



State of South Carolina
Office of the State Inspector General

December 19, 2023

The Honorable Thomas C. Alexander
President of the Senate
South Carolina Senate
213 Gressette Building
Columbia, SC 29201

The Honorable G. Murrell Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House
South Carolina House of Representatives
506 Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Annual Report of Public School and Interscholastic Sports Investigations by the
Office of the State Inspector General for Calendar Year 2023

Dear President Alexander and Speaker Smith:

I am pleased to provide to each of you and the members of the South Carolina General Assembly the annual report of public school and interscholastic sports investigations conducted by the Office of the State Inspector General (SIG), which is a statutory requirement pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws, §1-6-35 (D).

Act No. 223 of 2022 provided for the circumstances by which the SIG may investigate certain public schools and interscholastic sports associations. SC Code of Laws, §1-6-35 (A) provides that, the SIG may only initiate an investigation of a "... public school district... upon the request of: (1) the Governor, (2) the State Superintendent of Education, or (3) the weighted majority of the membership of the legislative delegation of the county in which the subject of the investigation is located."

The SIG received two written requests from the Office of the Governor and one request from the weighted majority of a legislative delegation for the investigation of South Carolina public school districts in calendar year 2023. The State Superintendent of Education made no request for an investigation of a public school district in 2023. The following table sets forth the number of requests made to the SIG along with status of these investigations and/or requests.

CALENDAR YEAR 2023				
<u>Requests Received</u>	<u>Date of Request</u>	<u>Investigation Initiated</u>	<u>Public School District</u>	<u>Status of Investigation</u>
Governor of South Carolina	1/17/2023	1/17/2023	School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties	Investigation completed. Report issued 8/18/23.
Governor of South Carolina	4/10/2023	4/11/2023	Clarendon County School District	Investigation completed. Report issued 10/20/23.
Legislative Delegation (*)	12/14/2023	12/14/2023	Public School District (*)	Investigation pending.

Confidential per SC Code of Laws, §1-6-35 (E)

The investigation of School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties resulted in the issuance of six (6) findings and four (4) recommendations in the areas of fiscal matters, procurement and Board of Trustees governance. The report may be reviewed at the following link: [SIG Review of LR5 Piney Woods Elementary School Construction](#).

The investigation of the Clarendon County School District resulted in the issuance of 13 findings and 10 recommendations in the areas of fiscal matters and Board of Trustees governance. The report may be reviewed at the following link: [Review of Potential Financial Irregularities in the Clarendon County School District](#).

I am available to answer your questions or provide a more detailed briefing on these matters at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to call me (803/896-1287).

Sincerely,



Brian D. Lamkin
State Inspector General

CC: The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina
The Honorable Ellen Weaver, State Superintendent of Education