



**HENRY McMASTER**  
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Kevin L. Bryant  
President of the Senate  
State House, First Floor, East Wing  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval R-6, S. 457, which seeks to allow the Board of Trustees of the Fairfield County School District to receive a monthly stipend and to set the amount of the same. Under current law, the members of the Board of Trustees serve without pay but may receive a per diem allowed by law for boards and commissions and may be paid mileage and reimbursed for certain travel-related expenses.

At present, there is a patchwork of authorities governing South Carolina's school districts. Consequently, school districts have varying degrees of fiscal autonomy, and there is no uniform method of compensating school board members. In some school districts, board members serve without pay, whereas in others, board members receive in excess of \$10,000 per year. I believe that decisions of this nature—concerning the operation and financial affairs of local school districts and the compensation of their board members—should be made primarily by the citizens of the affected communities and their local elected officials. Rather than micromanage matters such as the compensation of school board members, the State should allow local officials to make these decisions and allow their constituents to hold them accountable.

To this end, I submit that the General Assembly should enact statewide legislation that provides uniform authority and autonomy to South Carolina's school districts, instead of the current practice of addressing, or micromanaging, school board operations through piecemeal and inconsistent local legislation.

For the foregoing reasons, I am respectfully vetoing R-6, S. 457 and returning the same without my signature.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster