

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DORCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
URGING THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO REPEAL 2021-2022 BUDGET PROVISIO 1.108**

WHEREAS, South Carolina is among the top 10 states in the nation having the highest number of COVID-19 cases per capita, averaging 5,500 cases a day; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Children's Hospitals Collaborative recently stated that the number of children ages 0 - 17 in the state requiring hospitalization, including critical, for COVID-19 is rising at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, in Dorchester School District Two the number of students and staff who have tested positive so far this school year is 1,997 which has resulted in the quarantine of 7,679 students and staff; and,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status; and,

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) strongly recommends universal mask wearing for teachers, staff, and parents in schools; and,

WHEREAS, local school boards and superintendents, who ultimately bear the responsibility for the well-being of students and staff need flexibility – not limitations – when carefully weighing health and safety guidance at the local, state and federal levels to make decisions for the students and staff in their communities; and,

WHEREAS, local school district leaders are best positioned to monitor and modify safety protocols and make the best decisions to keep students and employees safe; and,

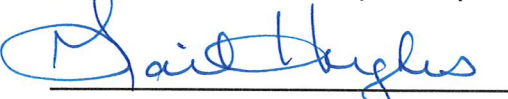
WHEREAS, mitigation measures are vitally important to maintain in-person, full time education to ensure students do not fall behind scholastically or socially; and,

WHEREAS, Proviso 1.108 serves as a barrier for school district leaders to consider every recommended mitigation measure available for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Dorchester School District Two Board of Trustees, by this resolution, strongly urges members of the South Carolina General Assembly to reconvene immediately and repeal Proviso 1.108.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are being furnished to members of the Dorchester County Legislative Delegation and communicated to our parents, businesses and school supporters.

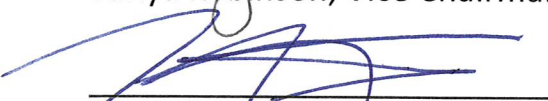
Adopted this 20th day of September, 2021



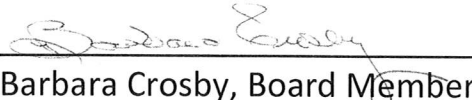
Gail Hughes, Chairman



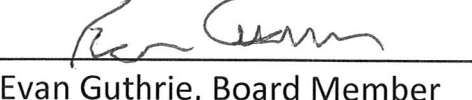
Tanya Robinson, Vice Chairman



Justin Farnsworth, Secretary




Barbara Crosby, Board Member



Evan Guthrie, Board Member



Brian Mitchum, Board Member



Ashley Wimberly, Board Member