

From: Soura, Christian
To: Barton, Melanie <mbarton@eoc.sc.gov>
Date: 12/13/2013 3:45:28 PM
Subject: RE: Question

I've somehow lost essentially this entire day to meetings, but I started drafting the Reading Coach proviso last night and will get you something in the next 24 hours or so to look at...working very much along the same lines as your comments, though. Thanks.

CLS

Christian L. Soura
Deputy Chief of Staff

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-----Original Message-----

From: Barton, Melanie
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2013 11:21 AM
To: Soura, Christian
Subject: RE: Question

Christian:

Some thoughts to help improve upon this. I love the game plan.

1. On the footnote about middle schools, please add "or middle schools that contain elementary grades."
2. To get the biggest impact on students, there has to be some accountability for the schools/districts. Would the Governor be willing to do the following:
 - a. Districts could not "flex" or use the funds for reading coaches for any other purposes.
 - b. Reading coaches would have to meet the criteria that I sent you yesterday concerning qualifications.
 - c. If a district could not find a person who meets the qualifications, then I'd suggest that the district could contract with a private consultant or vendor that are approved by SCDE to provide the services.
 - d. The role of a reading coach is twofold: In schools that have more than 20% of the children in elementary schools scoring Not Met in reading, the coach must provide professional development to classroom teachers by modeling research-based practices with struggling readers. In schools that have less than 20% of the children in elementary schools scoring Not Met in reading, the coach would work with teachers who need additional support but even more, with the struggling readers.
 - e. I'd even be as bold to say this. . . give the districts/schools the option of saying refusing the additional monies. Then the monies could be reallocated to professional development at the state level.

I'm going to ask Dr. Rainey Knight about her thoughts on this from only a hypothetical perspective I'll email you her thoughts. She's one of those former superintendents who knows that unless you clearly define the purpose of the extra funds and hold districts accountable, then they might misallocate the funds. For example, we do not want districts to be able to use the funds for reading coaches for instructional materials or reading software. . . It defeats the purpose.

Melanie

-----Original Message-----

From: Soura, Christian

Sent: Friday, December 13, 2013 1:06 AM

To: Barton, Melanie

Subject: RE: Question

Change in plans - I think I can make this work for reading coaches instead.

Question, as I'm working on the enabling language...you sent me a spreadsheet on Wednesday afternoon that had a "% Not Met 1 or 2" value for each elementary school. Was that the average for each elementary school across all grade levels, or was that the average for 3rd graders at each of those elementary schools? Thanks.

CLS

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From: Soura, Christian
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 4:33 PM
To: Barton, Melanie
Subject: RE: Question

Thanks. I'm attaching a revision on the technology money (now uses the new ADM counts and poverty indices). Also attaching a first pass at reading coaches. We'd pay 100% for a coach in schools with Not Met 1 or 2 above 30%, and then we'd pay 50% for a coach in an elementary school between 10% and 30%.

CLS

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From: Barton, Melanie
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 4:09 PM
To: Soura, Christian
Subject: RE: Question

If you ever need any help after hours, I'm available.

Melanie

From: Soura, Christian
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 4:07 PM
To: Barton, Melanie
Subject: RE: Question

Thanks – we have a pretty long list of outstanding questions over there, so I was hoping not to tack on another one.

CLS

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From: Barton, Melanie
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 2:01 PM
To: Soura, Christian
Subject: FW: Question

Here is the ADM count. I got it directly from SCDE. I still have a few friends left there.

Melanie

Sincerely,

Melanie Barton
Education Oversight Committee
(803) 734-6148

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