

FLORENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3

A PREMIER DISTRICT OF CHOICE



*Ensuring Our Students Are College and/or Career Ready and
Are Productive and Responsible Members of Society*



- Virtual visit was on March 31, 2026.
- Final report will be received in 45 business days.

I wanted to send a quick note to tell you what a pleasure it was serving as your Lead Evaluator for re-accreditation this year. Florence #3 did a fantastic job with the process. Your required submissions were always on time (usually early); the quality of the narratives was strong; your evidence files were thorough and well-aligned to the standards; and your preparation for the leadership presentation and interview segments was "spot on." I think you will be very pleased with your Cognia report.

Congratulations on a job well-done! Enjoy your spring break.

By the way, I thought you would enjoy seeing some of the one-word descriptors used by the interview participants. They include **family, diverse, potential, supportive, engaging, united, community, passionate, empathy, evolving, growing, successful, thriving, inclusive, resilient, innovative, collaborative, choice, strategic, resourceful, dedicated, unique, opportunity, and helpful.**

Cheryl Allread, Ed.D. | Regional Accreditation Evaluator, Northeast Region
Cognia®

SDE's Strategic Compensation Pilot

- **Dr. Ronald E. McNair Junior High** has been selected to participate in this year's program.
- 7th & 8th grade ELA & Math teachers will be eligible.
- Payout will be based on SC Ready scores.





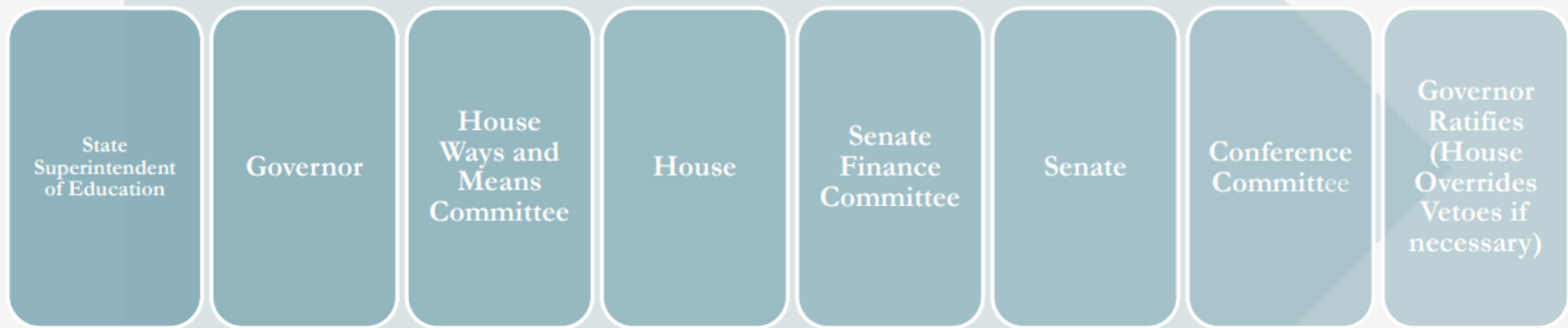
Enrollment Update 2025-2026

Schools	Enrollment
LCECC	363
MSE	257
JCLES	384
SES	383
OMS	158
REMJH	228
JPT	336
LCHS	483
District Total	2592

2024-2025 135th day report = 2747



State Budget Process



Funding Differences

Item – General Fund	House	Senate
State Aid to Classrooms	\$90.4 Million – General Fund (\$22.3 million) - EIA	\$78.5 Million – General Fund (\$10.4 million) - EIA
Rural & Charter Capital Funding	\$75 Million	\$50 Million
School Bus Lease/Purchase	\$2 million – recurring \$28 million – nonrecurring	\$2 million – recurring \$14 million – nonrecurring

House Floor Actions

H.3858 – Water Property Tax

- Bill reduces watercraft property taxes from 10% to 6%. The reduction is to be phased in over a three-year period beginning with property tax years after 2026.
- Signed into law by Governor.

