

From: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) <MaryLaura@excelined.org>
To: Soura, ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov
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
Date: 2/25/2013 5:00:31 PM
Subject: RE: Follow-up - South Carolina

Christian,

I was able to identify a few possible pots of money for Governor Haley and the working group to consider:

From the Executive Budget, pages 39 – 48:

Page 39

Standards, Teaching, Learning, Accountability

- Student Learning categorical
 - High Achieving Students, \$26 million. Not sure what this is, but it's a nice big pot. A certain percentage could be earmarked to create "high achieving students in reading."
 - Students at Risk of School Failure, \$136 million. I'm assuming this is probably a dropout prevention/credit recovery pot. Consider earmarking 25% for reading by third grade – use the data showing that 88% of high school dropouts were struggling readers in 3rd grade
- Curriculum and standards
 - Reading (of course) \$6.5 million
 - Instructional Materials \$20.9 million. I'm not familiar enough with your textbook adoption policy, so this may not be applicable, but giving districts flexibility to purchase research-based reading intervention materials is important, as one of the costs of the policy can be getting the right materials to use with your struggling readers
- Assistance, intervention, and Reward
 - EAA Technical Assistance \$5.2 million. I do not know what this line item is, but going on the header, I'm thinking that intervention dollars could be reprioritized here.

Page 40

Teacher Quality

- Professional Development: \$5.5 million. Earmark a certain percentage for reading professional development

From the federal funds South Carolina receives.

Anywhere between 2-4% of these funds is state set-aside money – so it stays at the department. Even though the chief is independently elected, the legislature probably appropriates the funding, so they could request a financial audit to see how those set-aside dollars are being spent. Also, even though 96-98% of the funding is flow-through, the state can still request that districts prioritize the funding to a certain degree.

Title I: \$213 million

School Improvement Grants: \$7.4 million

Effective Teachers and Leaders: \$8.5 million

Improving Teacher Quality Grants: \$30.4 million

Assessing Achievement: \$6 million

Rural and Low-income schools: \$2.7 million

English Language Learners: \$4.4 million

Special Education: \$176 million. A decent of IDEA funds may be used on prevention in kids not yet referred to special

education services – and considering that 80% of kids referred to special ed in the early years are simply kids who haven't been taught how to read, this could be a great pot of money to use.

Hope this is helpful. Let us know if there is anything else you need!
Mary Laura

From: Soura, Christian [<mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 11:40 PM
To: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org)
Cc: Kate Wallace (Kate@excelined.org); Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org); Christy Hovanetz (Christy@excelined.org); Josh Venable (Josh@excelined.org)
Subject: Re: Follow-up - South Carolina

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

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 4th 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
National Director of Policy/Implementation
Foundation for Excellence in Education
850.391.3077 phone
786-664-1794 fax
www.excelined.org

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

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

From: Mary Laura Bragg (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.

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

Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 5:05 PM

To: Mary Laura Bragg (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

From: Mary Laura Bragg (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

From: Soura, Christian [<mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 1:55 PM
To: Mary Laura Bragg (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

Christian L. Soura
Deputy Chief of Staff

(803) 543-0792
ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov