg School District 1	\$1,015	\$441	\$46	\$155	\$699	\$1,598	\$1,842	\$4,782	\$6,582	\$0	\$0	\$6,582	\$12,378	
Spartanburg School District 2	\$883	\$547	\$116	\$207	\$684	\$1,129	\$1,612	\$4,295	\$6,579	\$0	\$0	\$6,579	\$11,757	
Spartanburg School District 3	\$1,161	\$484	\$20	\$116	\$786	\$1,110	\$3,262	\$5,777	\$6,841	\$0	\$0	\$6,841	\$13,779	
Spartanburg School District 4	\$1,070	\$500	\$97	\$9	\$617	\$223	\$2,006	\$3,452	\$6,860	\$0	\$0	\$6,860	\$11,381	
Spartanburg School District 5	\$782	\$513	\$82	\$75	\$1,041	\$952	\$4,161	\$6,825	\$6,169	\$0	\$0	\$6,169	\$13,776	
Spartanburg School District 6	\$1,079	\$556	\$73	\$104	\$818	\$1,404	\$2,598	\$5,552	\$6,827	\$0	\$0	\$6,827	\$13,459	
Spartanburg School District 7	\$1,668	\$795	\$163	\$221	\$1,039	\$2,236	\$4,496	\$8,949	\$6,298	\$0	\$0	\$6,298	\$16,915	
Sumter School District	\$1,621	\$246	\$26	\$87	\$631	\$998	\$1,278	\$3,265	\$6,950	\$0	\$0	\$6,950	\$11,836	
Union School District	\$1,365	\$296	\$30	\$239	\$707	\$990	\$884	\$3,146	\$6,900	\$0	\$0	\$6,900	\$11,411	
Williamsburg School District	\$3,048	\$360	\$62	\$197	\$975	\$1,240	\$1,599	\$4,432	\$6,819	\$0	\$0	\$6,819	\$14,299	
York School District 1	\$1,199	\$472	\$127	\$54	\$610	\$1,612	\$2,378	\$5,254	\$7,006	\$0	\$0	\$7,006	\$13,459	
York School District 2	\$558	\$482	\$208	\$125	\$1,231	\$1,065	\$5,317	\$8,427	\$5,562	\$0	\$0	\$5,562	\$14,547	
York School District 3	\$863	\$355	\$135	\$199	\$872	\$1,496	\$2,396	\$5,453	\$6,475	\$0	\$0	\$6,475	\$12,791	
York School District 4	\$444	\$527	\$377	\$951	\$577	\$3,002	\$2,720	\$8,154	\$6,155	\$0	\$0	\$6,155	\$14,753	
SC Public Charter School District	\$618	\$277	\$18	\$128	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$424	\$7,059	\$1,823	\$137	\$9,019	\$10,061	
Charter Institute at Erskine	\$502	\$96	\$54	\$158	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$308	\$7,474	\$998	\$290	\$8,762	\$9,572	
South Carolina Total	\$1,169	\$397	\$113	\$196	\$987	\$1,507	\$2,952	\$6,153	\$6,371	\$2,558	\$476	\$6,437	\$13,759	

