



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ELLEN E. WEAVER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

August 2, 2024

Dr. J.R. Green, Acting Superintendent
Ms. Priscilla Green, Board Chair
Mr. Russell Zimmerman, Chief Financial Officer
Jasper County School District
10942 N. Jacob Smart Boulevard
Ridgeland, SC 29936

RE: Fiscal Emergency under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-20-90 (Supp. 2018)

Dear Dr. Green, Ms. Green, and Mr. Zimmerman:

On February 29, 2024, an elevated declaration of Fiscal Caution was sent to Jasper County School District (the District). The declaration was due to the District's FY23 audit report not being completed within sixty days after the December 1st deadline for the second consecutive year as required by South Carolina Code Section 59-20-90(D)(2)(b). As of the date of this letter, which is more than eight months after the annual audit reporting deadline, the District's FY23 audit report has still not been completed.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has noted that the District has submitted a financial recovery plan dated March 19, 2024; however, the SCDE is unable to determine whether the financial recovery plan is acceptable due to the persistent failure of the District to submit its annual audit. As a result, a declaration of Fiscal Emergency is required under Section 59-25-90(E)(1). Additionally, the SCDE has been notified of other issues that could cause further fiscal decline in the District. This letter serves as an escalation to a declaration of Fiscal Emergency pursuant to Section 59-20-90(E)(1&5).

Per Section 59-20-90(E)(6-9), the district must submit a written recovery plan to the SCDE within sixty days. While a district is under Fiscal Emergency SCDE shall visit and inspect the District; provide technical assistance in implementing the Board's recovery plans; and make recommendations concerning the Board's recovery plan. A District under a declaration of Fiscal Emergency must not be released from Fiscal Emergency in the same fiscal year in which the

Jasper Fiscal Emergency

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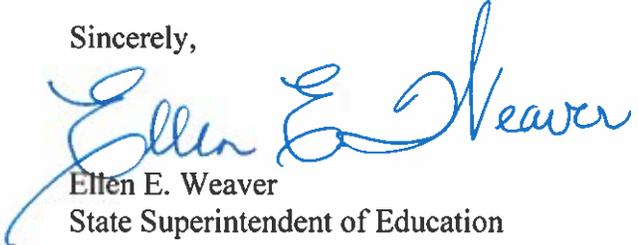
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declaration was made but may be released the following fiscal year if SCDE determines that the corrective actions have been or are being successfully implemented.

The District Board of Trustees may appeal a declaration of Fiscal Emergency to the State Board of Education (SBE) within ten days after the declaration, and the SBE shall hold a hearing on the appeal within thirty days after the filing of the appeal or at the next regularly scheduled SBE meeting, whichever is later. However, the district shall continue to work with SCDE in the manner provided by this subsection when a fiscal emergency is declared pending determination of the appeal.

The SCDE will be in contact with the District in setting up required technical assistance. If you have any questions, you may contact Ms. Kendra Hunt the SCDE's Chief Financial Officer, kmhunt@ed.sc.gov; or Ms. Melanie Cooper, Director of Finance, mcooper@ed.sc.gov. Your legal counsel may contact Mr. John E. Tyler, General Counsel, jetyler@ed.sc.gov.

Sincerely,



Ellen E. Weaver
State Superintendent of Education

EEW/kh

cc: Dr. David O' Shields, SBE Chair
Jasper County Legislative Delegation