

From:

To:

Date: 6/3/2016 10:30:10 AM

Subject:

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Josh- Below is Maya's quote and a draft response can you let me know what you would add to make sure we cover a

I was hoping to get a comment from the governor about the progress made by the Legislature this year to improve educational opportunities in rural areas of the state. Four bills have been passed by the and three others have stalled in the Senate.

What are her thoughts about the progress that's been made? Does she think it will satisfy the Supreme Court's directive?

DRAFT RESPONSE:

"Improving education means improving where our students spend most of their day. The governor will continue to work hard for the school facilities initiative because she knows that morale matters-- when our students and teachers are in safe buildings they can be proud of everyone has the chance to succeed."

On background:

There are a number of budgetary items I think that should be noted that Governor Haley proposed and were adopted or expanded in the current appropriation.

- Base Student Cost originally proposed at \$2,300 (up from \$2,220) is in the budget at \$2,350. This represents about \$217 million in the conference budget.
- Rural teacher initiative is up to \$9.7 million – an increase of \$8.2 million now allowing the initiative to go from planning to operational.
- Driver salary supplements – a total of \$19.2 million along with funding for hazardous route transportation at \$3.5 million will make routes safer and help districts retain bus drivers.
- The coding initiative pilot – a small but important \$300,000 – is included in both versions.
- \$(2 or 3, depending on conference) million is also in lottery funding for mobile device access and management, extending bandwidth into South Carolina's most underserved homes.