



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**ELLEN E. WEAVER**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

December 31, 2025

The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
Room 111, Gressette Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

The Honorable Bruce Bannister, Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Room 525, Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Chairmen Peeler and Bannister:

Pursuant to the South Carolina Code of Laws, this letter fulfills the statutorily mandated reporting under Section 59-8-125(B), which instructs the South Carolina Department of Education to report the administrative costs associated with the Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) Program.

There were four administrative cost line items in Fiscal Year 2024-25:

- \$261,450.00 in Program implementation costs with the primary administrative contractor
- \$88,737.50 in participant Program navigation supports
- \$12,831.75 in fees to the Program Trustee
- \$106,250.00 in salary and benefits to Program employees within the Department.

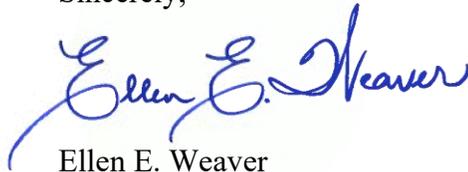
This totals \$469,269.25 in total administrative costs, which equals 1.56% of the \$30,000,000 appropriated for this Program in the FY 2024-25 Budget, well below the 5% cap set in Act 11.

Enclosed please find “A Promising Start,” which provides additional context on the implementation and early outcomes of the Education Scholarship Trust Fund Program during its inaugural year.

With this submission, the South Carolina Department of Education has fully satisfied the statutory reporting requirements for the ESTF Program for Fiscal Year 2024–25. We remain committed to responsible stewardship of public funds and to transparent administration of programs entrusted to our care.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen E. Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" and last name "Weaver" clearly legible.

Ellen E. Weaver  
State Superintendent of Education

cc: The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor  
The Honorable Greg Hembree, Senate Education Chair  
The Honorable Shannon Erickson, House Education Chair