

From:

To:

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Subject:

Governor Nikki Haley Education Reform

Governor Haley K-12 Reform Initiative:

Fair and simple funding:

Problem:

- South Carolina's education funding system didn't take into account poverty when allocating money to school districts.
- South Carolina's education system is cumbersome and a mix of hundreds of funding streams.

Governor Haley's Solution:

- Successfully secured a new funding model that takes poverty into account when allocating state resources, thereby ensuring children aren't penalized by where they live and go to school.
- Successfully consolidated multiple funding streams to ease the compliance and programmatic burdens placed on school districts, ensuring more money actually makes it to educating students.

Emphasis on reading:

Problem:

- In 2013, South Carolina placed 42nd among states for 4th grade reading scores at or above basic on the National Assessment of Education Progress.

Governor Haley's Solution:

- Successfully moved a bill through the General Assembly requiring reading coaches in every elementary school, and reading remediation and reading summer camps for all students failing to meet basic standards by the end of the 3rd Grade.

Education technology:

Problem:

- Many South Carolina schools lacked sufficient technology and digital instructional materials to teach children in the modern era, with some schools not even having broadband connections.

Governor Haley's Solution:

- Successfully secured funding (over \$90 million in three years) to build out 1 to 1 computing, and bolstering broadband and wireless connectivity, to ensure all South Carolina schools and the technology and broadband to deliver a 21st Century education.

The Associated Press: [Haley's reform plan would spend more on poor kids](#)

The State: [SC Gov. Haley proposes \\$160 million in new school spending](#)

The Washington Post: [South Carolina's Haley pitches education reform package](#)

The Aiken Standard: [Gov. Haley's education plans could be 'a pleasant surprise'](#)

The Aiken Standard: [New legislation to focus on third-grade readers](#)

The Associated Press: [SC Gov. Haley signs reading improvement bill](#)

Rural teacher recruitment:

Problem:

- In many rural and underserved communities throughout South Carolina, it is becoming more and more difficult to attract and retain high-quality teachers, causing a disadvantage for students that live in these areas.

Governor Haley's Solution:

- Over a two-year span, secured funding for the development of an incentive-based rural teacher recruitment and retention plan, and then secured legislation to make the plan a reality.

The Greenville News: [Haley budget: teacher incentives, more reading coaches](#)

The Associated Press: [Haley proposes loans for schools, teacher initiatives](#)

School Choice:

Problem:

- While charter schools were authorized in South Carolina prior to Governor Haley entering office, they were inadequately funded compared to public schools, and had little accountability measure to gauge their effectiveness.

Governor Haley's Solution:

- Secured annual funding for the charter school district, and signed a bill bringing accountability to poor-performing charter schools.

- Also expanded access to virtual education to bring additional choices to students in rural and underserved areas throughout the state.

The State: [S.C. students rally for more school choice](#)

The Post and Courier: [Gov. Nikki Haley Signs Charter School Bill Into Law](#)

Education Week: [South Carolina Expands Virtual Education Options](#)