

From: Veldran, Katherine
To: Samuel Rivers Jr. (samuelriversjr@aol.com) <samuelriversjr@aol.com>
Date: 7/15/2015 10:26:59 AM
Subject: K-12 Education Reform Initiative

Representative,
Below is information about education.
Please confirm you have received this email. Please call me with any questions.
Thank you,
Katherine

The K-12 Education Reform Initiative includes the following highlights:

First Year 2014:

- \$97 million for children in poverty to provide a quality education for those living in our poorest communities. In recognition that current K-12 funding formula is inequitable and outdated and that it fails to target funding to the areas where it is truly needed, this initiative proposes a revised funding formula, recommended by the Education Oversight Committee, which will allow funds to be distributed to the schools where they are most needed.
- \$29.5 million reading coach program that offers funding for a reading coach in every public elementary school in South Carolina. Ensuring that students are proficient readers before advancing them beyond 3rd grade will improve their performance through middle and high school and reduce dropout rates.
- \$29.3 million to improving bandwidth to school facilities, bolstering wireless connectivity within school walls, and launching or enhancing the push to ensure that every student has a computer or tablet. Modernizing technology and improving bandwidth will give students greater access to educational content and also critical computer skills their future employers will demand. This includes an additional \$4 million in teacher technology training.

Second Year 2015:

Fairer and simpler funding by eliminating and consolidating certain lottery funding streams and increasing the Base Student Cost

Reading coaches for third grade literacy by doubling the reading coach investment and expanding summer camps

Technology in the classroom by consolidating the purchase of digital materials, supporting STEM development, and increasing teacher training for technology.

Following the Governor's lead, the General Assembly funded the Governor's requests for these reforms.

Rural Teacher Initiative

Rural Teacher Initiative includes five incentives: (1) One year of subsidized tuition in exchange for two years of teaching in eligible districts; (2) Up to \$7,500 of student loan repayments in exchange for one year of teaching in eligible districts; (3) Stipend or salary increase for teachers with less than five years' experience who relocate to eligible districts; (4) Subsidized tuition for graduate school for teachers with more than five but less than ten years' experience who relocate to eligible districts; and (5) Stipends for veteran teachers to mentor newer teachers in eligible districts.

This initiative is part of the Governor's ongoing efforts to improve education in rural South Carolina. The Governor requested and received from the General Assembly an allocation of \$1.5 million for an initiative to help recruit and retain teachers in the 25% of South Carolina school districts that have a 12% or greater annual turnover. The

