

July 10, 2025

Mr. Brian D. Lamkin  
South Carolina Office of the Inspector General  
111 Executive Center Drive, Suite 204  
Synergy Business Park, Enoree Building  
Columbia, SC 29210-8416  
*Transmitted via Email*

Dear Inspector General Lamkin:

Pursuant to S.C. Code §1-6-35, please accept this letter as a formal request that your office initiate and conduct a thorough review or investigation of Marlboro County School District (MCSD). I am requesting a thorough investigation of the District to determine the existence of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct, violations of state or federal law, and wrongdoing.

In order to ensure a strong educational future for the students of Marlboro County School District, it is essential to bring full transparency and accountability to the District's financial operations. My Department has received credible information from current MCSD leadership regarding the potential of past procurement irregularities.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that your office investigate all financial and procurement matters, including P-card transactions. If you determine that additional actions or referrals are warranted, please proceed under your statutory authority as appropriate.

Additionally, as Governor McMaster previously stated in correspondence with your office on an unrelated matter:

*Please note that the cited concerns and accompanying materials are not intended to be exhaustive or exclusive in nature but rather are referenced and provided for purposes of "articulat[ing] the basis of any alleged wrongdoing" in connection with this request. S.C. Code Ann. § 1-6-35(B). The description and documentation should not be construed to narrow or confine the scope of any further SIG inquiry or investigation or limit your preexisting or independent authority to, inter alia, "receive complaints alleging a violation of a statute or rule relating to the purchase of goods or services by a current or former employee, state officer, special state appointee, or person who has a business relationship with an agency," id. § 1-6-30(3), "receive*

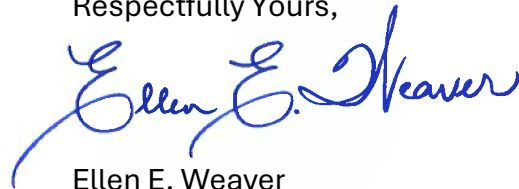
*complaints from any individual, including those employed by any agency, alleging fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct, violations of state or federal law, and wrongdoing in an agency,” id. § 1-6-30(4), or otherwise identify matters that warrant further investigation.*

Finally, if, during the course of reviewing the concerns raised or conducting any subsequent investigation, you or your office determine that there is reasonable cause to believe that fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct, or violations of state or federal law have occurred or are occurring, S.C. Code § 1-6-40 authorizes you to immediately report such findings to the Governor, the appropriate agency head, or the relevant law enforcement and prosecuting authorities with jurisdiction over the matter.

In addition to this request, the SCDE has formally petitioned the State Board of Education to assume control of the District’s financial operations pursuant to S.C. Code § 59-20-90(E)(7). For your reference, a copy of that request is attached.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important and timely matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information or support. The South Carolina Department of Education remains ready to assist in any way necessary to help bring this matter to resolution.

Respectfully Yours,



Ellen E. Weaver  
State Superintendent of Education

Enc: July 10 Letter to SC State Board of Education

cc: Dr. Helena Tillar, MCSD Superintendent  
Chair Michael Coachman, MCSD Board of Directors  
The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor  
The Honorable Rita Allison, State Board of Education Chair  
The Honorable J.D. Chaplin  
The Honorable Jackie Hayes  
The Honorable Jason Luck