



Horry County Schools

Horry County Board of Education

Public Statement regarding Federal Stimulus Funds

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

We, the majority of the Horry County Board of Education, come together today with one request for Gov. Mark Sanford, and that is to accept our state's fair share of the federal stimulus funds.

It's time to end the political dialogue and consider what is good for the students, teachers, and taxpayers of our State.

The merits of the federal stimulus package are no longer the issue. That debate ended with the passage of the bill by Congress. The issue is no longer about whether or not we should have a federal stimulus package; it's about whether or not South Carolina should accept its share or watch it be distributed to other parts of the Country.

Now we are simply faced with what most people see as a controversial decision: Knowing that our State's taxpayers will help repay the federal debt, we should accept our fair share to benefit education at a time of unprecedented hard-hitting budget cuts.

If Gov. Sanford fails to accept the federal stimulus funds, Horry County Schools will absolutely have to take deeper, more drastic cuts – eliminating more jobs at a time when unemployment is at an extraordinarily high level and increasing class sizes. All the while, the schools in our neighboring counties in North Carolina will receive their fair share of stimulus funds plus part of our share.

Therefore, the Horry County Board of Education strongly requests that Gov. Sanford put education ahead of politics and accept the federal stimulus funds for South Carolina.

Will Garland, Board Chair

Board Members: David Cox, Joe DeFeo, Harvey Eisner, MaryEllen Greene, Trent Hardee, Paul Hudson, Kay Loftus, Paul Peterson, John Poston, Chris Shannon, and Pam Timms