



**Governor Haley's  
K-12 Education Reform Initiative  
Legislative Briefing**

January 6, 2016

**State of South Carolina**  
Office of the Governor



# Development Process



- Conversation began in 2013 State of the State
- This is “Year 3” of education initiatives
- Nov 2014 Abbeville Ruling has shaped legislative discussion
- Focus of this year’s meetings has been on Superintendents...
- Another week before budget is complete; some movement will happen before ‘balance’; some decisions left to be made

# Overview



- FY 2016-17 Initiative focuses on six points
  - Education Governance
  - Funding the basics
  - School Facilities
  - Recruiting and Retaining Teachers
  - First Steps reauthorization
  - Integrating technology into student life
- Mix of legislation, recurring and nonrecurring funds

# Education Governance



- **Appointment of Superintendent of Education**
  - 2015/16 brought a new partner and a new need to elevate district accountability to the state level
  - Ultimately provides for better coordination of children’s services
- **Timeline pushes appointment past 2018**
  - 2016 ballot provides for 2017-18 ratification and enabling legislation for Superintendent qualifications
  - Allows current office-holder to seek election under current standards.
  - Filling a current vacancy is Gubernatorial appointment:  
“Vacancies occurring in the office after January 2019”

# Funding the Basics



## Using resources to ensure basic needs are met

- Arriving to and from school safely
- Learning in a safe and clean environment
- Receiving instruction from a qualified and engaged teacher
- Using materials that are current, and in good repair
- Empowering parents and students to shape their own education

# Funding the Basics (2)



- Education Finance Act
  - Gross increase in Base Student Cost of \$80: \$168 million, includes consolidation of EIA Aid to Districts
  - Includes a dual enrollment weight (0.15 WPU)
- Continued Progress on instructional materials
- Sustaining School Choice
  - Funding the VirtualSC program, accessed by public, charter, private, and homeschool students statewide
  - Welcoming 7 new charter schools in the EFA/Charter School supplement – now the 15th largest district in the state.

# Funding the Basics (2)



- Addressing transportation needs
  - Increasing driver salary supplements to raise minimum pay (\$19 million)
  - \$3.5 million for hazardous route transportation will improve safety in high-traffic areas and those without sidewalks

# Education Facilities



- Superintendents stressed the needs in rural districts
- The initiative includes a 3-step process
  - Mandates (with funding) that the Department of Education, in conjunction with Department of Administration, assess schools
  - Develops school “templates”: rigorous building standards and limited design options that provide for size- and age-appropriate schools in a consistent manner statewide
  - State-approval and prioritization of requests based on condition, ability to pay at the local level, etc.

# Recruit and Retain Educators



- CERRA, in conjunction with SDE, EOC, Governor's Office, met with superintendents to formalize initiative
- FY 2016-17 initiative proposes \$15 million for incentives
  - College education for high-school students training to be teachers
  - Enhanced student loan repayments for teachers moving to rural districts
  - Graduate level education for career educators
  - Stipends for career educators who become teaching mentors
  - Technical assistance and recruiting assistance from CERRA

Executive Budget supports additional recruiting, retention and evaluation initiatives, including PACE expansion, teacher certification and compensation system, and ADEPT

# First Steps Reauthorization



- Current reauthorization includes a study committee to address future reauthorizations
- Performance of local First Steps entities varies widely
- Historical failure of statewide measurement and oversight systems has hindered accountability and performance improvement
- Currently only state in the nation at our level of federal corrective action for BabyNet noncompliance

# First Steps Reauthorization



## Initiative proposes to preserve, but restructure programs

- Consolidate CDEP/4K into Department of Education under a Deputy Superintendent or equivalent for Early Childhood Education
- Move County Partnerships under the umbrella of the Children's Trust Fund, with a reconstituted board
- Establish a new Babynet partnership between SC DHHS (fiscal agent, payer, provider network) and the Department of Education (program management, student identification, hand-off to kindergarten)
- Reconstitute the Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC) as a policy-focused body, staffed by the Department of Education
- Significantly longer, if not permanent, reauthorization of programs

# Technology



- Third year of technology investment - \$29 M
  - Fulfills 2014 commitment; FY 2017-18 should see structural changes to address highest need instead of straight allocation
- E-rate technical assistance for districts
- “Last mile” infrastructure in older buildings and distressed areas (\$10 M - \$12 M per year)
  - Internal wiring and ports for wired capacity
  - Expanded wireless for mobile devices in schools
  - Network engineers through the Department of Administration
- Home connectivity for students



**Questions?**