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## **PAGE celebrates House Education Passing SB 364 Testing and Educator Evaluation Reform out of Committee**

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators celebrates the continued movement of critical testing and educator evaluation reform out of the House Education Committee by unanimous vote on Friday.

SB 364 provides important relief on testing and educator evaluation requirements, including reducing the percentage of student growth measures on evaluations from 50 percent to 30 percent for teachers and 70 percent to 40 percent for leaders. Further, student measures will not be utilized for evaluations unless students are in attendance for 90 percent of a teacher's course. The bill also reduces the number of required tests from 32 to 24 during a student's K-12 academic experience.

"PAGE appreciates that legislators in the Senate and the House are listening to the many voices of educators, parents and students across our state who have been working under an unreasonable assessment system that was designed to punish educators rather than inform student instruction," said Dr. Allene Magill, executive director. "Georgia's 1.7 million students deserve to learn from educators who are committed to every student's academic progress, their development as critical thinkers, and their ability to pursue creative expression."

Georgia's current testing and evaluation programs are a disservice to students and educators. Over-reliance on testing interferes with the delivery of quality educational experiences to students, and the amount of testing alone takes away from instructional time.

Educator evaluation reform and student testing relief are the major legislative priorities for PAGE during this 2016 session of the General Assembly. The direct advocacy effort of PAGE's legislative team at the Capitol and PAGE members' individual efforts with the "I Promise" campaign have been instrumental in the proposed reforms that are now one step closer to becoming law.

PAGE urges lawmakers to pass SB 364 and for Gov. Nathan Deal to sign this important reform into law as soon as possible.

The **Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE)** is an independent, professional education association for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals and other school personnel in Georgia. **PAGE is the state's largest organization for professional educators**, and nearly 90 percent of the association's **90,000-plus members** are classroom teachers and aspiring educators. PAGE members serve in schools in every city and county school system throughout Georgia.