

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

October 28, 2025

SUBJECT:

Adoption of the following policy:

Policy BEA Livestreaming of Board Meetings

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This act amends the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 59-19-85 to make school board meetings more accessible to the public. It requires school boards to create and follow policies that provide livestreams or other electronic ways to view meetings. The State Board of Education will set related guidelines and all provisions must be in place by January 1, 2026.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Administration recommends the adoption of Policy BEA Livestreaming of Board Meetings as stated in South Carolina Code of Laws requiring school boards to create and follow policies that provide livestreams or other electronic ways to view school board meetings.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the following policy:

Policy BEA Livestreaming of Board Meetings, Second Reading

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy BEA Livestreaming of Board Meetings

PREPARED BY:

Kimbra Meek

Livestreaming of Board Meetings

Code BEA Issued 10/25

The board is committed to conducting its business in an open and accessible manner in accordance with state law. Therefore, all regular meetings, work sessions, budget workshops, budget hearings, committee meetings, subcommittee meetings, special-called meetings, and public hearing meetings of the board, except for lawfully convened executive sessions, will be live-streamed and recorded for public access. The meeting will be held in a location with sufficient access to quality audio and video equipment.

The meeting will be livestreamed on the district's webpage and made available for public viewing. Visible links to the livestreams will be posted on the district's webpage at the same time as the meeting notice and agenda are posted.

All portions of livestreamed meetings must be visible and audible in real-time and be of sufficient video and audio quality to allow viewers to hear the comments and identify speakers.

Within two business days of the meeting, the district will publicize the availability of the livestreamed meeting on the district's website.

Technical Disruptions

In the event of an interruption of the livestream during a meeting, the board will make reasonable efforts to restore livestream access. If livestream access cannot be restored, the board will make a clear audio and video recording accessible on the district's website within seven days after the meeting, except for executive sessions held in accordance with state law.

Access to Broadband

The district will make every effort to collaborate with technology partners to develop, enhance, or expand their existing livestreaming capabilities.

In the event that the district has limited or no broadband access, it may request a 12-month extension to comply with the livestream requirements. The request must be submitted to the South Carolina Board of Education's Policy & Legislative Committee, along with proof that reasonable efforts were made to meet the requirements.

Special Accommodations

The board will make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Violation and Penalties

Policy violations or instances of noncompliance may result in penalties that escalate based on the frequency, duration, and severity of the offense. The first violation may result in the board receiving guidance from the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). Subsequent violations will result in SCDE issuing a warning, and the district may be required to submit a

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written plan outlining how it will achieve compliance. If noncompliance persists, the district may be referred to the State Board of Education, which can impose additional penalties of up to one percent of the district's state funding.

Adopted 10/28/25

Legal References:

- A. United States Code of Laws, as amended:
 - 1. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 12101, *et seq.*
- B. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 30-4-10, *et seq.* - South Carolina Freedom of Information Act
 - 2. Section 59-1-340 - Board meetings
 - 3. Section 59-19-85 - Board meetings livestream mandate
- C. Other:
 - 1. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 (2023).