TABLE A8: OPTION D: EFA 2.0: REVENUE PER PUPIL BY SOURCE AND DISTRICT, 2018-19

	Federal			Local							State	
				Rentals, Donations &	Taxes & Fees							
District	Total	District Services	Investments	Other	Match Required	Debt Service	Optional	Total	Formula	Grand Total		
Abbeville School District	\$1,316	\$538	\$7	\$213	\$633	\$739	\$2,096	\$4,226	\$6,691	\$12,234		
Aiken School District	\$1,090	\$213	\$178	\$57	\$896	\$1,063	\$2,835	\$5,243	\$6,483	\$12,816		
Allendale School District	\$3,474	\$185	\$134	\$304	\$645	\$732	\$4,543	\$6,543	\$6,885	\$16,902		
Anderson School District 1	\$776	\$607	\$73	\$24	\$672	\$793	\$2,181	\$4,351	\$6,621	\$11,748		
Anderson School District 2	\$1,047	\$512	\$34	\$79	\$514	\$554	\$2,551	\$4,244	\$7,075	\$12,366		
Anderson School District 3	\$1,537	\$444	\$68	\$936	\$558	\$861	\$1,972	\$4,839	\$7,004	\$13,380		
Anderson School District 4	\$1,130	\$520	\$149	\$1,091	\$1,317	\$1,756	\$3,114	\$7,946	\$6,171	\$15,247		
Anderson School District 5	\$1,102	\$441	\$127	\$54	\$816	\$618	\$3,262	\$5,319	\$6,506	\$12,926		
Bamberg School District 1	\$1,553	\$518	\$208	\$10	\$414	\$1,615	\$2,166	\$4,931	\$6,950	\$13,434		
Bamberg School District 2	\$3,726	\$336	\$64	\$209	\$585	\$2,397	\$3,382	\$6,973	\$7,246	\$17,944		
Barnwell School District 19	\$3,410	\$460	\$9	\$170	\$493	\$1,139	\$2,772	\$5,043	\$7,167	\$15,621		
Barnwell School District 29	\$2,835	\$423	\$27	\$20	\$483	\$586	\$1,935	\$3,474	\$6,995	\$13,304		
Barnwell School District 45	\$2,232	\$393	\$10	\$103	\$458	\$598	\$1,304	\$2,866	\$7,095	\$12,193		
Beaufort School District	\$1,008	\$98	\$76	\$300	\$2,535	\$2,772	\$3,937	\$9,719	\$4,784	\$15,512		
Berkeley School District	\$1,072	\$210	\$67	\$104	\$926	\$2,379	\$1,995	\$5,681	\$6,342	\$13,095		
Calhoun School District	\$1,971	\$401	\$53	\$30	\$1,464	\$1,034	\$3,542	\$6,525	\$5,998	\$14,494		
Charleston School District	\$1,467	\$336	\$164	\$295	\$2,379	\$2,321	\$6,817	\$12,313	\$4,757	\$18,537		
Cherokee School District	\$1,353	\$293	\$37	\$196	\$724	\$734	\$3,252	\$5,236	\$6,697	\$13,287		
Chester School District	\$1,551	\$481	\$118	\$55	\$668	\$1,115	\$2,564	\$5,001	\$6,640	\$13,192		
Chesterfield School District	\$1,516	\$438	\$52	\$127	\$552	\$677	\$2,348	\$4,192	\$6,944	\$12,652		
Clarendon School District 1	\$3,310	\$281	\$25	\$1,117	\$1,338	\$2,244	\$3,272	\$8,277	\$6,220	\$17,807		
Clarendon School District 2	\$2,307	\$495	\$24	\$90	\$572	\$0	\$1,915	\$3,096	\$7,132	\$12,535		
Clarendon School District 3	\$1,215	\$804	\$4	\$47	\$228	\$0	\$1,852	\$2,936	\$7,073	\$11,224		
Colleton School District	\$1,868	\$314	\$47	\$128	\$963	\$1,845	\$2,031	\$5,329	\$6,735	\$13,931		
Darlington School District	\$1,466	\$338	\$363	\$762	\$816	\$1,107	\$2,704	\$6,091	\$6,652	\$14,208		
Dillon School District 3	\$1,380	\$429	\$3	\$114	\$332	\$104	\$1,028	\$2,010	\$7,046	\$10,436		
Dillon School District 4	\$1,895	\$214	\$3	\$21	\$400	\$120	\$1,048	\$1,806	\$6,789	\$10,490		
Dorchester School District 2	\$662	\$237	\$92	\$336	\$607	\$1,105	\$1,455	\$3,831	\$6,625	\$11,118		
Dorchester School District 4	\$1,626	\$441	\$73	\$132	\$922	\$896	\$4,439	\$6,904	\$6,655	\$15,185		
Edgefield School District	\$1,203	\$883	\$32	\$135	\$717	\$628	\$2,404	\$4,800	\$6,560	\$12,562		
Fairfield School District	\$2,192	\$280	\$136	\$66	\$2,047	\$1,386	\$10,715	\$14,630	\$5,594	\$22,417		
Florence School District 1	\$1,065	\$336	\$64	\$190	\$767	\$864	\$2,520	\$4,740	\$6,674	\$12,479		
Florence School District 2	\$1,666	\$569	\$71	\$102	\$376	\$616	\$1,396	\$3,130	\$7,306	\$12,103		
Florence School District 3	\$2,904	\$343	\$34	\$216	\$460	\$207	\$1,697	\$2,956	\$7,314	\$13,173		
Florence School District 4	\$3,262	\$168	\$64	\$90	\$1,066	\$1,098	\$2,595	\$5,081	\$6,698	\$15,040		
Florence School District 5	\$1,528	\$877	\$54	\$47	\$308	\$251	\$1,391	\$2,928	\$7,239	\$11,695		
Georgetown School District	\$1,379	\$313	\$31	\$150	\$1,831	\$1,860	\$2,935	\$7,119	\$5,629	\$14,127		
Greenville School District	\$910	\$592	\$159	\$224	\$992	\$1,764	\$1,902	\$5,633	\$6,398	\$12,941		
Greenwood School District 50	\$1,477	\$310	\$49	\$62	\$666	\$1,747	\$1,424	\$4,256	\$6,714	\$12,447		
Greenwood School District 51	\$1,862	\$460	\$90	\$112	\$435	\$222	\$2,393	\$3,711	\$7,154	\$12,727		
Greenwood School District 52	\$816	\$512	\$116	\$76	\$1,100	\$2,324	\$1,620	\$5,749	\$6,149	\$12,713		
Hampton School District 1	\$2,362	\$546	\$7	\$95	\$506	\$773	\$2,060	\$3,987	\$6,794	\$13,144		
Hampton School District 2	\$2,874	\$164	\$76	\$354	\$678	\$787	\$4,958	\$7,016	\$6,743	\$16,632		
Horry School District	\$1,038	\$381	\$122	\$135	\$1,484	\$513	\$4,684	\$7,319	\$5,925	\$14,281		
Jasper School District	\$2,489	\$316	\$86	\$334	\$1,752	\$1,462	\$5,366	\$9,316	\$5,844	\$17,649		
Kershaw School District	\$935	\$280	\$207	\$235	\$652	\$1,484	\$2,058	\$4,915	\$6,746	\$12,596		
Lancaster School District	\$1,116	\$468	\$152	\$227	\$874	\$2,105	\$1,420	\$5,247	\$6,374	\$12,737		
Laurens School District 55	\$1,268	\$335	\$63	\$70	\$573	\$1,119	\$1,634	\$3,793	\$7,016	\$12,076		
Laurens School District 56	\$2,571	\$379	\$71	\$130	\$555	\$1,416	\$1,673	\$4,223	\$7,174	\$13,968		
Lee School District	\$3,229	\$219	\$38	\$319	\$614	\$1,072	\$1,522	\$3,786	\$7,037	\$14,052		
Lexington School District 1	\$607	\$589	\$136	\$64	\$659	\$1,945	\$2,999	\$6,393	\$6,612	\$13,612		
Lexington School District 2	\$1,280	\$354	\$253	\$220	\$1,018	\$2,855	\$2,138	\$6,838	\$6,704	\$14,822		
Lexington School District 3	\$1,622	\$409	\$177	\$240	\$707	\$1,924	\$3,364	\$6,819	\$6,895	\$15,336		
Lexington School District 4	\$1,606	\$278	\$283	\$330	\$324	\$1,272	\$2,045	\$4,532	\$7,536	\$13,674		
Lexington School District 5	\$913	\$523	\$92	\$50	\$872	\$1,675	\$3,212	\$6,424	\$6,408	\$13,746		
McCormick School District	\$3,093	\$570	\$1	\$1,138	\$1,914	\$2,045	\$3,581	\$9,249	\$5,541	\$17,882		
Marion School District	\$2,311	\$297	\$50	\$43	\$512	\$147	\$1,548	\$2,597	\$6,993	\$11,901		
Marlboro School District	\$2,424	\$209	\$77	\$122	\$590	\$0	\$3,210	\$4,207	\$6,865	\$13,497		
Newberry School District	\$1,385	\$355	\$102	\$366	\$793	\$1,448	\$2,691	\$5,756	\$6,721	\$13,862		
Oconee School District	\$1,075	\$542	\$101	\$146	\$1,668	\$1,830	\$3,139	\$7,427	\$5,840	\$14,341		
Orangeburg School District	\$1,935	\$429	\$68	\$367	\$729	\$1,086	\$3,233	\$5,912	\$6,712	\$14,559		
Pickens School District	\$892	\$541	\$28	\$77	\$951	\$1,905	\$1,312	\$4,814	\$6,366	\$12,073		
Richland School District 1	\$1,653	\$215	\$107	\$134	\$1,119	\$2,617	\$7,864	\$12,056	\$6,410	\$20,119		
Richland School District 2	\$1,015	\$454	\$89	\$100	\$583	\$2,204	\$3,191	\$6,622	\$6,711	\$14,348		
Saluda School District	\$1,497	\$425	\$10	\$250	\$648	\$1,054	\$1,530	\$3,917	\$7,155	\$12,569		
Spartanburg School District 1	\$1,015	\$441	\$46	\$155	\$666	\$1,598	\$1,875	\$4,782	\$6,622	\$12,418		
Spartanburg School District 2	\$883	\$547	\$116	\$207	\$682	\$1,129	\$1,614	\$4,295	\$6,595	\$11,773		
Spartanburg School District 3	\$1,161	\$484	\$20	\$116	\$707	\$1,110	\$3,341	\$5,777	\$6,883	\$13,821		
Spartanburg School District 4	\$1,070	\$500	\$97	\$9	\$645	\$223	\$1,978	\$3,452	\$6,856	\$11,377		
Spartanburg School District 5	\$782	\$513	\$82	\$75	\$1,102	\$952	\$4,100	\$6,825	\$6,113	\$13,719		
Spartanburg School District 6	\$1,079	\$556	\$73	\$104	\$818	\$1,404	\$2,599	\$5,552	\$6,785	\$13,416		
Spartanburg School District 7	\$1,668	\$795	\$163	\$221	\$915	\$2,236	\$4,620	\$8,949	\$6,406	\$17,023		
Sumter School District	\$1,621	\$246	\$26	\$87	\$566	\$998	\$1,343	\$3,265	\$6,953	\$11,839		
Union School District	\$1,365	\$296	\$30	\$239	\$545	\$990	\$1,045	\$3,146	\$6,970	\$11,480		
Williamsburg School District	\$3,048	\$360	\$62	\$197	\$791	\$1,240	\$1,783	\$4,432	\$6,926	\$14,406		
York School District 1	\$1,199	\$472	\$127	\$54	\$584	\$1,612	\$2,405	\$5,254	\$6,993	\$13,446		
York School District 2	\$558	\$482	\$208	\$125	\$1,278	\$1,065	\$5,270	\$8,427	\$5,580	\$14,565		
York School District 3	\$863	\$355	\$135	\$199	\$823	\$1,496	\$2,445	\$5,453	\$6,528	\$12,844		
York School District 4	\$444	\$527	\$377	\$951	\$778	\$3,002	\$2,519	\$8,154	\$6,079	\$14,677		
SC Public Charter School District	\$618	\$277	\$18	\$128	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$424	\$8,915	\$9,957		
Charter Institute at Erskine	\$502	\$96	\$54	\$158	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$308	\$8,986	\$9,795		
South Carolina Total	\$1,169	\$397	\$113	\$196	\$987	\$1,507	\$2,952	\$6,153	\$6,437	\$13,759		

