

**From:** Soura, Christian  
**To:** 'MaryLaura@excelined.org'MaryLaura@excelined.org  
**CC:** 'Kate@excelined.org'Kate@excelined.org  
'Cari@excelined.org'Cari@excelined.org  
'Christy@excelined.org'Christy@excelined.org  
'Josh@excelined.org'Josh@excelined.org  
**Date:** 2/21/2013 11:40:23 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Follow-up - South Carolina

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Thanks - this is a big help. The meeting is at 4PM Tuesday, so I'll obviously be working on this through the weekend, but I don't really have to finalize the packets until Tuesday morning. Thanks again.

Christian

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**From:** Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) [mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 07:49 PM  
**To:** Soura, Christian  
**Cc:** Kate Wallace (Kate@excelined.org) <Kate@excelined.org>; Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>; Christy Hovanetz (Christy@excelined.org) <Christy@excelined.org>; Josh Venable (Josh@excelined.org) <Josh@excelined.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-up - South Carolina

Christian,

Thanks for taking the time to speak to us this morning. It's exciting to see Governor Haley so involved and engaged in education reform. We look forward to helping South Carolina.

Attached are the documents we discussed on K-3 Literacy and A-F School Grading:

- a one-pager on Florida's K-3 Literacy/Ending Social Promotion policy
- a reading policy audit on South Carolina, which evaluates current resources already in place that could serve as the foundation for a statewide K-3 literacy policy
- a one-pager on Florida's A-F school grading and accountability model
- two slides comparing Florida, South Carolina and the nation using 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading NAEP data

Please let us know if you need any other information - I will send you a draft budget analysis on Monday.

Thanks!  
Mary Laura

Mary Laura Bragg  
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**From:** Soura, Christian [mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov]

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Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 9:54 AM  
To: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org)  
Subject: RE: Follow-up - South Carolina

Thanks again for taking the time to catch-up this morning.

Here's the link to the Governor's Executive Budget for FY 2013-14:

<http://governor.sc.gov/ExecutiveOffice/ExecutiveBudget/Documents/Executive%20Budget%20FY%202013-2014.pdf>

Pages 35-51 are probably the most relevant. Depending on how you'd want to sift through some of the financial data, there are other ways we can package it / pass it along. For instance, here's the SC Department of Education's page with information on historical district-level revenue and expenditure figures.

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/cfo/finance/HistoricalFinanceData.cfm>

Talk to you soon.

Christian

Christian L. Soura  
Deputy Chief of Staff

(803) 543-0792  
[ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov](mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov)

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From: Mary Laura Bragg ([MaryLaura@excelined.org](mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org)) [<mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 6:41 PM  
To: Soura, Christian  
Subject: RE: Follow-up - South Carolina

9:00 is great. I'll call you then.

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From: Soura, Christian [<mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 5:05 PM  
To: Mary Laura Bragg ([MaryLaura@excelined.org](mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org))  
Subject: RE: Follow-up - South Carolina

Sure, how about 9 then? My cell number is the one below " (803) 543-0792. Do you want to call me then?

Christian

Christian L. Soura  
Deputy Chief of Staff

(803) 543-0792  
[ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov](mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov)

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From: Mary Laura Bragg ([MaryLaura@excelined.org](mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org)) [<mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 4:41 PM  
To: Soura, Christian  
Subject: RE: Follow-up - South Carolina

Hi Christian,

Great to hear from you.

I would be happy to chat about reading and grading schools.

Do you have any time tomorrow to jump on the phone? I am free between 9:00 and 10:00am and then from 11:30 to 3:30.

Thanks,

Mary Laura

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From: Soura, Christian [<mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 1:55 PM

To: Mary Laura Bragg ([MaryLaura@excelined.org](mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org))

Subject: Follow-up - South Carolina

Mary Laura,

It's been about a year now since we met here in Columbia to talk about some of the educational reforms that Governor Bush advocated both while in office and now through the Foundation. I wanted to follow-up on a couple of specific items.

In her State of the State speech this year, Gov. Haley announced an ad hoc, bipartisan workgroup on K-12 education that is now meeting every few weeks to diagnose some of the critical issues we're facing and to identify some specific steps we can take in order to move forward.

I'd like to catch up with you specifically on the reading initiative and on letter grades for schools, when you have a moment. We'd also like to distribute some materials to the group next Tuesday, so I wanted to see what you might have on hand that would be suitable for this.

Thanks again.

Christian

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