

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Board of Education Matters
January 18, 2017

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS

On November 8, 2016, citizens across the state of Georgia voted down a constitutional amendment (Amendment 1 Senate Bill 133) that would takeover certain Georgia schools and place them in a state-run school district known as the "Opportunity School District." In Chatham County, 62% of voters were opposed to Amendment 1.

On November 9, 2016, the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and County of Chatham approved their 2017 Legislative Priorities that included, as first priority, the protection of Local Control and presents the following resolution:

WHEREAS, taking local control shifts governance to a top down, state leadership model and will do just the opposite for the successful outcomes of Savannah-Chatham students, and will not result in the needed infusion of state resources;

AND WHEREAS, ensuring real opportunity for every student means providing schools with resources that attract the best faculty and staff, improving access to health and social services, and providing added supports for academic enrichment opportunities;

AND WHEREAS, in the spirit of collaboration with state leadership, the Board of Public Education seeks to work together in a way that provides alternatives to takeover and offers realistic resolutions for the transformation of underperforming schools;

AND WHEREAS, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) continually demonstrates a proactive approach in leading and governing schools, and submits the following critical focus areas for school based improvement:

- Maximizing Facility Usage
- Expanding high quality Early Childhood Education programs
- Effective use of early intervention strategies/programs
- Increasing access to language acquisition and immersion services
- Implementing a rigorous, culturally relevant curriculum
- Addressing Elementary Overage Learning Gaps
- Implementing wraparound supports for students and their families
- Strengthening parent and community engagement efforts

AND WHEREAS, while it is widely accepted that school accountability plans serve as an integral component for monitoring the performance and progress of Georgia schools, constant change in any accountability plan holds the potential to create unwanted,

impulsive reactions that do not support the conditions for the delivery of well-defined, aligned, student-centered educational activities;

AND WHEREAS, as state leadership is working to develop Georgia's plan for the implementation of the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, we urge state leadership to commit to an accountability tool that will remain unchanged for a minimum of three years;

AND WHEREAS, as school progress is defined in part by student performance on state mandated testing, we support a movement toward a formative assessment model that provides real-time data for the optimization of individualized instruction;

AND WHEREAS, funding for school improvement programs provide the foundation for clear, sustainable change that attracts top education professionals and provides the resources for targeted programmatic initiatives. We believe an appropriations approach that fully funds the School Improvement Grants (SIG) 1003g program, must be a priority for the General Assembly;

AND WHEREAS, replacing a one size-fits-all, regulatory style of administration with a data driven, service based management approach that promotes collaboration with stakeholders, and provides resource allocations for servicing schools directly, will support schools to help them solve their unique challenges, and support their improvement efforts.

THUS,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and the County of Chatham, adopt this *Resolution to Support Underperforming Schools* as an alternative to state takeover initiatives and provide it to the representatives of the Chatham County delegation as a means for collaboration that is supportive of our shared goal for improved student outcomes.