

[Subscribe](#)

[Contact Alliance](#)

[Web site](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)



## **NEWS-ACTION**

*Be Informed. Take Action. Improve Greenville's Public Schools.*

**MAY 7  
2008**

Welcome to The Alliance for Quality Education's *NEWS-ACTION*—a brief, periodic update on issues affecting Greenville public schools and actions you can take to help improve our schools.

### **Today's topics: Changes to PACT stalled in the Senate**

#### **NEWS**

**Bill 4662 to improve the state testing system is being held up in the Senate.** After passing the House of Representatives and two Senate committees, bill 4662 is on the "contested" calendar in the state Senate. The bill will not move forward for debate on the Senate floor unless it can be moved to the "uncontested" schedule of bills.

The current Senate version of the bill provides for the following major changes to the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT)—the state testing system for grades 3 – 8.

- A new state accountability test would replace PACT starting in the 2008-2009 school year.
- Student test results would provide timely, diagnostic information useful to teachers and parents.
- New student performance indicators would be used:

<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Below Basic	Not Met
Basic	Met
Proficient	
Advanced	Exemplary

- School report cards would be changed so that parents receive a two-page summary report containing just the most important information on the school. All other data and information would be available on the school district's website and on request.

In addition, the bill makes other improvements to the state testing system and changes how assistance is provided to schools that need improvement.

#### **OUR VIEW**

**The Alliance supports passage of the bill this year.** The current PACT system is ineffective for improving student learning and academic achievement and needs to be replaced. Those blocking the bill have stated that this bill is not needed. However, failure to pass the bill will leave intact provisions in the current state testing law (the Education Accountability Act) that need to be removed or improved. Bill 4662 provides the comprehensive improvements that are needed and that The Alliance supports.

#### **ACTION**

**Call our Greenville County state senators.**

Tell them that as a parent, teacher, school administrator or community member you want the testing system improvements provided for in this legislation. Pass bill 4662 this year.

Sen. Lewis Vaughn (803) 212-6100  
Sen. Mike Fair (803) 212-6420  
Sen. Ralph Anderson (803) 212-6108  
Sen. David Thomas (803) 212-6240  
Sen. Danny Verdin (803) 212-6230

Receive this *NEWS-ACTION* from a friend? Get your own free subscription and stay informed! It's easy. Just click [Subscribe](#).

Who is The Alliance anyway? To find out, click [Alliance web site](#).

What do you think? We welcome your comments and suggestions. Just click [Comments](#).

Not your cup of tea? To unsubscribe, just click [Unsubscribe](#).

*NEWS-ACTION* is a brief, periodic update on issues affecting Greenville public schools and actions the community can take to help improve our schools. *NEWS-ACTION* is a publication of The Alliance for Quality Education, 225 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Suite B1, Greenville, SC 29607