

Date of adoption: January 14, 2026

Education Service Provider (ESP) as of the date above: Pearson Virtual Schools

Livestreaming Board Meeting Policy

Legal Authority

S.C. Code §59-19-85, as enacted by the General Assembly during the 2025 legislative session, requires each public-school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to adopt a policy requiring the livestreaming of school board meetings. This Charter Institute at Erksine (“Institute”) - Livestreaming Board Meeting Policy has been adopted by the Charter Institute at Erksine Board of Directors and submitted to the South Carolina Department of Education (“SCDE”) in compliance with General Assembly Bill A28, R46, S77.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Charter Institute at Erksine and each charter school within its portfolio make reasonable efforts to ensure the entirety of all meetings subject to the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are open and accessible to the public and also available by means **of live video** and **audio electronic access** (livestream access), except during a lawful executive session.

Dual Purpose Application

This policy serves a dual purpose:

1. **Institute Compliance:** The Charter Institute at Erksine Board of Directors shall comply with all provisions of this policy for its own board meetings and public meetings.
2. **Charter School Oversight:** The Charter Institute at Erksine shall ensure all charter schools within its portfolio comply with this policy as part of their contractual obligations.

Charter School Contractual Compliance

Contract Authority: Charter schools within the Charter Institute at Erksine portfolio must comply with this policy pursuant to their charter contracts, which state: “The School must comply with all applicable and reasonable Sponsor policies and procedures, as the Sponsor may adopt and amend from time to time.”

This is a live document. As such, the most updated version can be found on the [Charter Institute at Erksine Website](#).

Policy Requirements

1. Applicability

This policy applies to:

A. Charter Institute at Erskine Board of Directors Meetings:

- All regular board meetings of the Charter Institute at Erskine Board of Directors
- Special-called board meetings
- Committee and/or subcommittee meetings
- Board workshops
- Budget workshops and/or hearings
- Public hearings
- Any other meetings subject to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act

B. Charter School Meetings:

- All meetings of charter school governing bodies as defined under the Freedom of Information Act or Section 30-4-20(d)
- This includes but is not limited to regular school board meetings; special called school board meetings; committee and/or subcommittee meetings; board workshops; budget workshops and/or hearings; and/or public hearings

II. Policy Implementation

A. Technical Requirements:

1. All portions of livestreamed meetings must be visible and audible in real time
2. All livestreamed meetings must be posted on applicable websites within no more than two business days of the meeting
3. Visible links to livestreams shall be posted in advance on webpages and/or social media accounts upon the posting of public notice of all livestreamed public meetings
4. The broadcast must be of sufficient video and audio quality so that viewers can easily hear comments and identify who is making comments
5. Meetings must be held in locations with sufficient access to quality audio/video equipment
6. If a charter school cannot provide such livestream access to the public despite making reasonable efforts to restore livestream access during the meeting, it must make a clear audio and video recording of the meeting in its entirety available on its website as soon as practicable and in no more than seven days after the meeting
7. The use of closed captioning services encouraged by SCDE, but not required

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B. Public Notice Requirements:

1. The Charter Institute at Erskine must publicize the availability of livestreamed meetings
 2. Charter schools must publicize the availability of livestreamed meetings
- C. Executive Session Exemption:** This policy does not apply to lawful executive sessions conducted by either the Charter Institute at Erskine or charter schools within its portfolio.

III. Access to Broadband

A. Compliance Extension:

- Upon showing reasonable efforts to comply with the requirement, a charter school's governing body, with evidence of limited or no broadband access, may request approval from the Charter Institute at Erskine Board for up to an additional twelve months to comply.

IV. Oversight and Monitoring

- A. Institute Responsibilities:** The Charter Institute at Erskine shall monitor charter school compliance with this policy as part of its oversight responsibilities under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-55.

V. Noncompliance and Corrective Action

A. Penalties for Charter Schools: Penalties for policy violations or noncompliance by charter schools will be based on escalating tiers based on frequency, duration, and severity:

1. **First Offense:** Technical guidance may be provided through the Charter Institute at Erskine and/or the South Carolina Department of Education.
2. **Subsequent Offenses:** A warning will be issued either by the Charter Institute at Erskine and/or the South Carolina Department of Education. In addition, the charter school may be required to submit a written plan to the South Carolina Department of Education with specific details on how it will attain compliance.
3. **Persistent and Egregious Violations:** May be referred to the State Board of Education for review, and penalties may be assessed. Should it be determined that the appropriate penalty is the retention of allocated funding, such retention shall not exceed one percent of state funds.

- B. Institute Noncompliance:** The Charter Institute at Erskine acknowledges that its own noncompliance with this policy may result in review and penalties from the State Board of Education.

VI. Notification Requirements

A. Charter School Obligations: Charter schools must immediately notify the Charter Institute at Erskine of any circumstances that may prevent compliance with this policy, including but not limited to:

- Technical equipment failures affecting livestreaming capability
- Broadband or internet connectivity issues
- Facility limitations preventing proper implementation

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VII. Effective Date and Implementation

This policy shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Charter Institute at Erskine Board of Directors. Schools within the Institute's portfolio must achieve full compliance by **January 1, 2026**.

VIII. Policy Review and Amendment

This policy shall be reviewed annually and may be amended as necessary to ensure continued compliance with state law and to address evolving technology and best practices. Any amendments will be communicated to charter schools with appropriate implementation timelines.

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