TABLE A9: OPTION B: CURRENT FRAMEWORK WITH EFA CHARTER WEIGHT: REVENUE SUMMARY DETAILED BY SOURCE, 2018-19

			Local Geographic TPS Districts		Statewide Charter Districts		South Carolina	
			Total	Per Pupil	Total	Per Pupil	Total	Per Pupil
Federal			\$859,680,243	\$1,192	\$16,366,293	\$583	\$876,046,536	\$1,169
Local	District Services		\$291,408,999	\$404	\$6,245,959	\$223	\$297,654,958	\$397
	Investments		\$84,183,241	\$117	\$811,183	\$29	\$84,994,424	\$113
	Rentals, Donations & Other		\$143,060,872	\$198	\$3,850,463	\$137	\$146,911,335	\$196
	Taxes & Fees	EFA Required	\$739,096,915	\$1,025			\$739,096,915	\$987
		Debt Service	\$1,128,899,822	\$1,565			\$1,128,899,822	\$1,507
		Optional	\$2,211,890,784	\$3,067			\$2,211,890,784	\$2,952
Total			\$4,598,540,633	\$6,377	\$10,907,605	\$389	\$4,609,448,238	\$6,153
State	Direct General Fund		\$1,092,979,909	\$1,516	\$30,541,482	\$1,089	\$1,123,521,391	\$1,500
	Education Lottery		\$7,241,111	\$10	\$598,183	\$21	\$7,839,294	\$10
	EFA	Formula	\$1,725,511,857	\$2,393	\$93,479,160	\$3,333	\$1,818,991,017	\$2,428
		Additional	\$12,891,715	\$18	\$181,254	\$6	\$13,072,969	\$17
		Charter Add-on Weight (Physical)			\$82,096,455	\$4,752	\$82,096,455	\$110
		Charter Add-on Weight (Virtual)			\$28,144,319	\$2,612	\$28,144,319	\$38
	EIA	Programs	\$480,412,931	\$666	\$12,640,703	\$451	\$493,053,634	\$658
		Repurposed Funds	\$106,113,119	\$147	\$4,127,654	\$147	\$110,240,773	\$147
	Property Tax Reimbursement	Tier 1	\$255,509,824	\$354			\$255,509,824	\$341
		Tier 2	\$109,516,303	\$152			\$109,516,303	\$146
		Tier 3	\$723,050,759	\$1,003			\$723,050,759	\$965
		Other	\$57,328,694	\$79			\$57,328,694	\$77
Total			\$4,570,556,222	\$6,338	\$251,809,209	\$8,977	\$4,822,365,431	\$6,437
Grand Total			\$10,028,777,098	\$13,907	\$279,083,107	\$9,949	\$10,307,860,205	\$13,759

TABLE A10: OPTION C: COMBINED STATE FUNDING WITH EFA CHARTER WEIGHT: REVENUE SUMMARY DETAILED BY SOURCE, 2018-19

			Geographic TPS Districts		Charter Districts		South Carolina	
7357.638833			Total	Per Pupil	Total	Per Pupil	Total	Per Pupil
Federal			\$859,680,243	\$1,192	\$16,366,293	\$583	\$876,046,536	\$1,169
Local	District Services		\$291,408,999	\$404	\$6,245,959	\$223	\$297,654,958	\$397
	Investments		\$84,183,241	\$117	\$811,183	\$29	\$84,994,424	\$113
	Rentals, Donations & Other		\$143,060,872	\$198	\$3,850,463	\$137	\$146,911,335	\$196
	Taxes & Fees	Required Match	\$739,096,915	\$1,025			\$739,096,915	\$987
		Debt Service	\$1,128,899,822	\$1,565			\$1,128,899,822	\$1,507
		Optional	\$2,211,890,784	\$3,067			\$2,211,890,784	\$2,952
Total			\$4,598,540,633	\$6,377	\$10,907,605	\$389	\$4,609,448,238	\$6,153
State	Funding Formula		\$4,571,543,740	\$6,339	\$201,503,040	\$7,184	\$4,773,046,780	\$6,371
	Charter Add-on Weight (Physical)				\$44,194,106	\$2,558	\$44,194,106	
	Charter Add-on Weight (Virtual)				\$5,124,545	\$476	\$5,124,545	
Total			\$4,571,543,740	\$6,339	\$250,821,691	\$8,942	\$4,822,365,431	\$6,437
Grand Total			\$10,029,764,616	\$13,909	\$278,095,589	\$9,914	\$10,307,860,205	\$13,759

1. RFA Projections for ADM and WPU levels in 2021-22. See “ADM and WPU Historical Analysis - Regular and Charter Districts for web FY 22.” SC Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Office. 1/11/2021 Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/student-count-projections>
2. RFA WPU projections for 2022-23 through 2023-24. See “Three-Year General Fund Financial Outlook FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances>
3. RFA Base Student Cost projections through 2023-24. See “ADM and WPU Historical Analysis - Regular and Charter Districts for web FY 22.” SC Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Office. 1/11/2021 Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/student-count-projections>
4. EIA growth rate based on RFA EIA revenue estimates 2021-22 to 2023-24. See “South Carolina Long Range General Fund Revenue Forecast FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances/general-fund-forecast>
5. RFA Property Tax Reimbursement estimates. See “Trust Fund for Property Tax Relief - Table,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/local-government/property-tax/reimb> and “Homestead Exemption Fund (Tier III) - Table,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/local-government/property-tax/reimb>
6. RFA Education Lottery projections through 2023-24. See “South Carolina Long Range General Fund Revenue Forecast FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances/general-fund-forecast>
7. Based on State Aid to Classroom projections. See “2019-2020 Bill H.5201” South Carolina General Assembly. Online: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess123_2019-2020/appropriations2020/hpp1b.htm and “Three-Year General Fund Financial Outlook FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances>
8. BSC increases use CPI figures for 2018-19 to 2020-12 and use RFA assumed inflation rate for 2021-22 to 2023-24. See “Three-Year General Fund Financial Outlook FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24,” SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Online: <https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/state-finances>
9. Calculated using 10-year annual average growth (2.59%) in state assessed property value.

TABLE A11: OPTION D: EFA 2.0: REVENUE SUMMARY DETAILED BY SOURCE, 2018-19

			Local Geographic Districts		Statewide Charter Districts		South Carolina	
			Total	Per Pupil	Total	Per Pupil	Total	Per Pupil
Federal			\$859,680,243	\$1,192	\$16,366,293	\$583	\$876,046,536	\$1,169
Local	District Services		\$291,408,999	\$404	\$6,245,959	\$223	\$297,654,958	\$397
	Investments		\$84,183,241	\$117	\$811,183	\$29	\$84,994,424	\$113
	Rentals, Donations & Other		\$143,060,872	\$198	\$3,850,463	\$137	\$146,911,335	\$196
	Taxes & Fees	Required Match	\$739,096,915	\$1,025			\$739,096,915	\$987
		Debt Service	\$1,128,899,822	\$1,565			\$1,128,899,822	\$1,507
		Optional	\$2,211,890,784	\$3,067			\$2,211,890,784	\$2,952
Total			\$4,598,540,633	\$6,377	\$10,907,605	\$389	\$4,609,448,238	\$6,153
State	Funding Formula		\$4,571,703,994	\$6,340	\$250,661,437	\$8,936	\$4,822,365,431	\$6,437
Grand Total			\$10,029,924,870	\$13,909	\$277,935,335	\$9,908	\$10,307,860,205	\$13,759

TABLE A12: INDEX OF TAXPAYING ABILITY, MILLAGE RATES, ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE, 2016 – 2020

	Assessed Property Value			Index of Taxpaying Ability				School Operating Mills			School Debt Mills		
School District	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Abbeville School District	\$66,266,430	\$66,292,181	\$67,477,829	0.0027	0.0027	0.0026	0.0026	0.1888	0.1931	0.1934	0.0325	0.0230	0.0320
Alken School District	\$733,456,879	\$747,891,946	\$787,206,579	0.0295	0.0293	0.0292	0.0297	0.1373	0.1373	0.1373	0.0337	0.0322	0.0307
Allendale School District	\$23,528,564	\$23,812,022	\$25,355,566	0.0011	0.0011	0.0011	0.0011	0.2560	0.2560	0.2560	0.0320	0.0320	0.0320
Anderson District 1	\$229,756,091	\$238,360,727	\$264,577,791	0.0081	0.0082	0.0082	0.0088	0.1881	0.1889	0.1889	0.0341	0.0431	0.0431
Anderson District 2	\$66,743,846	\$66,743,369	\$67,928,449	0.0026	0.0026	0.0025	0.0025	0.2227	0.2235	0.2165	0.0301	0.0271	0.0291
Anderson District 3	\$47,332,102	\$49,673,454	\$49,421,172	0.0019	0.0019	0.0020	0.0019	0.1901	0.1947	0.1947	0.0451	0.0451	0.0451
Anderson District 4	\$126,465,682	\$129,706,547	\$131,244,759	0.0046	0.0046	0.0045	0.0044	0.1896	0.1955	0.1955	0.0381	0.0371	0.0371
Anderson District 5	\$370,934,472	\$371,281,193	\$377,679,699	0.0140	0.0142	0.0137	0.0134	0.2012	0.2077	0.2077	0.0211	0.0191	0.0191
Bamberg District 1	\$18,622,130	\$18,699,800	\$18,431,293	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.2858	0.2858	0.2876	0.1090	0.1090	0.1090
Bamberg District 2	\$13,303,460	\$13,394,020	\$13,043,706	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.2816	0.2816	0.2816	0.1150	0.1150	0.0105
Barnwell District 19	\$10,288,585	\$10,387,031	\$10,906,563	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.1718	0.1718	0.1718	0.0650	0.0650	0.0650
Barnwell District 29	\$15,064,355	\$14,270,596	\$14,981,647	0.0007	0.0007	0.0006	0.0006	0.1928	0.1975	0.1975	0.0320	0.0320	0.0320
Barnwell District 45	\$33,297,325	\$34,820,208	\$35,761,391	0.0015	0.0015	0.0015	0.0015	0.1900	0.1940	0.1970	0.0380	0.0380	0.0390
Beaufort School District	\$1,861,075,272	\$1,937,545,452	\$2,029,313,002	0.0762	0.0743	0.0745	0.0729	0.1046	0.1140	0.1140	0.0317	0.0317	0.0363
Berkeley School District	\$1,074,987,856	\$1,148,098,705	\$1,308,398,312	0.0386	0.0407	0.0421	0.0450	0.1638	0.1518	0.1518	0.0764	0.0734	0.0734
Calhoun School District	\$82,055,493	\$83,439,150	\$82,669,364	0.0037	0.0035	0.0035	0.0033	0.1355	0.1389	0.1389	0.0200	0.0210	0.0210
Charleston School District	\$3,854,029,879	\$3,970,532,943	\$4,242,096,649	0.1360	0.1425	0.1406	0.1427	0.1232	0.1267	0.1186	0.0280	0.0280	0.0280
Cherokee School District	\$203,567,686	\$214,633,563	\$215,664,143	0.0092	0.0091	0.0093	0.0089	0.1705	0.1765	0.1795	0.0298	0.0298	0.0300
Chester School District	\$115,499,137	\$119,162,051	\$116,574,119	0.0049	0.0049	0.0050	0.0046	0.2017	0.2062	0.2099	0.0480	0.0480	0.0480
Chesterfield School District	\$130,283,107	\$132,523,936	\$132,926,599	0.0058	0.0056	0.0056	0.0054	0.1784	0.1804	0.1804	0.0348	0.0348	0.0348
Clarendon District 1	\$33,283,535	\$34,116,003	\$34,715,940	0.0014	0.0013	0.0013	0.0013	0.1392	0.1426	0.1452	0.0479	0.0461	0.0218
Clarendon District 2	\$55,631,822	\$56,502,662	\$57,855,036	0.0024	0.0023	0.0023	0.0023	0.1376	0.1402	0.1402	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Clarendon District 3	\$10,000,173	\$10,244,949	\$10,727,624	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.2995	0.3014	0.3014	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Colleton School District	\$178,169,895	\$181,976,668	\$186,665,483	0.0081	0.0080	0.0080	0.0076	0.1134	0.1164	0.1164	0.0545	0.0545	0.0545
Darlington School District	\$259,412,445	\$281,483,152	\$277,088,550	0.0112	0.0112	0.0118	0.0111	0.1799	0.1802	0.1802	0.0410	0.0420	0.0423
Dillon District 3	\$18,759,390	\$18,228,286	\$18,390,264	0.0009	0.0009	0.0008	0.0008	0.1807	0.1847	0.1877	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085
Dillon Districts 4	\$56,289,078	\$57,190,248	\$57,406,747	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0025	0.1807	0.1847	0.1877	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085
Dorchester District 2	\$530,261,316	\$554,120,775	\$619,959,705	0.0202	0.0202	0.0199	0.0201	0.1829	0.1928	0.1928	0.0530	0.0530	0.0585
Dorchester District 4	\$68,683,289	\$71,038,275	\$78,241,645	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030	0.0031	0.2243	0.2192	0.2192	0.0280	0.0280	0.0280
Edgefield School District	\$82,692,329	\$83,043,048	\$85,077,818	0.0033	0.0032	0.0031	0.0031	0.2133	0.2133	0.2133	0.0245	0.0560	0.0560
Fairfield School District	\$159,670,616	\$174,414,024	\$161,622,160	0.0064	0.0068	0.0073	0.0065	0.2031	0.2031	0.2031	0.0206	0.0206	0.0206
Florence District 1	\$429,538,593	\$431,522,956	\$446,533,438	0.0173	0.0170	0.0167	0.0165	0.2017	0.2066	0.2066	0.0315	0.0312	0.0320
Florence District 2	\$14,497,982	\$14,741,298	\$14,921,977	0.0007	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.2237	0.2291	0.2291	0.0464	0.0448	0.0428
Florence District 3	\$53,285,687	\$53,954,418	\$54,798,103	0.0025	0.0024	0.0024	0.0023	0.2060	0.2078	0.2115	0.0127	0.0136	0.0134
Florence District 4	\$25,356,217	\$25,110,748	\$25,153,482	0.0011	0.0012	0.0011	0.0010	0.1379	0.1412	0.1412	0.0284	0.0000	0.0000
Florence District 5	\$13,028,396	\$13,048,090	\$13,024,264	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0007	0.2509	0.2541	0.2587	0.0228	0.0260	0.0285
Georgetown School District	\$582,660,050	\$586,847,297	\$595,647,283	0.0245	0.0238	0.0231	0.0222	0.1097	0.1156	0.1156	0.0285	0.0285	0.0285
Greenville School District	\$2,510,438,822	\$2,640,448,468	\$2,757,373,346	0.0938	0.0938	0.0948	0.0936	0.1448	0.1508	0.1508	0.0521	0.0524	0.0521
Greenwood District 50	\$201,246,594	\$203,565,006	\$207,042,159	0.0089	0.0088	0.0087	0.0086	0.1802	0.1802	0.1802	0.0739	0.0739	0.0739
Greenwood District 51	\$14,268,671	\$14,037,147	\$14,817,559	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.2317	0.2317	0.2317	0.0140	0.0140	0.0098
Greenwood District 52	\$60,233,969	\$59,898,794	\$62,555,420	0.0026	0.0029	0.0028	0.0028	0.1792	0.1792	0.1792	0.0585	0.0585	0.0585
Hampton District 1	\$36,676,165	\$37,916,876	\$38,875,779	0.0017	0.0017	0.0017	0.0017	0.1980	0.1980	0.1980	0.0440	0.0420	0.0400
Hampton District 2	\$14,878,833	\$16,105,929	\$17,159,623	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.2990	0.2990	0.2990	0.0350	0.0330	0.0300
Hampton District 3	\$14,878,833	\$16,105,929	\$17,159,623	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.2990	0.2990	0.2990	0.0350	0.0330	0.0300
Hampton District 4	\$14,878,833	\$16,105,929	\$17,159,623	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.2990	0.2990	0.2990	0.0350	0.0330	0.0300
Hampton District 5	\$14,878,833	\$16,105,929	\$17,159,623	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.2990	0.2990	0.2990	0.0350	0.0330	0.0300
Jasper School District	\$140,632,618	\$151,288,837	\$161,729,413	0.0054	0.0053	0.0055	0.0056	0.1660	0.0250	0.1660	0.0250	0.0250	0.0250
Kershaw School District	\$243,239,816	\$246,488,966	\$253,972,205	0.0099	0.0099	0.0097	0.0097	0.1629	0.1629	0.1629	0.0642	0.0064	0.0064
Lancaster School District	\$400,492,314	\$416,012,414	\$439,405,283	0.0127	0.0131	0.0129	0.0128	0.1545	0.1595	0.1464	0.0697	0.0699	0.0699
Laurens District 55	\$111,648,010	\$110,815,465	\$116,249,812	0.0048	0.0049	0.0047	0.0048	0.1675	0.1675	0.1675	0.0540	0.0570	0.0570
Laurens District 56	\$56,243,623	\$59,359,600	\$63,107,019	0.0025	0.0025	0.0026	0.0026	0.1675	0.1675	0.1675	0.0750	0.0800	0.0800
Lee School District	\$37,853,735	\$38,154,358	\$39,396,576	0.0019	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.1419	0.1453	0.1433	0.0490	0.0490	0.0490
Lexington District 1	\$592,967,744	\$614,906,217	\$635,940,999	0.0201	0.0197	0.0196	0.0193	0.3224	0.3224	0.3089	0.0853	0.0900	0.0900
Lexington District 2	\$310,003,890	\$315,588,649	\$321,377,009	0.0136	0.0135	0.0134	0.0131	0.1465	0.1507	0.1507	0.0795	0.0795	0.0795
Lexington District 3	\$48,073,616	\$49,201,070	\$50,562,833	0.0019	0.0019	0.0019	0.0018	0.2729	0.2729	0.2637	0.0776	0.0846	0.0769
Lexington District 4	\$35,473,485	\$36,317,524	\$38,489,104	0.0015	0.0015	0.0015	0.0015	0.3155	0.3197	0.3197	0.1120	0.1120	0.1120
Lexington District 5	\$516,393,420	\$529,256,204	\$553,517,452	0.0190	0.0187	0.0186	0.0183	0.2569	0.2569	0.2461	0.0548	0.0754	0.0754
McCormick School District	\$45,395,860	\$45,749,000	\$46,302,071	0.0018	0.0018	0.0017	0.0016	0.1358	0.1391	0.1510	0.0300	0.0369	0.0270
Marion School District	\$77,524,958	\$77,818,954	\$78,554,809	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	0.0035	0.1680	0.1680	0.1680	0.0080	0.0140	0.0080
Marlboro School District	\$73,348,800	\$77,997,956	\$75,882,507	0.0033	0.0033	0.0034</							

