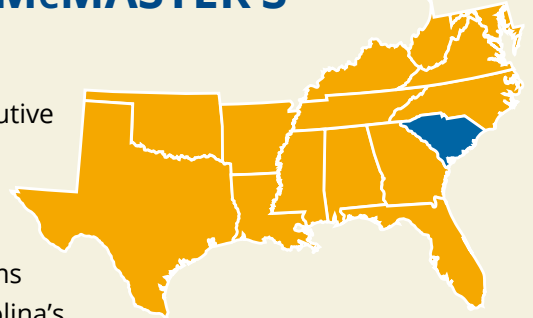




South Carolina STATE BUDGET ANALYSIS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOVERNOR HENRY McMASTER'S PROPOSED EDUCATION BUDGET

Governor McMaster started the 2019 year proposing an aggressive executive budget with two of his top priorities, school safety and teacher pay, positioned under the education portfolio. Despite Governor McMaster's focus on education, the overall academic achievement for the state is underwhelming. Just 44% of the 775,000 students meet grade-level norms and a mere two years ago the U.S. World & News Report ranked South Carolina's K-12 education system 50th in the nation. Unfortunately, the state's higher education outcomes fare no better. The average South Carolina ACT score is a 19 while the average ACT score for students admitted to the University of South Carolina is a 27 out of a 36 point system, elevating concerns of the discrepancy between South Carolina's K-12 outcomes and the demands of the state's flagship university.



SOUTH CAROLINA'S EDUCATION BUDGET PRIORITIES

Core South Carolina Education Programs	FY 2020 Proposed Budget	FY 2019	FY 2018
Early Childhood (First Steps) Funding	\$29,336,000	\$29,336,000	\$29,336,000
State K-12 Funding Formula	\$1,847,225,963	\$11,927,000,000	\$11,678,000,000
Teacher Pay Increase	\$154,561,655		
S.C. Public Charter School District	\$129,085,085	\$113,680,850	\$100,556,551
Virtual Schools	\$14,646,845	\$2,800,000,000	\$2,774,000,000
School Safety	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	N/A
School Resource Officers	\$46,354,044	N/A	N/A
South Carolina State University (Public HBCU)	\$14,687,480	\$14,687,480	
Rural School District Economic Development Closing Fund	\$100,000,000	N/A	N/A

1. The FY 2018 funding level for South Carolina State University could not be confirmed with readily available public documents. We kept the current level funding as a placeholder but this number is not confirmed.
2. The budget line items listed in the chart above are selected based on the priorities of SEF. We believe these programs are most closely associated with student success or the most significant impediments in the education system. In some cases, the budget breakdown may be a snapshot rather than an exhaustive listing of every line item.
3. The state education program charts may differ from state to state due to different budget development processes and a respective governor's education priorities.

AREAS OF PROMISE

Governor McMaster Recommends:

- A slight 1.3% increase to the state's K-12 education funding formula.
- A 5% across the board teacher salary increase, totaling \$154,561,655.
- A \$2 million school safety program and a \$2.2 million program to expand school based mental health services (this falls under the Department of Mental Health).
- A new \$100 million program to improve economic development in poor rural school districts.



\$2M ↑

SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM & \$2.2M FOR SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



5% ↑

ACROSS THE BOARD TEACHER SALARY INCREASE



\$100M

TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN POOR, RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

AREAS OF CONCERN

Governor McMaster Recommends:

- A 14% increase to the S.C. Public Charter School District, despite it being one of the lowest performing school districts in the state.
- A \$46 million school resource officer program created to assign a police officer in every school.
- A 37% increase to virtual school funding despite known abuse of funds and a lack of accountability and credentialing.



14% ↑

INCREASE TO S.C. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT



\$46M

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM TO PLACE POLICE IN EVERY SCHOOL



37% ↑

INCREASE TO VIRTUAL SCHOOL FUNDING

EQUITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Governor and state legislature should: (1) increase overall funding for low-income and historically marginalized populations to what it costs to ensure every student is college-and-career-ready, (2) maintain the teacher pay increase, (3) defund all ineffective charter schools and all virtual schools, and (4) ensure all school resource officers are trained in youth development, mediation, and implicit bias.