

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCIENCE OF READING AS THE PREEMINENT CURRICULUM FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Whereas, the South Carolina state school report card for the school year ending 2022 shows the overall academic achievement for all students is 46.6% of grade level requirements. The English Language (reading) proficiency is 54.3% of required goals and standards. Reading is the fundamental foundation of all academics and a low proficiency in reading is directly related to and responsible for low overall academic achievement; and

Whereas, the 2023 goals and standards published by the South Carolina Board of Education specifically states that English Language instruction in all South Carolina public schools will be based on: 1) Phonological and Phonemic Awareness; 2) concept of Print; 3) Decoding and Encoding Phonics Skills; and 4) Fluency. Decades of research confirm that a student's level of phonemic awareness (the Science of Reading) is considered the most effective predictor of success in learning to read; and

Whereas, twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia have passed laws or implemented new policies related to supporting the Science of Reading (phonetics-based reading instruction). The states that have fully implemented the Science of Reading curriculums have shown dramatic and positive results in improving their students' achievement scores; and

Whereas, South Carolina has recognized the effectiveness of the Science of Reading curriculum and allows the state public schools to mix methods of teaching reading between non-phonetic methods and phonetic methods. This process continues to produce results from our public schools that are unacceptable;

Therefore Be It Resolved, all South Carolina public schools will cease any non-phonetic based reading curriculum and the Science of Reading method will be implemented and be deemed the preeminent and sole method of reading instruction in South Carolina public schools *except and only in cases where a student has been identified as needing additional reading accommodation methods as indicated by the approved South Carolina learning disabilities assessment process.*