



July 29, 2025

The Honorable Rita Allison  
Chair, South Carolina State Board of Education  
South Carolina Department of Education  
849 Learning Lane West Columbia, SC 29172

Re: Support for Declaration of a State of Emergency – Jasper County School District

Dear Chairwoman Allison,

On behalf of the Jasper County Council, the Hardeeville City Council, and the Ridgeland Town Council, we write to express our strong support for the South Carolina State Board of Education to declare a state of emergency within the Jasper County School District, as provided for under state law.

As outlined in the Inspector General's audit of July 2025, the current state of the district poses a significant and immediate threat to the educational outcomes and overall well-being of the students it serves. Despite the dedication of many local educators and administrators, longstanding challenges in academic performance, lack of governance and accountability from the Jasper County School Board, and numerous operational deficiencies have created conditions that warrant urgent and decisive action.

We, the undersigned, recognize that declaring a state of emergency is a serious and extraordinary measure, but we believe it is necessary to initiate the level of support and intervention required to restore the trust, stability, and leadership that is required to ensure that every child in Jasper County has access to a high-quality education.

To the extent that it should be necessary, we are committed to working collaboratively with the State Board of Education and the South Carolina Department of Education to support efforts that will lead to meaningful improvements and lasting reform within the district.


Thank you for your consideration and for your continued dedication to the students and families of South Carolina.




Respectfully,



Hon. John Kemp  
Chairman, on behalf of the Jasper County Council



Hon. Harry Williams  
Mayor, on behalf of the City of Hardeeville



Hon. Joseph N. Malphrus, Jr.  
Mayor, on behalf of the City of Ridgeland

cc: Jasper County Council Members  
Hardeeville City Council Members  
Ridgeland Town Council Members  
Jasper County School Board Members  
Hon. Ellen E. Weaver  
Hon. William Hager  
Hon. Shannon Erickson