

From: SC Gov News <GovNews@gov.sc.gov>

To:

Date: 6/11/2014 4:12:41 PM

Subject: Gov. Nikki Haley Signs S.516 – Read To Succeed Act

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NIKKI R. HALEY

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 11, 2014

For immediate release

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Gov. Nikki Haley Signs S.516 – Read To Succeed Act *A Cornerstone Of K-12 Education Reform*

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley was today joined by S.C. Senate Majority Leader, Harvey Peeler, Chair of the S.C. Chamber of Commerce and President of AT&T South Carolina, Pamela Lackey, and education professionals for a bill signing ceremony for Senate Bill 516, the Read to Succeed Act.

“I’m so proud this was a bi-partisan effort because it shows the people of South Carolina that when it comes to educating our children, we are all on the same team and nothing will stand in the way of doing what is right,” said Gov. Haley. “This bill says South Carolina isn’t going to let children that can’t read by the fourth grade get lost in the system – we are going to focus on giving them the personal, intensive teaching they need, because the sky is the limit for a child that can read.”

Improving the reading skills of South Carolina’s children is one of the main goals of Gov. Haley’s K-12 Education Reform Initiative. The Read to Succeed Act will complement those efforts by requiring students who aren’t reading proficiently by the third grade to participate in personalized reading lessons prior to going into the fourth grade.

The new law establishes a Read to Succeed Office in the Department of Education that will assist school districts across South Carolina with developing literacy standards and improving reading outcomes for students. Districts will also prepare annual reading proficiency plans and literacy assessment tests for kindergarten-aged students.

“Regardless of political party, this was something that the whole legislature was able to get behind because we all have common ground when it comes to educating the children of South Carolina,” said Senate Majority Leader, Harvey Peeler. “It has been a long road to get to this point, but this bill finally ensures that all third-grade students will read on grade level and that is so important for the future of our state.”

“First with the governor’s Education Reform Initiative and now with the Read to Succeed Act, great things are happening for public education in South Carolina,” said Dyisha Taylor, an Instructional Coach in

Orangeburg's 5th school district. "This new law deals with reading, but it touches every aspect of the curriculum and we, as teachers, are willing to roll up our sleeves and do whatever we need to do to make it work. We know that more students reading at a high level will result in a better South Carolina."

Read to Succeed Act Highlights:

- Provides for certification and implementation of the reading coaches that are a part of the governor's K-12 Education Reform Initiative.
- Establishes the Read to Succeed Office within the South Carolina Department of Education to assist school districts with developing reading standards and improving reading outcomes.
- School districts will prepare annual reading proficiency plans for their students.
- Provides for an intervention process for students who have reading proficiency difficulties by the 3rd grade.
- Requires a literacy reading assessment to be administered to each pre-kindergarten and kindergarten student.

To watch video of the full event, click here: <http://goo.gl/WmPH0a>

Attached is a photo of the event.

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