

SC Laws and Policies Relevant to Family Engagement in Education

While there are federal laws and policies that impact education across the country, states and localities are primarily responsible for K-12 education in the United States.

State laws specifically addressing education in South Carolina can be found in Title 59 of the SC Code of Laws. You can access the SC Code of Laws on the SC General Assembly website ([South Carolina Code of Laws \(scstatehouse.gov\)](https://www.scstatehouse.gov)).

Among the state laws that address issues related to family engagement in education are:

- **The Parental Involvement in Their Children’s Education Act** (Chapter 28) ([Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 28 - Parental Involvement In Their Children’s Education Act \(scstatehouse.gov\)](https://www.scstatehouse.gov)). The stated purpose of this law is to (1) increase awareness of the importance of parent engagement in education, (2) encourage the creation of family-friendly schools, and (3) recognize family-school partnerships as an essential component of children’s academic success. It describes the roles of the SC Department of Education, SC Board of Education, Education Oversight Committee, school districts, and parents in achieving these goals.
- **South Carolina Read to Succeed Act** (R2S)(Chapter 155) ([Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 155 - South Carolina Read To Succeed Act \(scstatehouse.gov\)](https://www.scstatehouse.gov)). R2S was enacted in 2014 to create a comprehensive statewide framework for literacy instruction and assessment for students through grade 12, with an emphasis on ensuring that all students are reading on grade level by the end of 3rd grade. It requires that schools keep parents informed about their children’s progress as readers and create plans for how they will help parents support their student as a reader. The law also includes recommendations for how schools can engage families and communities in literacy development. More information about R2S can be found on the “SC Reads” webpage. ([SCReads](https://www.screads.org)).
- **The Education Finance Act** (Chapter 20) establishes the requirement that every school convene a school improvement council (SIC) made up of representatives of parents, teachers, students (high school), community members, and other school leaders including the principal. SIC duties include providing input and feedback on schools’ improvement goals as well as monitoring and reporting on schools’ progress toward those goals. For a full list of the Code provisions that govern the role of SICs, see [FAQs About SICs | School Improvement Council](#) (scroll to end of page).
- **Special Education for Handicapped Children** (Chapter 33) ([Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 33 - Special Education For Handicapped Children \(scstatehouse.gov\)](https://www.scstatehouse.gov)). Chapter 33 includes several provisions that affect parents of children with disabilities such as (1) when parents may request that their child be screened for reading difficulties, including dyslexia and (2) requiring the district to report screening results to parents with information on how to assist and support their child’s learning.
- **South Carolina Education and Economic Development Act (Chapter 59)** ([Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 59 - South Carolina Education And Economic Development Act \(scstatehouse.gov\)](https://www.scstatehouse.gov)). Among the issues addressed in this law is the important role of parents in the development of curricula based on a career cluster system and individual graduation plans for students.

South Carolina Family Engagement K–12 Framework (March 22, 2019)

The SC Department of Education has developed a common family engagement framework for the state to use at the state, district and school levels. It describes five foundational strategies that, when linked together, create the conditions necessary for successful family-school-community partnerships that

support successful student learning and development. The Framework document also includes a self-assessment tool for use by districts and schools in evaluating their current strengths and challenges in family engagement and can serve as a starting point in family engagement planning. The Framework can be accessed here: [South Carolina Family Engagement K-12 Framework \(sc.gov\)](#)

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