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Subject: Read to Succeed Talking Points

Can you take a look at these and make sure I hit on all the major or noteworthy provisions?

Read to Succeed

- On Monday, we celebrated an unprecedented investment in South Carolina's public schools.
- A major component of my K-12 Education Initiative was centered on improving reading skills of our children.
- Today, we're here to celebrate another important reading-based education reform – the Read to Succeed Act.
- The ability to read is the cornerstone of education and future academic success.
- We know that those who cannot read by 3rd grade are 4 times less likely to graduate from high school.
- South Carolina placed 42nd in the nation for the percentage of 4th graders scoring at or above basic on the National Assessment Educational Progress in 2013.
- But that is changing this week.
- The bill I'm signing today will create the Read to Succeed Office within the Department of Education, whose focus will be on assisting districts with developing reading standards and improving reading outcomes for our students.
- Likewise, districts will be required to prepare annual reading proficiency plans.
- In addition, the bill requires a literacy reading assessment to be administered to each Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten student.
- For those who struggle with reading proficiency, the bill will provide for an intervention process and, beginning in the 2017-18 school year, we are no longer simply going to move 3rd graders who cannot read along to the 4th grade.
- As part of the Education Initiative passed this year, school districts will get a reading coach and Read to Succeed will provide for certification and the implementation of those reading coaches.
- Thanks to the leadership of Senator Peeler and others in the House and Senate, we are going to transform South Carolina's public schools.