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Subject: DRAFT Gov. Nikki Haley Announces 2016 Education Reform Initiative

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Gov. Nikki Haley Announces 2016 Education Reform Initiative  
*Brief Quote As Subheadline*

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Continuing her focus on statewide education reform, Governor Nikki Haley today announced her 2016 Education Reform Initiative, which addresses some of the toughest issues facing education in South Carolina today – from basic governance and accountability, to building safe schools, addressing transportation needs, and providing students across the state with access to technology. The governor made the announcement during a celebration with Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman at Frances Mack Intermediate School in Gaston, S.C.

[NH Quote]

Starting with a commitment Governor Haley made to South Carolina's children in 2013, this initiative is the third year of reform proposals built upon input from dozens of individual stakeholders and groups.

For details of the governor's 2016 Education Reform Initiative, click here [hyperlink to PDF backgrounder].

[MS Quote]

"Our education system has long been in need of serious attention and reform and I am proud of the work the House Education Taskforce has done over the past year," said Representative Rita Allison, Chairwoman of the House Education Committee. "We can no longer ignore the condition of our distressing infrastructure, the need for higher teacher retention, and a host of other shortfalls that are denying our students of the resources they need to succeed. I am pleased that Governor Haley's plan sets a clear path forward on tackling this issue in a significant way and I look forward to working with her to institute these reforms that will give all of our children access to a quality education."

"Governor Haley started a critical conversation three years ago about the need to focus on our students and their education, and I'm grateful that she has decided to continue that conversation going into this session," said Senator John Courson, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee. "For too long, South Carolina's education system hasn't focused on the individual needs of students, and I look forward to working with the governor to ensure a great education for our students that is fair and equitable in every part of the state."