House Floor Debate

- H.3831 – Smart Heart Act

- Bill mandates the development and implementation of Cardiac Emergency Response Plans and expands existing Automated External Defibrillator requirements in schools.
- Schools must ensure that an AED:
 - Is accessible from each on-campus athletic venue;
 - Is located in an unlocked and properly marked locations; and
 - Is accessible during the school day and during school sponsored athletic events or practices.
- State Fiscal Accountability Authority may establish a state contract for AED purchases, and the SCDE must pursue public and private funding sources to assist with implementation of the requirements of this bill.
- Signed into law by Governor.

Senate Education Committee

- [H.3195 Physical Education & Recess](#)
 - Seeks to increase instructional time in physical education courses and require mandatory unstructured, self directed recess for students in 4K – 8th grade beginning with the 2027-2028 SY
 - Schools must provide:
 - Minimum of 20 minutes of unstructured outdoor recess daily for 4K – 8th grade
 - One hour and 30 minutes of PE weekly for students in 4K – 5th
 - At least 60 hours of PE annually for students in grades 6th-8th.
 - Moves to the Senate calendar for future consideration

Senate Education Committee

- [H.3258 Mobile Panic Alert System](#)
 - Mandates school districts implement a mobile panic alert system in every school by July 1, 2028
 - Specifics that the panic alert systems must connect with existing emergency series technology to allow real-time coordination between schools, law enforcement and first responders. System must also integrate with local 911 public safety answering points so alerts and emergency calls can be transmitted directly to dispatch centers.
 - List of approved vendors will be published
 - Bill does not contain “subject to funding” language stipulating that the General Assembly would be required to provide funding for this mandate// funds falls completely on districts
 - Moved to the full Senate for discussion

Ways & Means Subcommittees

- [H.4611 – Paid Parental Leave](#)
 - Clarifies that eligible employees experiencing a still birth are entitled to paid parental leave.
 - Increases paid leave for birth parents to 12 weeks,
 - Increases paid leave for non-birth parents to 6 weeks,
 - Adds language clarifying that a still birth is a qualifying event, and
 - Maintains the expansion of the definition of an eligible state employee.
 - Approved by committee

House Education Committee

- [H.3197 – Workforce Readiness](#)
 - High schools required to offer academic remediation in literacy and math for seniors who are not college ready
 - Graduation requirements to complete a FASFA form and must be completed at their annual Individual Graduation Plan (IGP)
 - Favorable and now moves to the House calendar for further discussion

Senate Floor Debate

- [H.4756 – Student Physical Privacy Act](#)
 - Multi-occupancy public school and higher education institution restrooms and changing facilities must be designated for use only by members of one sex and are to be used by members of that biological sex.
 - Bill moves to the House for approval

Provisos from Senate

Proviso - 1.39 (SDE: Health Education)

- This proviso directs school districts to fulfill all requirements of the Comprehensive Health Education Act and not violate any portion of the law.
- Each school is required to provide evidence of compliance to its school district, which must annually provide evidence of compliance for its schools to the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE).
- SCDE is authorized to review all materials used by school districts and provide oversight of a district's compliance report to make a final determination of compliance.
- The amount of state funding that may be withheld from a noncompliant district was increased from 1 percent to 10 percent.
- Adopted



New Bill in House

- **H.5483 – Educator Safety & Classroom Authority Act of 2026 (Introduced 4-1-2026)**
 - Seeks to protect educators, staff, and administrators, and enhance school discipline.
 - Grants authority for staff to use "reasonable physical force" for safety and to manage student behavior.
 - Implements procedures for removing disruptive students from the classroom.
 - Tasks the State Board of Education with creating a statewide classroom management framework



FSD3 Facilities Update

Board of Trustees Meeting

April 16, 2026

Phase 1B – Lake City Early Childhood Center

- Building Automation and mechanical punch list are completed.
- Substantial Completion has been achieved. Client handoff meeting with Schneider Electric is scheduled for April 21.

Fire Alarm Upgrades

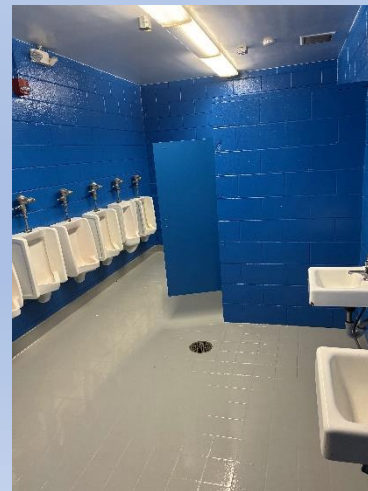
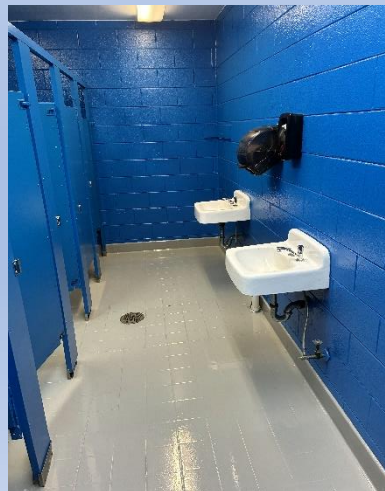
- Contractor is installing conduit at LCECC – approx. 60% complete.

MSE Gym Bard Units

- Contractor replaced 4 BARD units over spring break.

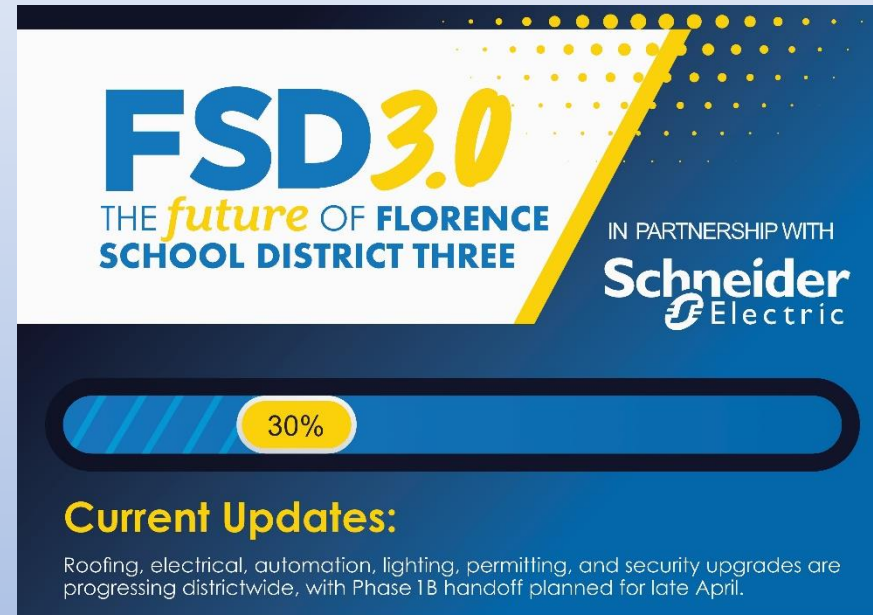
Painting Projects

- Bathrooms at LCHS were completed over spring break. Painting is underway at JPT, DREM, SESA and JCL and should be completed by end of May.



District Modernization Project with Schneider Electric

- We received \$20,782.65 in HVAC rebates from Duke Energy. This is the final rebate for our Phase II project at the Lake City Early Childhood Center. Added to the lighting rebate of \$12,507.64 already received, the total for this phase is \$33,289.29.
- Roof work at Main Street Elementary gym is complete except for gutters, which are being manufactured now.
- Submeters have been installed at Olanta, J.C. Lynch and Scranton; building automation continues.
- Mechanical permits are approved; window (LCHS, OMS) and lighting permits are still pending.
- Installation of ballistic film was completed over spring break.



Ward Memorial Stadium

- Soil compaction test was conducted on the building pad for the fieldhouse after unsuitable soil was replaced. The new pad passed the second test.
- Scoreboard has been mounted.
- Old press box on visitors side has been removed. A fence and rail will be installed place of the press box.
- Plumbing for the fieldhouse is expected to begin this week.
- Main water and sewer lines have been installed.



ANY
QUESTIONS

