

Amendment: D13

Representative Whitmire proposes the following amendment:

Section 1A – H630 – Department of Education - EIA

[Amend Further:]

1A.63. (SDE-EIA: Surplus) For Fiscal Year ~~2024-25~~ 2025-26, EIA cash funds from the prior fiscal year and EIA funds not otherwise appropriated or authorized must be carried forward and expended on the following items in the order listed.

~~The first \$1.6 million in additional funds carried forward and not otherwise appropriated or authorized may be used to reimburse school districts for reduced meals for the Child Nutrition Program and up to \$5,000,000 in additional funds carried forward and not otherwise appropriated or authorized may be used for instructional materials and school bus purchase.~~

- (1) \$1,600,000 to reimburse school districts for reduced meals for the Child Nutrition Program;
- (2) \$1,500,000 to the South Carolina Technical College System to create in partnership with the South Carolina Technical College System Foundation (SCTCSF) a pilot program to increase the number of individuals earning an associate degree in education who will then transfer to a four-year institution of higher learning and complete a bachelor's degree in education. The pilot program will provide a cost-efficient, accelerated online, in-person or hybrid program to facilitate completion of an education degree. Focusing on rural South Carolina communities, the SCTCSF will partner with local school districts to identify future teachers, provide apprenticeship opportunities, and encourage future long-term employment in rural school districts for Tech-to-Teach graduates. The SCTCSF shall issue a report to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee and the Education Oversight Committee by June 30, 2026;
- (3) \$20,000,000 to the Department of Education for School Facilities Safety Upgrades;
- (4) \$35,000,000 to the Department of Education for School Buses;
- (5) \$750,000 to the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation to support the Ag in the Classroom program by providing resources and professional development to teachers and schools;
- (6) \$5,000,000 to the Department of Education for the Teacher Strategic Compensation;
- (7) \$23,519,825 to the Department of Education for Summer Reading Camps;
- (8) The balance, \$24,114,175 to the Department of Education for the purchase of instructional materials.