Sources: (1) "South Carolina Property Tax Rates by County, 2016 to 2020." South Carolina Association of Counties. Online: <https://www.sccounties.org/research-information/property-tax-rates> (2) School District Detailed Index of Taxpaying Ability dataset, Tax Years 2016 - 2020. South Carolina Department of Revenue. Online: <https://dor.sc.gov/lgs/reports-school-index>

TABLE A13: REVISIONS TO STATEMENT OF REVENUES, SC PUBLIC CHARTER DISTRICT, 2018-19

Revenue Code	Revenue Item	FY 2018-19 Statement of Revenues (1)	RFA Amended (2)	Report Amended (3)
1210	Ad Valorem Taxes-Including Delinquent (Dependent)	442,035	0	0
1280	Revenue in Lieu of Taxes (Independent and Dependent)	30,577	0	0
1310	Tuition from Patrons for Regular Day School	308,272	417,959	417,959
1320	Tuition from Other LEAs for Regular Day School	184,465	0	0
1350	Tuition from Patrons for Summer School	21,392	10,038	10,038
1510	Interest on Investments	485,718	360,796	360,796
1520	Dividends on Investments	9,424	0	0
1530	Gain or Loss on Sale of Investments	36,526	0	0
1610	Lunch Sales to Pupils	852,882	743,158	743,158
1630	Special Sales to Pupils	164,286	46,570	46,570
1640	Lunch Sales to Adults	11,112	0	0
1710	Admissions	35,874	11,269	11,269
1720	Bookstore Sales	44,337	72,321	72,321
1730	Pupil Organization Membership Dues and Fees	56,486	42,202	42,202
1740	Student Fees	1,079,781	302,377	302,377
1790	Other Pupil Activity Income	3,486,628	3,057,173	3,057,173
1910	Rentals	320,077	304,718	304,718
1920	Contributions and Donations From Private Sources	3,815,104	1,535,084	1,535,084
1930	Special Needs Transportation - Medicaid	1,368,183	669,858	669,858
1931	Therapy Adjustment - Medicaid	173,797	64,791	64,791
1990	Miscellaneous Local Revenue		101,390	101,390
1993	Receipt of Insurance Proceeds	276,528	0	0
1999	Revenue from other Local Sources	984,784	577,534	577,534
2100	Payments from Other Governmental Units	264,926	123,966	123,966
2200	Payments from Public Charter Schools	2,990,375	2,935,731	2,935,731
3105	Technology Technical Assistance (Carryover Only)	4,950	0	0
3118	EEDA Career Specialists	1,178,825	612,989	612,989
3127	Student Health and Fitness - PE Teachers	258,659	121,760	121,760
3135	Reading Coaches	1,758,817	897,487	897,487
3136	Student Health and Fitness - Nurses	1,124,390	581,934	581,934
3155	DSS SNAP & E&T Program	45,814	0	0
3156	Adult Education	29,504	0	0
3180	Fringe Benefits Employer Contributions (No Carryover Provision)	39,978,531	20,451,278	20,451,278
3181	Retiree Insurance (No Carryover Provision)	1,858,940	976,985	976,985
3187	Teacher Supplies (No Carryover Provision)	618,200	321,750	321,750
3193	Education License Plates	1,180	878	878
3199	Other Restricted State Grants	11,239	294	294
3311	Kindergarten	2,398,274	2,325,339	2,769,905 *
3312	Primary	7,131,453	6,948,048	7,869,821 *
3313	Elementary	12,626,070	11,380,745	15,992,690 *
3314	High School	10,696,343	3,989,275	10,424,774 *
3315	Trainable Mentally Handicapped	3,302,892	14,803	14,803 *
3316	Speech Handicapped (Part-time)	2,620,103	2,076,752	2,635,069 *
3317	Homebound	11,754	11,583	13,071 *
3321	Emotionally Handicapped	156,593	53,230	168,811 *
3322	Educable Mentally Handicapped	180,178	13,866	43,196 *
3323	Learning Disabilities	5,149,464	2,951,672	5,582,501 *
3324	Hearing Handicapped	176,328	107,356	178,565 *
3325	Visually Handicapped	88,196	95,477	94,583 *
3326	Orthopedically Handicapped	66,106	14,651	66,105 *
3327	Vocational (Grades 9 - 12)	6,903,631	1,771,127	8,149,051 *
3331	Autism	1,423,027	763,118	1,436,185 *
3332	High Achieving Students	863,556	523,155	958,691 *
3334	Limited English Proficiency	335,215	311,124	358,208 *
3350	Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF)	40,896	0	0
3351	Academic Assistance	2,096,752	1,304,343	2,264,594 *
3352	Pupils in Poverty	4,721,801	3,004,434	4,927,675 *
3353	Dual Credit Enrollment	349,895	93,947	353,781 *
3375	Education Foundation Supplement	65,671	0	0
3392	NBC Excess EFA Formula	144,188	80,322	80,322
3399	Other EFA Programs	64,259,017	0	0

Revenue Code	Revenue Item	FY 2018-19 Statement of Revenues (1)	RFA Amended (2)	Report Amended (3)
3507	Aid To Districts Technology	547,542	295,669	295,669
3509	Arts in Education	26,556	12,468	12,468
3511	Professional Development	25,277	0	0
3518	Adoption List of Formative Assessment	107,179	58,653	58,653
3519	Grade 10 Assessments	152,804	115,808	115,808
3526	Refurbishment of Science Kits	117,359	71,189	71,189
3529	Career and Technology Education	440,714	160,123	160,123
3532	National Board Salary Supplement	682,596	358,199	358,199
3533	Teacher of the Year Awards (No Carryover Provision)	3,768	1,077	1,077
3538	Students at Risk of School Failure	3,064,737	1,597,190	1,597,190
3540	Early Childhood Program (4K Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children)	1,098,564	450,215	450,215
3550	Teacher Salary Increase (No Carryover Provision)	6,038,522	3,060,320	3,060,320
3555	Teacher Salary Fringe	1,235,528	627,794	627,794
3557	Summer Reading Program	184,809	98,891	98,891
3558	Reading (Carryover)	6,674	0	0
3571	CSI And Priority Schools	1,249,696	1,000,000	1,000,000
3577	Teacher Supplies (No Carryover Provision)	15,172	0	0
3583	Charter School Payments	156,265,423	80,227,926	80,227,895
3587	Maintenance of State Financial Support (MES) Tier I	4,865	0	0
3594	EEDA Supplemental Programs	277	0	0
3595	EEDA - Supplies and Materials	62,233	31,689	31,689
3597	Aid to Districts	1,068,645	554,284	554,284
3599	Other EIA	46,562	29,784	29,784
3670	School Safety-Facility and Infrastructure Safety Upgrades	489,296	356,431	356,431
3810	Reimbursement for Local Residential Property Tax Relief	75,510	0	0
3820	Homestead Exemption (Tier 2)	26,276	0	0
3825	Reimbursement for Property Tax Relief (Tier 3)	139,021	0	0
3830	Merchant's Inventory Tax	3,409	0	0
3840	Manufacturer's Depreciation Reimbursement	12,828	0	0
3890	Other State Property Tax Revenues (Includes Motor Carrier Vehicle Tax)	2,777	0	0
3993	PEBA on-Behalf	42,295	17,177	17,177
3994	PEBA Nonemployer Contributions	234,781	0	0
3999	Revenue from Other State Sources	271,372	0	0
4210	Perkins Aid, Title I - Career and Technology Education - Basic Grants to States	316,783	160,407	160,407
4310	Title I, Basic State Grant Programs (Carryover Provision)	8,993,691	4,571,962	4,571,962
4314	School Improvement Grants	1,069,358	534,679	534,679
4320	Charter School (Planning and Implementation) Grant	1,788,252	1,143,012	1,143,012
4341	Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students, Title III	21,376	17,748	17,748
4342	Title II Teacher Advancement Program (TAP)	4,100	0	0
4351	Supporting Effective Instruction	477,937	207,395	207,395
4353	Teacher Incentive Fund 4 (Carryover Only)	8,695	0	0
4510	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	5,475,609	2,876,015	2,876,015
4520	Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities (IDEA)	165,487	85,345	85,345
4810	School Lunch and After School Snacks Program, and Special Milk Program (Carryover Provision)	831,953	1,862,887	1,862,887
4830	School Breakfast Program (Carryover Provision)	226,607	205,845	205,845
4870	School Food Service (Equipment)	174,574	0	0
4880	Summer Feeding Programs (SFSP)	13,662	91,372	91,372
4924	21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (Title IV, 21st Century Schools)	529,041	205,280	205,280
4997	Title IV - SSAE	17,927	8,213	8,213
4999	Revenue from Other Federal Sources	1,392,943	194,618	194,618
5110	Premium on Bonds Sold	1,094,902	1,067,529	1,067,529
5210	Transfer from General Fund (Exclude Indirect Costs)	8,406,237	270,194	270,194
5220	Transfer from Special Revenue Fund (Exclude Indirect Costs)	165,206	0	0
5230	Transfer from Special Revenue EIA Fund	63,387,504	7,009,570	7,009,570
5240	Transfer from Debt Service Fund	5,114,685	0	0
5400	Proceeds from Long-Term Notes	25,092,631	42,840,772	42,840,772
5999	Other Financing Sources	450,724	566,657	566,657

Column 1: "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education.

Column 2: "Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Appendix A-7. The FY 2018-19 Public Charter School District Statement of Revenues provided to the

Department of Education is restated to align with past reporting procedures.

Column 3: Updated to align with calculated values of EFA and EIA allocations for FY2018-19, in conjunction with “Audited Financial Statements And Supplementary Information For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019.” South Carolina Public Charter School District. Online: <http://www.sccharter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Audit-2019.pdf>

* Updated to match “Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 Other Entities 135-day Financial Requirements - Final,” SC Department of Education. Online: <https://ed.sc.gov/finance/financial-services/budget-planning-for-upcoming-fiscal-year/fy-18-19/fiscal-year-2018-2019-other-entities-135-day-financial-requirements-final/>

** Updated to the FY18-19 calculated amount for virtual and physical students based on EIA supplements (\$1900 and \$3600) and 135 Day WPUs.

TABLE A14: REVISIONS TO STATEMENT OF REVENUES, CHARTER INSTITUTE AT ERSKINE DISTRICT, 2018-19

Revenue Code	Revenue Item	FY 2018-19 Statement of Revenues (1)	RFA Amended (2)	Report Amended (3)
3118	EEDA Career Specialists	754,448	377,224	377,224
3127	Student Health and Fitness - PE Teachers	21,073	14,454	14,454
3135	Reading Coaches	744,656	400,693	400,693
3136	Student Health and Fitness - Nurses	274,740	174,580	174,580
3180	Fringe Benefits Employer Contributions (No Carryover Provision)	18,049,779	9,110,925	9,110,925
3181	Retiree Insurance (No Carryover Provision)	990,052	495,026	495,026
3187	Teacher Supplies (No Carryover Provision)	217,800	112,750	112,750
3193	Education License Plates	0	364	364
3299	Other Unrestricted State Grants	0	294	294
3311	Kindergarten	929,341	1,038,233	1,038,233
3312	Primary	2,494,444	2,702,587	2,702,587
3313	Elementary	5,722,085	5,814,502	5,814,502
3314	High School	1,762,559	1,638,336	1,638,336
3316	Speech Handicapped (Part-time)	832,302	1,012,384	1,012,384
3317	Homebound	6,161	7,033	7,033
3321	Emotionally Handicapped	162,067	162,069	162,069
3322	Educable Mentally Handicapped	105,288	105,287	105,287
3323	Learning Disabilities	2,317,047	2,355,920	2,355,920
3327	Vocational (Grades 9 - 12)	9,384,477	9,384,476	9,384,476
3331	Autism	859,359	859,361	859,361
3332	High Achieving Students	57,832	62,305	62,305
3334	Limited English Proficiency	153,329	153,826	153,826
3351	Academic Assistance	1,023,127	62,305	1,031,492 *
3352	Pupils in Poverty	2,452,187	2,492,151	2,492,151
3353	Dual Credit Enrollment	189,298	189,297	189,297
3392	NBC Excess EFA Formula	66,937	36,446	36,446
3399	Other EFA Programs *	29,180,815	29,180,810	0 **
3507	Aid To Districts Technology	236,463	119,764	119,764
3518	Adoption List of Formative Assessment	69,623	36,553	36,553
3519	Grade 10 Assessments	35,265	29,838	29,838
3526	Refurbishment of Science Kits	26,608	16,698	16,698
3528	Industry Certifications/Credentials	0	10,000	10,000
3529	Career and Technology Education	200,101	295,889	295,889
3532	National Board Salary Supplement	440,429	229,517	229,517
3533	Teacher of the Year Awards (No Carryover Provision)	3,231	1,077	1,077
3538	Students at Risk of School Failure	1,684,517	859,829	859,829
3540	Early Childhood Program (4K Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children)	0	162,143	162,143
3550	Teacher Salary Increase (No Carryover Provision)	2,202,257	1,118,705	1,118,705
3555	Teacher Salary Fringe	451,772	229,491	229,491
3557	Summer Reading Program	93,259	54,875	54,875
3558	Reading (Carryover)	888,216	0	0
3571	CSI And Priority Schools	943,916	1,225,000	1,225,000
3583	Charter School Payments	58,042,977	30,012,883	30,012,879 ***
3595	EEDA - Supplies and Materials	34,505	15,837	15,837
3597	Aid to Districts	480,765	256,853	256,853
3599	Other EIA	57,893	35,266	35,266
3670	School Safety-Facility and Infrastructure Safety Upgrades	385,793	235,633	235,633
3994	PEBA Non employer Contributions	97,071	0	0
3999	Revenue from Other State Sources	-7,082	0	0
4210	Perkins Aid, Title I - Career and Technology Education - Basic Grants to States	65,236	32,618	32,618
4310	Title I, Basic State Grant Programs (Carryover Provision)	3,645,398	1,948,821	1,948,821
4351	Supporting Effective Instruction	137,074	83,369	83,369
4510	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	1,880,420	1,016,949	1,016,949

Column 1: "Statement of Revenues, FY2018-19," Office of Finance, SC Department of Education.

Column 2: "Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District for 2020-21 Excluding Bond Revenue," SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Appendix A-6. The Charter Institute at Erskine's FY 2018-19 Statement of Revenues provided to the Department of Education has been revised.

Column 3: Updated to align with calculated values of EFA and EIA allocations for FY2018-19, in conjunction with “Audited Financial Statements And Supplementary Information For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019.” Charter Institute at Erskine. Online: <https://erskinecharters.org/finance/>

* Updated to match “Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 Other Entities 135-day Financial Requirements - Final,” SC Department of Education. Online: <https://ed.sc.gov/finance/financial-services/budget-planning-for-upcoming-fiscal-year/fy-18-19/fiscal-year-2018-2019-other-entities-135-day-financial-requirements-final/>

**Per RFA: Based upon information from the Charter Institute at Erskine, the EFA total is listed in revenue code 3399, while the EFA breakdown is listed in revenue codes 3311 to 3353.

*** Updated to the FY18-19 calculated amount for virtual and physical students based on EIA supplements (\$1900 and \$3600) and 135 Day WPU.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Yilan Shen and Alexander Berger, "Charter School Finance," National Conference of State Legislatures, February 2011, p.1.
- 2 Education Commission of the States, "Charter School Policies," January 2020. <https://reports.ecs.org/comparisons/charter-school-policies-01>
- 3 National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, Table 216.20, September 2020.
- 4 Zimmer, Ron, Richard Buddin, Sarah Ausmus Smith, Danielle Duffy. "Nearly Three Decades Into the Charter School Movement, What Has Research Told Us About Charter Schools?" *EdWorking-Paper: 19-156, Annenberg Institute at Brown University* (November 2019).
- 5 Zimmer, 2019, p.4.
- 6 https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess111_1995-1996/bills/1243.htm
<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c040.php>
- 7 South Carolina Department of Education, "45 Day District Headcount by Gender, Ethnicity and Pupils in Poverty, 2020-21."
- 8 This number could be tied to parents turning to virtual providers who had pre-COVID experience in delivering virtual education. South Carolina Department of Education, "45 Day and 135 Day Membership Counts Reports, 2018-19 to 2020-21." <https://ed.sc.gov/finance/financial-services/student-data/membership-counts/> T
- 9 National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, "Charter School Datasets: State." <https://data.publiccharters.org/state/>
- 10 National Center for Education Statistics, "Public Charter School Enrollment," May, 2021 edition.
- 11 South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, "Average Daily Membership and Weighted Pupil Unit Student Counts, Charter School Districts," accessed July 6, 2021.
- 12 Projections provided by SCPCDS, Erskine.
- 13 South Carolina Legislative Audit Council, "Review of South Carolina Public Charter School District," June 2021, p. 5.
- 14 Zimmer, 2019.
- 15 The Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina, the Colorado League of Charter Schools, and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools "An Analysis of the Charter School Facility Landscape in South Carolina," November, 2013.
- 16 Rebecca Gunnlaugsson, "Funding Our Children for Success: A Strategy for Sustainable and Equitable K-12 Finance Reform in South Carolina" (Columbia, SC: Palmetto Promise Institute, December 2017); Matthew Joseph "Fairness & Opportunity: Bringing Student-centered Education Funding to South Carolina Students (Columbia, SC: Palmetto Promise Institute, March 2019).
- 17 Derek W. Black, "Charter Schools, Vouchers, and the Public Good," 48 Wake Forest L. Rev. 445 (2013).
- 18 Karen Mills, "Minnesota's New Twist on Education: Public Schools Run by Parents, Teachers," *Sumter Daily Item*, October 14, 1992, p.3.
- 19 Zimmer, Ron, Richard Buddin, Sarah Ausmus Smith, Danielle Duffy. "Nearly Three Decades

Into the Charter School Movement, What Has Research Told Us About Charter Schools?" *EdWorking-Paper: 19-156, Annenberg Institute at Brown University* (November 2019) is highly recommended.

20 "Hilton Head Group Proposes State's First Charter School," Associated Press in *The State*, November 19, 1994, p. B5.

21 Lee Bandy, "High Tech and High Hopes: Upbeat Beasley Envisions Private, Public Solutions," *The State*, January 25, 1996, p. A1.

22 "Charter Schools Worth Try, If Concerns are Met," Editorial, *The State*, February 4, 1996, p. D2.

23 Carol Farrington, "Hope Rides on Charter School Bill," *The State*, May 1, 1996, p. A1.

24 335 S.C. 230, 516 S.E.2d 655 (1999).

25 "Nielsen Frustrated with Law. Charter School Plan Spawns Few Openings," The Associated Press, *The State*, April 21, 1998, p. B3.

26 The South Carolina statute, except for one instance, refers to *sponsors* of charter schools. The term *authorizer* is also common and is used in that one case in state statute.

27 Wayne Brazell, "Understanding Public Charter Schools in South Carolina: A Primer on Public Charter Schools in South Carolina Including Academic, Financial, and Legal Summaries for Administrators, Teachers, School Board Members and Parents," *Palmetto Administrator*, Fall 2013, p.24.

28 Some news outlets have reported that Coastal Carolina University will become a charter authorizer in the near future, but as of this writing, Coastal has not applied to become an authorizer.

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- 58 Miller, Lawrence J, “The Past and Future Funding of Charter Schools in South Carolina.” Prepared for the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, June 2020.
- 59 CREDO, South Carolina, 2019.
- 60 College and Career Readiness benchmarks are not included in this study, but should be explored as that benchmark is a better indicator of outcomes than graduation rate.
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- 62 These were the assessments selected by both the CREDO study and the Miller study.
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- 64 S.445, 2017-2018 General Assembly. CREDO released a study in 2017 of effectiveness and academic growth of both EMOs and CMOs in 24 states, and two cities (Washington, DC and New York). The Stanford-sponsored study gave the clear edge in academic gains to the non-profit CMOs.
- 65 TPS have become more and more segregated over time due to zip code assignment. See Alvin Chang, “We Can Draw School Zones to Make Classrooms Less Segregated,” VOX, August 27, 2018.
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four-year-old charter students with disabilities began: “From the *EIA funds appropriated* in and carried forward from Act 97 of 2017...” The \$9 million in charter assistance passed in 2021 as Act 8 came from the 2018-2019 Contingency Reserve Fund. This is not a permanent solution to a booming public school sector.

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83 “Funding Out Children for Success: A Strategy for Sustainable and Equitable K-12 Finance Reform in South Carolina,” Acuitas Economics for Palmetto Promise Institute, November 2017. Online: https://acuitasecon.com/econlab/education/k12_education_finance_reform_in_south_carolina/

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- 98 These calculations across multiple funding mandates include Education Finance Act (EFA) inflation factors, Southeast teacher salary supplements, Tiers 1, 2, and 3 property tax reimbursements, EIA and Act 388 revenues/shortfalls, imputed assessed value of FILOT agreements, Index of Taxpaying Ability, county millage increase limitations, among others.
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A DIRECTORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS 2021-22

Erskine=Charter Institute at Erskine
SCPCSD=SC Public Charter School District
TPS District=Traditional Public School District

Name	Grades	Sponsor	City	Website
Academy for Teaching and Learning	K-8	TPS District	Chester	http://www.atlchester.com/
Academy of Hope	PK-8	TPS District	Conway	http://www.theacademyofhope.org
Allegro Charter School of Music	6-12	TPS District	North Charleston	https://www.ccsdschools.com/allegro
Anderson Five Charter School	9-12	TPS District	Anderson	https://www.anderson5.net/Domain/4026
Belton Preparatory	K-4	Erskine	Belton	http://beltonprep.us/
Bettis Preparatory Leadership Academy	K-7	SCPCSD	Trenton	https://www.bettisprep.org/
Brashier Middle College	9-12	Erskine	Simpsonville	http://www.brashiermiddlecollege.org
Bridges Preparatory Academy	K-12	SCPCSD	Beaufort	http://bridgesprep.org
Bridgewater Academy Charter	K-8	TPS District	Myrtle Beach	http://www.bridgewateracademy.org
Butler Academy	K-5	SCPCSD	Hartsville	https://www.butleracademy.us/
Calhoun Falls Charter School	6-12	Erskine	Calhoun Falls	http://www.cfpcs.org
Cape Romain Environmental Education Charter School	PK-8	SCPCSD	McClellanville	http://www.creecs.org
Carolina School for Inquiry	PK-6	TPS District	Columbia, South Carolina	http://carolinaschoolforinquiry.org
Carolina Voyager Charter School	K-8	TPS District	Charleston	http://www.carolinavoyager.org
Charleston Advancement Academy	9-12	SCPCSD	Charleston	https://www.caahighschool.org/
Charleston Charter School for Math and Science	6-12	TPS District	Charleston	http://charlestonmathscience.org
Charleston Development Academy	PK-8	TPS District	Charleston	http://developmentacademy.ccsdschools.com
Cherokee Charter Academy	K-8	Erskine	Gaffney	https://cherokee.education/
Clear Dot Charter	K-8	Erskine	Columbia	https://www.clearotcharterschool.org/
Coastal Leadership Academy	9-12	Erskine	Myrtle Beach	http://www.coastalleadershipacademy.org/
Coastal Montessori	1-8	TPS District	Pawleys Island	http://coastalmontessoricharter.org
Compass Collegiate Academy	K-8	SCPCSD	Charleston	https://cca-chs.org
Cyber Academy of South Carolina	6-12	Erskine	Greenville	http://casc.k12.com
Discovery School of Lancaster County	K-5	TPS District	Lancaster	http://dis.lancastercsd.com/
East Cooper Montessori Charter School	PK-8	TPS District	Mt Pleasant	http://eastcooper.ccsdschools.com

