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Date: 12/30/2013 3:46:16 PM
Subject: Subject: Fw: Follow Up

Dear Melanie,

Thank you for the informative note regarding the progress of FS and SDE in reporting their CDEPP information.

I see and understand the concern for the First Steps data and the tardiness of it. Having received your notice in a round about manner and a few days past when it was sent, I just today inquired of First Steps about their lack of punctuality.

Sadly, it was reported to me that the data was late because of key staff person who is, to be blunt, terminally ill. Data had to be pulled manually due to this "complication" but I would hope that this tardiness not be disseminated as disregard, when actually, the opposite is true. Unforeseen circumstances such as these, especially around the holidays, are certainly cause for excused delay and I would hope that you and the EOC would take extra measures to include all data in your report in some way.

Again, thank you for your message and for so diligently compiling all the data in your possession which is so vital to the General Assembly.

Sincerely,
Shannon

P.S. As per the final line in your note, I will pray that there will be little occasion for you to feel the need for it.

Representative Shannon S. Erickson
South Carolina House of Representatives - District 124
129 S. Hermitage Road
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

Subject: Follow Up

Because several of you have asked, I just wanted to follow up with the latest on the CDEPP evaluation pursuant to provisos 1.83. and 1A.34. of the 2013-14 General Appropriation Act.

I met individually with staff from the Office of First Steps on October 25 and staff from the SC Department of Education on October 30 to discuss the data needs of the CDEPP evaluation and timelines for submission of the data. The date for submission of data was initially set for December 2, 2013. This date was moved to December 6 per the request of both SCDE and the Office of First Steps.

When the EOC staff had not received all the data requested from either organization by December 6, the EOC notified each entity via email on December 17 that all data had to be submitted to the EOC by close of business on December 19 in order to be included in the report. With the Christmas holiday, December 19 gave the EOC staff less than 14 business days to analyze the data, and complete the report that is due to the General Assembly and Governor by January 15, 2014.

As of close of business yesterday, the EOC had received no data or information at all from the Office of First Steps. I got an email earlier today that the data would be here by noon. The EOC has not received the data. The Department of Education had submitted all financial and program data but no individual student data.

Consequently, the EOC will only be able to report on the expansion of CDEPP in public schools in 2013-14. The EOC staff will also include in the report information on the results of PASS and the academic achievement of students who were enrolled in CDEPP in 2006-07, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

If you have questions or concerns, please let me know. And, Merry Christmas to you all! Here's hoping that there will be enough wine in Columbia in 2014 to sustain me!

Sincerely,

Melanie Barton

Education Oversight Committee

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