



# SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE

State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Ave., Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

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April 15, 2013

Mr. James Curran, Executive Director  
Teach For America  
401 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North Suite 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Curran:

The Government Operations and Audit Committee has scheduled a meeting for May 14, 2013, in room 413, in the State Capitol Building, to review various issues involving state government.

The Committee requests that you be present on May 14, 2013 to discuss the "Teach for America" program and provide the Committee with answers to the following questions:

1. How long has the program functioned in South Dakota schools?
2. How many folks / teachers have participated in the program since it started? Average per year. How many in the 2012-2013 school year.
3. Which schools utilized this program? How many of the schools were BIA funded?
4. How many of the TFA participants have stayed for more than 2 years? What is the average length of stay?
5. Scores by students provided by DOE do not reflect positive impact of this program. Please provide the performance metrics for the TFA program. What are the specific measureable goals to prove this program is working?
6. What is the total dollar amount of student loans that has been written off because of participation in TFA in South Dakota?
7. We heard many times that "It is working" – "This is a program that works." Please provide the specific data that shows the program has improved the scores. We do not want testimonials.
8. How does this compare to the program currently offered at BHSU?
9. Provide a total and detailed financial report covering the total life of the program in South Dakota – include private and public (state and federal) dollars involved in the program.

The tentative agenda has this scheduled to begin at approximately 2:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Flannery with the Department of Legislative Audit at 773-3595.

Sincerely,

Representative Dan Dryden, Chair  
Government Operations and Audit Committee