

**From:** Kenny Bingham <kbingham@aec-sc.com>  
**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 3/5/2014 11:47:57 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Points for Rep Bingham

---

Got it! Thanks!

Kenny

On Mar 5, 2014, at 11:30 AM, "Veldran, Katherine" <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

Below are Christian's **suggestions**. Please let me know if you have any questions.  
See you at 3:00pm.

Thank you,  
Katherine

---

**From:** Soura, Christian  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 05, 2014 11:28 AM  
**To:** Veldran, Katherine  
**Subject:** Points for Rep Bingham

He's free to offer whatever commentary/insights he'd like, but for context's sake, the event will:

- ☐ Thank Rep. Bingham and the Ways and Means Committee for supporting the K-12 initiative in their budget.
- ☐ Ask the Senate to continue the momentum as they begin their subcommittee deliberations.
- ☐ Note that Sen. Peeler got "Read to Succeed" placed on Special Order yesterday, and ask the Senate to pass that as soon as possible, as well.
- ☐ Issue a proclamation declaring this "March into Literacy Month" in South Carolina.

So a few points for his consideration:

- ☐ The Governor's recommendations in the budget and her K-12 initiative are the product of a year-long process that was open and inclusive. These proposals reflect the input of members of the General Assembly from both houses and from both parties.
- ☐ (Offer an anecdote of something he either learned during or appreciated about that process.)
- ☐ The Ways and Means Committee's budget followed-through on those recommendations:
  - Use the EOC's funding formula to target money for students in poverty and those who need individualized instruction.
  - Put state-funded reading coaches in the elementary schools where students aren't making the grade on standardized tests.
  - Almost \$30 million more for technology, for bandwidth, networking, and computer equipment.
  - An increase for charter schools, to accommodate enrollment increases, provide about 12% more per-student, and use \$4 million in one-time money for the Revolving Loan Facility Program, to improve charter facilities.
- ☐ I've talked to folks in my district about these proposals, and they're excited. From the superintendents, to the teachers, to the parents.

- In Lexington 2, this means over \$425,000 in additional funds for technology next year. It also means 100% state-funded reading coaches in 5 elementary schools, and half-funded coaches in the other 2. That's going to have a positive impact for our kids.
- We'll be on the floor with the budget in the House next week, and I expect that we're going to send a budget to the Senate that's going to include these reforms. I hope they follow-through and get this initiative to the finish line.
- (Add a story or observation about literacy / importance of reading.)

**Christian L. Soura**

Deputy Chief of Staff

(803) 543-0792

[ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov](mailto:ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov)