



South Carolina Caucus of Black School Board Members

November 6, 2024

Delivered via Email to info@ed.sc.gov

The Honorable Ellen Weaver
State Superintendent of Education
South Carolina Department of Education
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

**Re: SCCBSBM Supports SDE Transitioning of Increased Responsibilities to
Williamsburg County School District Board of Trustees**

Dear Superintendent Weaver:

On behalf of the South Carolina Caucus of Black School Board Members (SCCBSBM), I am writing to express our strong support for the South Carolina Department of Education's decision to begin transitioning increased governance responsibilities to the Williamsburg County School District Board of Trustees.

The remarkable progress demonstrated by Williamsburg County schools—with every elementary school improving by an entire rating category and all schools achieving at least an "average" rating—is a testament to the effectiveness of the collaborative H.O.P.E. Network partnership between SCDE, the Board, and district staff. This success story exemplifies what can be achieved when state and local educational leaders work together with a shared commitment to excellence.

We are particularly encouraged by the structured approach to this transition, including:

- The Board's resumption of regular monthly meetings and voting responsibilities.
- The maintenance of support systems through the 2024-2025 school year.
- A clear timeline for evaluating full governance restoration.

**SCCBSBM Supports Williamsburg County School District Board
Increased Governance Responsibilities**

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The progress in Williamsburg County demonstrates the vital importance of local leadership in driving educational improvement. Under Board Chair, Marva Cannon, leadership and Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Wymbs' administration, the district has shown that with proper support and resources, historically underserved communities can achieve remarkable academic gains.

As an organization dedicated to advancing educational equity and excellence for all South Carolina students, we applaud this measured approach to restoring local control while maintaining the supportive framework that has enabled such impressive progress. We believe this model of state-local collaboration could serve as a template for other districts facing similar challenges.

We stand ready to support both SCDE and the Williamsburg County School District Board of Trustees during this transition period and beyond. The success of Williamsburg County's students is a victory for all of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Melvin M. Stroble, Sr.", with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Melvin M. Stroble, Sr.
President

c. Marva Cannon, Chair, Williamsburg County School District Board of Trustees
SC Legislative Black Caucus