Dear Educators:

Georgia’s Future. Now! is the result of your input, not an insult to your pedigree. The Common Core Standards were developed by Georgia educators to fit the needs of our students. The Georgia Performance Standards were developed by Georgia educators to fit the needs of our students. The Teacher and Leader Keys Evaluation System came largely from the input of teachers, principals, and district leaders. They have been shaped through research, trial and error, and solid results from pilot projects in Georgia. Career Pathways will help us make sure Georgia students are ready for college and career upon graduation. That is our universal goal.

Please join us on this pathway toward Georgia’s Future. Now! Make education work for all Georgians.

The Georgia Foundation for Public Education
“This movement starts in the classroom, not the board room. Your shining examples of best practices will become the norm, making education work for all Georgians.”

—DR. JOHN BARGE, STATE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

A MOVEMENT, NOT A MANDATE

Georgia’s Future. Now! is a movement, not a mandate. It is a movement of forward-thinking educators, supportive communities and business leaders answering the call for help.

It’s research-based reinvention, born in the classroom, with living examples of what works for teachers to prepare all Georgia students for college and careers. This is the ultimate goal.

It’s a package of initiatives that has withstood the scrutiny of teachers, principals and researchers. It features high standards, evaluation and accountability measures focused on improvement, and career pathways to inspire students based on their personal interests and aligned with business needs.

This movement is real. The goals are attainable. The collective will of educators, community leaders and policy-makers will make it happen.

A MOVEMENT TOWARD:

**HIGHER STANDARDS**

We’ve identified what students need to know and be able to do. Georgia was a key player in the development of the Common Core State Standards and now we’re joining nearly every other state to create an equal playing field across state lines. These standards will challenge our students and elevate our teaching methods to meet the needs of the new global economy. The standards will not only test knowledge, but how students can apply it in real-world situations. It’s rigor with relevance.

**BETTER TEACHING**

We can’t just ask teachers to change. We have to practice, experiment, share, show results, collaborate and evaluate. Teachers need multiple measures with deeper meaning to improve performance — not a checklist of satisfactory or unsatisfactory. We need to know what students learned and how much they grew, not just what teachers taught. Once we identify strengths and areas for improvement, we have to prescribe and offer tailored professional development and collaboration with colleagues. The Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems allow each educator to identify exactly how he or she can improve student learning.

**CAREER PATHWAYS**

Employers demand it and students beg for it: relevant, experiential learning based on an area of interest that prepares each student for the world of work, whether they choose to attend college or not. At a time when many college graduates are struggling to find jobs, employers in many fields are struggling to find capable workers. We will align our offerings with high-demand areas and reward graduates with the skills needed for high-paying jobs. Parents will notice their children have a sense of direction, focus and eagerness to attend school.

RESULT: A GRADUATE READY FOR COLLEGE AND A CAREER.

A MOVEMENT WITH YOU

It’s time to stop tearing down public education and start building it up.

Georgia’s Future. Now! is a rallying point we can all get behind. It’s not piecemeal. Not one size fits all. Not a top-down mandate. It’s systemic change that provides the “how” as well as the “what.” It’s our train ticket to success, and we need everyone on board. We need all stakeholders engaged, involved, and even disagreeing — but all headed in the same direction.

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JOIN THE MOVEMENT