



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA EDUCATORS

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March 29, 2016

The Honorable Nathan Deal
206 Washington Street
111 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

We are pleased to write to you today on behalf of over 90,000 Georgia educators and the students they serve, respectfully requesting that you sign SB 364, critical student testing and evaluation reform. During the recent legislative session, SB 364 passed both the House and Senate unanimously. SB 364 reduces standardized testing for students and reduces the emphasis of testing in educator evaluation; it is strongly supported by both Georgia educators and parents.

We appreciated the reference to standardized testing in your State of the State Address and your plans to review testing with the help of a Teacher Advisory Committee. As you stated eloquently in January:

Now that the federal government has given states greater latitude regarding testing of students, I call on our State Department of Education and local school systems to evaluate their testing requirements. If a test is not necessary to advance and tailor instruction, it should be eliminated. I do not suggest that tests should be abolished simply because the results might be embarrassing. In fact, it is those tests that pinpoint areas in need of remediation. But tests that are duplicative and do not enhance educational achievement should be abolished.

PAGE supports your goal of reevaluating and streamlining Georgia's testing program to ensure it meets student instructional needs, and we believe SB 364 makes significant progress toward this goal. More work on testing is clearly needed, and we would like collaborate with your office on this important effort. We stand ready to nominate a number of thoughtful professional educators to your Teacher Advisory Council.

As you consider adding your signature to legislative proposals, we also respectfully ask you to review HB 859 and HB 792, which seek to expand the rights of persons to carry concealed firearms and electroshock weapons on college campuses. PAGE is concerned about the impact of the two proposed expansions on early childhood facilities, lab schools, and camps located on college and university campuses and well as the safety of high school students who are jointly enrolled at Georgia higher education institutions. We hope that you will work with the legislature to ensure the safety of younger students enrolled in these classes and programs on many Georgia campuses and the staff who serve these students.

Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration of important legislative proposals impacting our state's students and educators. We look forward to working with you to ensure a bright future for all and to your signature of SB 364.

Sincerely,

Dr. Allene Magill
PAGE Executive Director

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PAGE Director or Legislative Affairs