

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2025-008

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: State Ethics Commission  
ADDRESS: 201 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 150  
Columbia, SC 29210  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 253-4192

RESPONDENT: Lucas W. Reed  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: Trustee – Darlington County Schools

Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires the filing of an updated Statement of Economic Interests for the previous calendar year annually thereafter prior to March 30. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated October 20, 2023 and October 27, 2023 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to each deadline. To date, a 2022, 2023, or 2024 Statement of Economic Interests have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me Meghan Walker Dayson who, first being duly sworn, says that she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
21st day of January, 2025

[REDACTED]  
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[REDACTED]  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 01/22/26

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192  
ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2025-008	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Lucas W. Reed	)	
Respondent.	)	
_____	)	

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, in the above-captioned complaint. The Commission will convene a formal hearing into the matter in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday August 21, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

**COUNT ONE**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1140 S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Lucas W. Reed, former Darlington County School District Board Member, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

**COUNT TWO**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1140 S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Lucas W. Reed, former Darlington County School District Board Member, did in

Richland County, fail to file a 2023 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

**COUNT THREE**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1140 S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Lucas W. Reed, former Darlington County School District Board Member, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics Commission.



Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director  
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day,  
of May 2025.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Lucas W. Reed, 105 S. Charleston Road, Darlington, SC 29532 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant  
State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 COMPLAINT C2025-008 )  
 )  
 State Ethics Commission, )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 Lucas W. Reed, )  
 Respondent. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on January 21, 2025. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Lucas W. Reed (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to the following:

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. Respondent served on the Darlington County School District Board of Trustees from 2020 through 2024.
2. Respondent timely filed a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) in 2020 and 2021.
3. Respondent failed to file a SEI on or before March 30<sup>th</sup> in 2022 and 2023.
4. In an October 20, 2023 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to timely 2022 and 2023 SEIs. This letter was returned by the United States Postal Service (USPS) on October 25, 2023.
5. On October 27, 2023, the certified penalty letter was re-mailed to Respondent at 105 S. Charleston Road, Darlington, SC.<sup>1</sup> This letter was delivered on October 30, 2023 at 1:44 p.m. Respondent's spouse, Josi Reed, signed for the letter.
6. On November 10, 2023, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$20.00 per day (\$10.00 per SEI).

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<sup>1</sup> This address was provided by USPS as Respondent's address.

*JX #1*

7. On November 20, 2023, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$200.00 per day (\$100.00 per SEI).
8. Respondent thereafter failed to file a SEI by March 30, 2024.
9. Following the filing of the Complaint, a Commission Investigator contacted Respondent. Respondent thereafter came into compliance on February 28, 2025 by filing his 2022, 2023, and 2024 SEIs.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statements of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a “public official” pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. As a public official, Respondent was required to file a SEI on or before March 30 in 2022, 2023, and 2024, according to Section 8-13-1140, which provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file . . . an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March 30 . . .

3. Section 8-13-1510(A) provides, in relevant part:

. . . a person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late statement or report . . . must be assessed a civil penalty as follows: (1) a fine of one hundred dollars if the statement or report is not filed within five days after the established deadline provided by law in this chapter; and (2) after notice has been given by certified or registered mail that a required statement or report has not been filed, a fine of ten dollars per calendar day for the first ten days after notice has been given, and one hundred dollars for each additional calendar day in which the required statement or report is not filed, not exceeding five thousand dollars.

4. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to “levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation” of the Ethics Act.

### DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with three (3) counts of violating

*JX #2*

Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file SEIs in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act as described herein. In mitigation, Respondent states that he had difficulty navigating the Commission's new electronic filing system<sup>2</sup> and that he did not follow up on filing his SEIs as he should have. Respondent states that he was working fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) hours each day as a truck driver during much of the time in question. Respondent admits that filing SEIs was his responsibility and that he neglected that responsibility. The Commission acknowledges that this is Respondent's first Commission complaint.

**DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of three (3) counts of Section 8-13-1140.
2. The Commission adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this Public Reprimand and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within six (6) months from receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$500.00 (\$200.00 for the 2022 SEI, \$200.00 for the 2023 SEI, and \$100.00<sup>3</sup> for the 2024 SEI) and an administrative fee of \$400.00, for a total of \$900.00. The Commission declines to assess the remaining accrued late filing penalties related to the 2022 and 2023 SEIs.

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission's electronic filing system was updated in the fall of 2021.

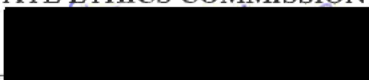
<sup>3</sup> The late-filing penalty for the 2024 SEI is limited to \$100.00 because Respondent did not receive certified notice of his failure to file in accordance with Section 8-13-1510(A)(2).

Handwritten signature and the number 3.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is confessing to a judgment of \$900.00 in the event he does not make payment as provided for in this Order, in which case the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent with the County Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known County of residence, who shall enter this Order in the amount of \$900.00 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF July 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



Signed by:  
Lucas Reed  
AD0011E71822400  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LUCAS W. REED  
RESPONDENT