East Link Academy	K-8	SCPCSD	Greenville	https://www.eastlinkacademy.org/
East Point Academy	PK-8	SCPCSD	West Columbia	http://www.eastpointsc.org
Felton Laboratory	K-8	SCPCSD	Orangeburg	http://myflcs.org
Fox Creek High School	9-12	SCPCSD	North Augusta	http://www.foxcreekhighschool.org
Gray Collegiate Academy	9-12	Erskine	West Columbia	http://www.graycollegiateacademy.org
GREEN Charter School of Spartanburg	PK-8	SCPCSD	Spartanburg	https://www.scgreencharter.org/our-schools/spartanburg-campus
GREEN Charter School of the Lowcountry	K-8	SCPCSD	N. Charleston	https://scgreenlowcountry.org/
GREEN Charter School of the Midlands	K-8	SCPCSD	Irmo	https://www.scgreencharter.org/our-schools/midlands
Greenville Renewable Energy Education Charter School (GREEN)	PK-12	SCPCSD	Greenville	https://www.scgreencharter.org/our-schools/greenville-campus
Greenville Technical Charter High School	9-12	SCPCSD	Greenville	http://www.gtchs.org
Greer Middle College	9-12	SCPCSD	Taylors	http://www.greermiddlecollege.org
Greg Mathis Charter High School	9-12	TPS District	N Charleston	https://www.ccsdschools.com/Domain/37
High Point Academy	K-12	SCPCSD	Spartanburg	https://www.hpaspartanburg.com/
Horse Creek Academy (Midland Valley Preparatory School)	PK-9	Erskine	Aiken	http://hcacs.net
James Island Charter High School	9-12	TPS District	Charleston	http://jichs.ccsdschools.com
Lakes and Bridges Charter School	1-8	SCPCSD	Easley	https://www.lakesandbridges.org/
Langston Charter Middle School	6-8	TPS District	Greenville	http://www.langstoncharter.org
LEAD Academy	K-8	SCPCSD	Greenville	http://www.myleadacademy.com
Legacy Early College	PK-12	SCPCSD	Greenville	http://www.legacyearlycollege.org
Legion Collegiate Academy	9-12	Erskine	Rock Hill	https://www.legioncollegiateacademy.org/
Liberty STEAM Charter School	K-1	SCPCSD	Sumter	https://www.libertysteamcharter.org
Lloyd Kennedy Charter School	3-8	TPS District	Aiken	https://lkcsapaa3k4k.yolasite.com/
Lowcountry Acceleration Academy	9-12	SCPCSD	North Charleston	https://www.charlestondiploma.org
Lowcountry Leadership Charter School	K-12	Erskine	Hollywood	http://www.lowcountryleadership.org
Lowcountry Montessori School	PK-12	SCPCSD	Beaufort	http://www.lowcomo.com
Mevers School of Excellence	K-8	Erskine	Goose Creek	https://www.meversschoolofexcellence.org/
Meyer Center for Special Children	PK-2	SCPCSD	Greenville	http://www.meyercenter.org
Midlands Arts Conservatory	6-10	SCPCSD	Columbia	https://www.midlandsartsconservatory.org/
Midlands Middle College	11-12	SCPCSD	West Columbia	http://www.midlandsmiddlecollege.com
Midlands STEM Institute	K-11	Erskine	Winnsboro	http://www.midlandsstem.org
NEXT School - Eagle Ridge	6-12	SCPCSD	Salem	https://nexteagleridge.org/
Oceanside Collegiate Academy	9-12	Erskine	Mount Pleasant	http://www.oceansidecollegiateacademy.org

OCSD Charter High School for Health Professions	9-12	TPS District	Orangeburg	https://hshpsc.org/
Odyssey Online Learning	9-12	Erskine	Chapin	https://www.odysseyonline.com/
Orange Grove Elementary Charter School	PK-8	TPS District	Charleston	http://ogecs.ccsdschools.com
PACE Academy (Palmetto Achievement Center for Excellence)	2-7	SCPCSD	Columbia	https://choosepace.org
Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success (PALS)	K-8	TPS District	Myrtle Beach	http://www.palmettoacademy.com/
Palmetto Academy of Motorsports Charter High School (PALM)	9-12	TPS District	Conway	http://www.palmsc.org
Palmetto Scholars Academy	6-12	SCPCSD	North Charleston	http://www.palmettoscholarsacademy.org
Palmetto Youth Academy	K-6	TPS District	Florence	http://palmettoyouthacademy.com
Pattison's Academy for Comprehensive Education	K-12	TPS District	Charleston	http://pattisonsacademy.org/pace-charter-school
Pee Dee Math, Science, and Technology Academy	K-12	SCPCSD	Bishopville	http://www.pdmsta.org
Polaris Tech Charter School	5-12	SCPCSD	Ridgeland	https://www.polaristech.org/
Richland One Middle College	11-12	TPS District	Columbia	https://www.richlandone.org/Domain/1746
Richland Two Charter High School	9-12	TPS District	Columbia	https://www.richland2.org/CharterHigh/
Riverview Charter School	K-8	TPS District	Beaufort	http://www.RiverviewCharterSchool.org
Riverwalk Academy	K-11	SCPCSD	Rock Hill	https://www.riverwalkacademy.com
Royal Live Oaks Academy	K-12	Erskine	Hardeeville	http://www.rloacs.org
SC Whitmore School	9-12	SCPCSD	Columbia	http://www.scwhitmoreschool.org/
South Carolina Connections Academy	K-12	Erskine	Columbia	https://www.connectionsacademy.com/south-carolina-virtual-school
South Carolina Virtual Charter School	K-12	Erskine	West Columbia	https://scvcs.k12.com/
Spartanburg Preparatory School	K-8	SCPCSD	Spartanburg	https://www.spartanburgprep.org/
Summit Classical School	K-5	Erskine	Clinton	https://summitclassicalschool.com/
Tall Pines STEM Academy Charter School	5-8	SCPCSD	Aiken	http://www.tallpinesacademy.com/
The Montessori School of Camden	K-8	Erskine	Camden	https://www.montessori-camden.com/
The NEXT High School	9-12	SCPCSD	Greenville	http://www.nexthighschool.org
The Palmetto School at the Children's Attention Home	K-8	TPS District	Rock Hill	https://www.thepalmettoschool.org/
Thornwell Charter School	K-8	Erskine	Clinton SC	http://thornwellcharterschool.org/
Virtus Academy of South Carolina	K-8	Erskine	Florence	https://www.virtusacademysc.org/
York Preparatory Academy	K-12	SCPCSD	Rock Hill	http://www.yorkprep.org/
Youth Leadership Academy	6-8	SCPCSD	Pickens	http://www.ylaofsc.com

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Dr. Gunnlaugsson has served as the Director of the Division of Research and subsequently Chief Economist at the South Carolina Department of Commerce where she oversaw federally funded Labor Market Information programs and initiated publication of monthly *SC Economic Outlook*, including development of the South Carolina leading economic index. In these roles, she directed research teams conducting empirical and fiscal analyses of economic issues impacting South Carolina, including state, local, public, and private development projects. Additionally, she organized and implemented comprehensive research of the state's tax structure, detailing relationships between taxation and economic activity and identifying approaches for optimization of long-term statewide economic growth.

She is the author of sophisticated models proposing reforms to South Carolina's public school funding formula (*Funding Our Children for Success*, 2017) and the Palmetto State tax system (*Funding South Carolina's Future*, 2015).

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Dr. Smith is the author of numerous books and publications, including *Transformation: What South Carolina Can Learn from Florida's K-12 Reforms*, *How Common Core Went Wrong: Bringing Common Sense to Education Standards in SC*, and *Stronger Together: Expanding Opportunity Through School District Consolidation*. His study of the South Carolina public utility Santee Cooper, *Uncertain Future* (with Drs. Kathleen Player and Michael Maloney) was the winner of the Bob Williams Award from the State Policy Network (SPN).

Dr. Smith has served as a political consultant and governmental relations professional in South Carolina for over 25 years. He is a member on the Board of Trustees of Coastal Carolina University, where he chairs the Committee on Academic & Student Affairs.