

February 17, 2015

To: The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

From: Patricia Higgins
11 Willow Brook Drive
Bluffton, South Carolina 29909

Dear Governor Haley,

You, as Governor, along with the SC Legislature, have the ability to make the necessary changes to improve education in the poor, rural districts. It is in the best interests of all SC students to have an equal education, so that all our citizens can be a part of the economic growth of South Carolina.

1. Provide EQUAL FUNDING for ALL schools. Each school in SC should receive the same amount of money per student. If a district feels that the funded amount is inadequate, they have the right to supplement and fund more money in any way they decide. (See City of Claremont, NH vs. the State of New Hampshire)
2. Colleges of Education should be established with the primary purpose of teaching prospective teachers how to teach. The curriculum should have a two-fold purpose. It should provide a general liberal education in the social and natural sciences, English, Math, and the Arts. The professional segment should include course work in child development, psychology, curriculum development and a carefully planned program of observation and participation in actual teaching activities in the practice school of the college and in nearby schools.
3. Establish EARLY LEARNING CENTERS as part of our public education system. If there are strong teacher training programs working in tandem with early learning centers the outcome should be successful students, life-long learners and productive citizens.
4. Provide a competitive salary schedule for teachers with the requirement that teachers apply for recertification every five years and renewed only after documentation that the in-service study and training requirements prescribed by the Commissioner of Education have been fulfilled.

Respectfully,



Patricia Higgins (retired 30 year veteran teacher) (843-705-2314)