



August 7, 2026

South Carolina School District Superintendents

Re: School Year 2026-27

Dear Superintendents,

As another school year begins, we want to thank you for the extraordinary work you do every day on behalf of South Carolina's students. The excitement of welcoming students back into classrooms also marks the beginning of another year of opportunity, a chance to help every child learn, grow, and thrive. That opportunity has never been greater.

Thanks to the dedication of educators, school leaders, parents, and communities across our state, South Carolina students are achieving historic results. Fourth grade reading scores are the highest they have been in a decade, graduation rates have reached record levels, and our students continue to outperform the national average in reading. These accomplishments reflect a simple truth: high expectations, excellent teaching, and safe schools change lives.

Over the past several years, South Carolina has made historic investments in school safety by strengthening school security, expanding the presence of school resource officers, improving emergency preparedness, supporting educator training, and fostering stronger coordination among schools, law enforcement, and state agencies. Those investments, supported by the Governor and General Assembly, combined with your daily leadership, have helped create safer learning environments for students across our state.

While the Department of Education's Free to Focus initiative has helped create more focused classrooms during the school day, young people continue to encounter significant

risks online outside of school. Social media, gaming platforms, and other digital spaces have become tools used by predators to manipulate and exploit children. Continued partnership among schools, parents, and law enforcement is essential to protecting students.

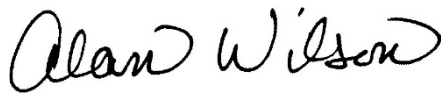
Artificial intelligence also presents new challenges. This year, the Attorney General's Office worked tirelessly with the General Assembly to enact legislation criminalizing AI-generated child sexual abuse material and morphed pornography of identifiable children, giving law enforcement stronger tools to prosecute those who exploit children.

Counterfeit pills containing fentanyl and other dangerous substances like cychlorphine remain another serious threat. Education, awareness, and open communication among parents, educators, healthcare professionals, and law enforcement can save lives and must continue to be a top priority.

No single agency can meet these challenges alone. They require continued partnership among schools, families, communities, law enforcement, and state government. Together, we remain committed to giving every South Carolina student the opportunity to learn in an environment that is both academically excellent and physically safe.

Thank you again for your leadership, your partnership, and your unwavering commitment to South Carolina's children. We wish you, your faculty, and your students a safe, successful, and rewarding school year.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" and last name "Wilson" clearly distinguishable.

Alan Wilson
Attorney General

and

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen E. Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen", middle initial "E.", and last name "Weaver" clearly distinguishable.

Ellen Weaver
State Superintendent of Education