



STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Nathan Deal  
GOVERNOR

August 15, 2013

Dear Members of the State Board of Education,

There is no more strategic investment we can make than to ensure that our children have the best education possible, and I know you share my passion for improving educational opportunities and outcomes in Georgia. Setting rigorous academic standards is an essential component of increasing student achievement and improving college and career readiness to achieve that goal. I have made it my goal as governor to make Georgia the number one place in the country in which to do business and we simply cannot do that without a strong K-12 school system.

Because high expectations for all students is and must remain a foundational component of Georgia's educational system, and in light of recent independent reviews and concerns expressed by members of the General Assembly, I am writing today to request that you conduct a formal evaluation of the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts and a comparison of these standards to the Georgia Performance Standards, which were in place prior to the adoption of Common Core. In this evaluation of the standards, I ask that you take into account feedback, observations, and analysis from all stakeholders. All Georgians should be allowed to voice their support and concerns.

Far too few students in Georgia are graduating from high school and, according to the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia, of those who ultimately walk across the stage at graduation, most are not ready to do college level coursework. This is unacceptable. I ask that you join me in ensuring the path forward for our students is rigorous and adequately prepares our students for college and careers ahead of them.

While curriculum decisions are – and should remain – the responsibility of our local school systems, the state should ensure that resources are made available so that every child learns the importance of American government, our nation's founding documents, citizenship including voting and civic responsibility, and economics education and fiscal responsibility. Thus, I also ask you to work with Georgia stakeholders to develop and adopt a model social studies curriculum that encompasses these foundational tenets to be made available to local school systems.



Additionally, while Georgia's adoption of the Common Core State Standards did not mandate the use of a required reading list, I also ask you to formally reconsider the appendix to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts that includes sample "text exemplars" for classroom use and to develop a model reading list to be made available for local school systems in Georgia.

Thank you for your continued service to our state and our students.

Sincerely,

*Nathan Deal*

Nathan Deal