

From: Pitts, Ted
To: Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 9/16/2013 4:43:33 PM
Subject: FW: Meeting regarding EVAAS

From: Pierce McNair [mailto:PierceMcNair@schouse.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2013 4:36 PM
To: Card, Rachel; Pitts, Ted
Subject: Meeting regarding EVAAS

Rachel and Ted:

Representative Andy Patrick is hosting an informational meeting regarding EVAAS on September 30 from 10:00 to 11:30. The meeting will be held in room 305 of the Blatt Building.

The purpose of the meeting is to have key education policy makers hear from the SAS Institute. According to their website, SAS Institute is a company that "helps organizations anticipate business opportunities, empower action and drive impact. We do this through advanced analytics that turn data about customers, performance, financials and more into meaningful information."

One of the products created by SAS is EVAAS. Again, according to the website, EVAAS is "the most comprehensive reporting package of value-added metrics available in the educational market, SAS EVAAS for K-12 provides valuable diagnostic information about past practices and reports on students' predicted success probabilities at numerous academic milestones. By identifying which students are at risk, educators can be proactive, making sound instructional choices and using their resources more strategically to ensure that every student has the chance to succeed. Value-added assessment eliminates the possibility of a distorted view of effective schooling by following the progress of individual students. Additionally, SAS EVAAS for K-12 offers a rich environment for educational research. Effectively implemented, SAS EVAAS for K-12 allows educators to recognize progress and growth over time, and provides a clear path to achieve the US goal to lead the world in college completion by the year 2020."

From what we have learned, EVAAS is already in use in 87 South Carolina schools, these include SC's TAP, SIG, and Palmetto Priority Schools. Representative Patrick wants to learn more about EVAAS, potential uses for the system, and how it can assist educators. Your presence at the SAS presentation will help generate discussion and improve the understanding of Value Added Measures in general, and EVAAS in particular.

I hope that you can attend. If you are able to make the meeting, please contact me via e-mail (piercemcnair@scstatehouse.gov) or phone (734-3053).

Thanks, and I hope you have a good afternoon.

Pierce

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