Challenges Facing Public Education
What We’ll Cover…

+ The world has changed and public schools are asked to do more and more.

+ Education plays a significant role in our economy.

+ We have significant funding challenges.
It’s a Different World for Kids

- Email is too slow for them
- They don’t fear Russia
- Their blackboards are Smartboards
- They’ve never seen a Sears catalog or a phone book
- They know Clint Eastwood as a sensitive director...not Dirty Harry
We Are Asked to Do More

From 1910 to 1950 – schools added P.E. and football, Vocational Schools, mandated transportation, ½ day kindergarten, fine arts, school lunch programs, driver’s ed, sex ed

In the 60s and 70s – Advanced Placement, adult ed, career ed, federally mandated special ed, drug programs, Title IX programs, school breakfast programs
In the 80s—mandated child abuse monitoring, bilingual education, full day kindergarten, after school programs, expanded health and psychological services

In the 90s—America 2000 (Republicans), Goals 2000 (Democrats), technology use, expanded gifted ed, at-risk and drop out prevention

And in the 2000s—No Child Left Behind (Republicans), Race to the Top (Democrats), body mass monitoring, and much more…
Lately, we’ve been told...

- New Common Core Curriculum (national curriculum) will be phased in over the next three years
- National assessments will begin in 2014-15
- Career pathways will be required of all students for graduation
- New teacher and employee evaluation instruments will require more time and personnel to implement
And Yet…

*Public schools are being funded at the lowest levels since 2003.*
A Snapshot of Our State

- Georgia educates 92% of all students. March 2012 count was 1,673,740.

- 59% of our children are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Ten years ago it was 45%.

- We spend an average of $8,594 per student.

- As of August 16, 2012, there were 1,338 elementary, 489 middle, and 456 high schools in Georgia.
How Our Schools Are Funded...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total K-12 Budget</td>
<td>$6.96B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>47.67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>40.95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2011
Austerity Cuts to Lost QBE funding

- 2012 Cut by $1,147,859,436
- 2011 Cut by $1,089,521,696
- 2010 Cut by $936,342,040
- 2009 Cut by $495,723,830
- 2008 Cut by $142,959,810
- 2007 Cut by $169,745,895
- 2006 Cut by $332,835,092
- 2005 Cut by $332,838,099
- 2004 Cut by $283,478,659
- 2003 Cut by $134,993,642
- Since 2003 total cuts of $5,066,238,199
Over the past 10 years in Georgia, school funding has been cut by $5 billion.

Districts are having to furlough staff and, in some cases, cut the number of school days in order to balance their budgets.

The economic climate is hurting the amount districts collect from SPLOST funds.

Revenue sources are severely limited.
Local Funding

- Property taxes are the primary source of local revenue for local school systems. These funds are used for the operating budget.

- Property taxes are based on the county millage rate adopted by the Board of Education annually. By state law, millage rates are capped at 20 mills, except in a few rare circumstances.

- Property values continue to fall.
SPLOST

- Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds can be used for capital expenditures like buildings and technology, but NOT for salaries and other operating expenses.

- SPLOST is approved by the county voters every five years. Projects are outlined ahead of time and cannot be changed after approval by voters.
Local Challenges

The “funding cliff” has arrived....

- Significant state cuts (austerity cuts) will remain in place.
- Federal stimulus funds are no longer available to offset state cuts.
- The tax digest is decreasing and the result is reduced local revenues.
- Equalization grants have been cut.
- Employee benefit costs are increasing significantly.
Funds for programs, positions and operations have been drastically cut.

Increased accountability and mandates

We still must do whatever it takes to improve the achievement and futures of our students.
Strategies and Solutions

Expenditures

- Increase Class Sizes (Means Cutting Teachers)
- Reduce or change student and staff support services such as nursing, professional learning, and assistance to students who struggle or who are high achievers
- Eliminate programs: Electives, Athletics, for example
- Reduce school days further
- Reduce or change operational support provided such as transportation service, technology, facility care and maintenance, and administrative support.
Important Figures to Know

+ Unemployment rate: 9% (March 2012)
+ 83.5% of adults have high school diplomas (2006-2010)
+ 27.2% have bachelor’s degree or higher (2006-2010)
+ Current graduation rate at State level: 2011 – 67.4%
The Role of Education in our Economy

Without an education, our children won’t be able to find and keep good jobs.

Unemployment by Education Level

- Bachelor's or More: 4.2%
- Some College: 8.3%
- HS Grad/No College: 9.1%
- Dropout: 13%

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, 2012
The Role of Education in our Economy

Our local economy cannot thrive if its citizens can only get the lowest paying jobs.

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, 2012
Our Economy is Tied to Education

Counties with a large percentage of their populations without at least a high school diploma will find it extremely difficult to attract businesses and sustain a healthy economy.

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, 2012