



MICK ZAIS

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCDE Announces Creation of Read to Succeed (R2S) Office

COLUMBIA – Today, State Superintendent of Education Dr. Mick Zais announced that a Read to Succeed office has been created at the State Department of Education, in compliance with the recently passed literacy law.

“As we work to ensure the Read to Succeed legislation is implemented correctly, we want to make sure this is a team effort,” said Zais. “The creation of this new office, housed in the Office of School Transformation, shows a commitment on our state’s part to focus on improved literacy outcomes for our children. I am pleased that we are now making progress that can be measured,” said Zais.

The mission of the Read to Succeed Office (R2S) will be to offer a comprehensive approach to reading that ensures all students develop reading and writing skills to be college- and career- ready. The R2S Office will have various functions, which are outlined in more detail on our website at <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/se/Read-to-Succeed/>. These include supporting summer reading camps; encouraging family and community partnerships; working with higher education teacher training programs to increase reading proficiency; developing a state reading plan; and creating a statewide system supporting reading coaches.

Candice Walsh will lead this Reading and Early Learning team. She has worked with many of the literacy initiatives outlined in the R2S legislation. After completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Lander University, Walsh went on to earn a Master of Education in Middle Level Literacy from Cambridge College. She also brings a strong base of public school experience to the position.

“I want to congratulate Candice on this opportunity to lead our state’s new reading initiative,” said Dr. Cindy Van Buren, Deputy Superintendent of School Effectiveness. “Her breadth of experience coupled with her passion for literacy makes her the perfect leader for our reading and early learning team.”

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