

**From:** Ellen Weaver <[ellen@palmettopolicy.org](mailto:ellen@palmettopolicy.org)>  
**To:** Soura, Christian [ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov](mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov)  
**Date:** 3/22/2013 11:30:20 AM  
**Subject:** RE: "Transformation" Paper

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Perfect – I just wasn't sure where all of y'all were "housed." J

We'll see you there at 2 p.m. next Wed.

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**From:** Soura, Christian [<mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2013 11:22 AM  
**To:** Ellen Weaver  
**Subject:** RE: "Transformation" Paper

How about here in the Governor's Office, on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the State House?

CLS

Christian L. Soura  
Deputy Chief of Staff

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

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**From:** Ellen Weaver [<mailto:ellen@palmettopolicy.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2013 11:19 AM  
**To:** Soura, Christian  
**Subject:** RE: "Transformation" Paper

2 p.m. would be great. Oran Smith will join me...

Where is the best place for us to meet?

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**From:** Soura, Christian [<mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2013 11:16 AM  
**To:** Ellen Weaver  
**Subject:** RE: "Transformation" Paper

Not a problem – we've all been busy. How would 2PM work next Wednesday?

CLS

Christian L. Soura  
Deputy Chief of Staff

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

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**From:** Ellen Weaver [<mailto:ellen@palmettopolicy.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 5:02 PM  
**To:** Soura, Christian  
**Subject:** RE: "Transformation" Paper

Christian,

My apologies for the delayed response...

I met your colleague Rachel Card today and we didn't have much time to talk, but it reminded me that I wanted to see about us getting together to talk about what the Governor would like to do to move education policy forward in SC and if there were ways that we could be helpful in your efforts.

Would you have any time to talk next Wednesday, March 27? I am completely open other than a 4 p.m. meeting that day.

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From: Soura, Christian [mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 9:51 AM  
To: Ellen Weaver  
Cc: 'Mary Laura Bragg'; 'Matthew Ladner'; 'Josh Venable'; Kate@excelined.org; oran@palmettopolicy.org  
Subject: RE: "Transformation" Paper

Thanks for your note and also for the paper – I'd be glad to meet...would you mind suggesting a few times that would work on your end? Thanks again.

CLS

Christian L. Soura  
Deputy Chief of Staff

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

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From: Ellen Weaver [mailto:ellen@palmettopolicy.org]  
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 3:14 PM  
To: Soura, Christian; joshuabaker@gov.senate.gov  
Cc: 'Mary Laura Bragg'; 'Matthew Ladner'; 'Josh Venable'; Kate@excelined.org; oran@palmettopolicy.org  
Subject: "Transformation" Paper

Christian and Josh,

I hope this finds you both well.

Pearson suggested that y'all would be the best policy folks to touch base with about an education policy paper that we are very excited to be putting out, thanks to tremendous assistance from the Foundation for Excellence in Education team, who I've copied here. In fact, this paper grew out of the Empower summit that Governor Haley was kind enough to help host last April when Gov. Bush came to SC.

While I'd ask that you please keep this embargoed w/in the Haley team until we send our formal release, it was important to us that you all had an advance copy before we release it to others. We are working with our printer and if all goes well, we hope to have it in the hands of legislators tomorrow, followed up by a formal press release tomorrow afternoon or first thing Wednesday, all just depending on how the print schedule shakes out.

This paper does not delve into any SC-specific policy recommendations, but simply lays out the compare/contrast in student outcomes between SC and FL pre and post-FL reforms...which of course then begs the question, "Why not here?"

Governor Haley sounded many of these themes in her State of the State and I know she understands that transforming education in SC is foundational to our future economic development...especially in the rural areas that

are close to her heart. In fact, as I've thought about this, I think the time might be especially ripe to think about working on a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading initiative here.

Oran and I would welcome a chance to sit down you and anyone else on the Governor's team to talk about how we could support the effort to try to get something done on these important issues. And while I can't speak for the Bush team, they have already been so helpful, I'm sure that they'll continue to be a great resource for ongoing policy expertise!

I hope you and your team find this report helpful and I look forward to being touch...call or email any time.

All the Best,

Ellen

**Ellen E. Weaver**

President

Palmetto Policy Forum

803-708-0673

