

From: Soura, Christian
To: erica.brown@scdhhs.gov <erica.brown@scdhhs.gov>
Date: 9/16/2013 1:59:22 PM
Subject: FW: Our conversation yesterday
Attachments: [Background information about Progressive Learning.doc](#)

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From: Card, Rachel
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 3:32 PM
To: Soura, Christian
Subject: FW: Our conversation yesterday

Fyi – SIBs related project that I mentioned yesterday.

From: Ralph Fagen - Executive Director [<mailto:ralphfagen@progressivelearning.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 2:39 PM
To: Card, Rachel
Cc: Toni Hull
Subject: Our conversation yesterday

Hi Rachel,

It was a pleasure speaking with you yesterday.

In order to provide you with some context for our discussion, I recently came across the following headline:
80% of NYC graduates unable to read

"Just 13 percent of black and Latino students graduate from New York City schools with the skills required for community college – and overall, 80 percent of all graduates lack these skills. The number of students who lack crucial reading, writing and math skills is the highest it has been in years.....".

In this era of "high tech", it's fascinating that the importance of the phrase, "the three Rs", attributed to Sir William Curtis, British MP in 1795 - over 200 years later- is more apt than ever.

Our programs, both diagnostic and prescriptive, typically benefit elementary, middle, and high school students. However, beyond education, basic skills are also a requirement for trades, including technicians, electricians, plumbers, etc. Our unique program specializes in teaching those basic skills. Furthermore, we have the capacity to greatly reduce recidivism by giving offenders the basic skills that will help them on a path away from crime. The benefits of our program are immediate and life-long.

Progressive Learning has helped over 15,000 learners from kindergartners to adults acquire significant proficiency in reading, writing, and math. With 15 years of experience and a continuous demonstrated record of effectiveness, Progressive Learning has served disadvantaged students in Florida, Arizona, California, New York and Illinois. The program has been nationally acclaimed, including being honored by the Smithsonian Institution for raising the academic achievement of at-risk students. We have also provided our services in Europe, Asia and Central America.

I have attached a one page background summary about Progressive Learning.

As discussed, we are open to partnering with South Carolina in order to produce dramatic gains in reading, writing and math proficiency in its public schools. There are a variety of funding options including Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) to which Progressive Learning is aligned.

All the best,

Ralph

Ralph Fagen

Executive Director

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