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October 8, 2019

### VIA EMAIL

State Superintendent Molly M. Spearman  
South Carolina Department of Education  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Paperwork Reduction and Streamlining Report

Dear Superintendent Spearman:

The House Legislative Oversight Committee's Department of Corrections ad hoc subcommittee is currently performing an oversight study of the Department of Corrections' (SCDC), which operates the Palmetto Unified School District. The purpose of this letter is to inquire about the Palmetto Unified School District's participation in the Paperwork Reduction and Streamlining Report submitted to the General Assembly on July 31, 2019.

The report states, in pertinent part:

#### Method

To better understand the paperwork burdens that teachers, school level administrators (SLAs), and district level administrators (DLAs) face, the SCDE created three separate surveys (one for teachers, one for SLAs, and one for DLAs) through SurveyTool to receive their feedback. The surveys were produced in an effort to help better determine the amount of time being spent completing paperwork, whether individuals feel the paperwork they complete fulfills a purpose, which forms require the most time, and which administrative body individuals feel is most responsible for that paperwork. The SCDE then reviewed and analyzed the responses and produced the following report, which outlines the data collected, conclusions drawn, and recommendations moving forward.

#### Results and Conclusions

Between June 19 and July 12, 2019, a total of 5,935 respondents, representing all but three of 89 local educational agencies (LEAs) (Dillon School District Three, Palmetto Unified School District, and the SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics) took the survey.

The report appears to imply the Department of Education did not receive any responses from Palmetto Unified School District. However, during the August 12, 2019, ad hoc subcommittee meeting, the superintendent of the Palmetto Unified School District testified she and other personnel provided responses to the Department of Education's surveys. Did the Department of Education receive these responses? If so, why does the report state no individuals from that district took the survey?

Please respond to the questions by Tuesday, October 29, 2019. Additionally, the subcommittee welcomes any other input or feedback your office would like to provide. Thank you and your team for your service to the people of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward R. Tallon Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward R. Tallon Sr.  
Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton  
Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee  
Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee