



The Challenges of Reform

2008

Cathy Henson

www.GeorgiaEducation.org



What is Public Education?

“Education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. It is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Where the state has undertaken to provide it, it must be made available to all on equal terms.”

United States Supreme Court
Brown v. Board of Education (1954)



What is Public Education?

“The provision of an adequate education shall be a primary obligation of the State of Georgia. Public education shall be free and shall be provided for by taxation”

Georgia Constitution



A History of Education

- 1852:** Massachusetts was the first state to pass a compulsory attendance law.
- 1912:** All states had compulsory attendance laws through the primary grades.
- 1938:** Change in labor laws resulted in raising school attendance age to 16.
- 1951:** “No other people ever demanded so much of schools and of education as have the Americans.” Henry Steele Commager



Reform Milestones

1958: National Defense Education Act

1965: Elementary & Secondary Education Act

1968: Bilingual Education Act

1969: National Assessment of Educational Progress

1975: Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act

1983: A Nation At Risk

1989: Goals 2000

1994: Improving America's Schools Act

2001: No Child Left Behind Act



History of Recent Reforms

- A+ Reform Act of 2000 (Georgia Law)
 - Smaller class sizes
 - Assessments in all grades to measure achievement and progress.
 - Analyze data to ensure that all groups of students are performing.
 - Evaluate teachers based on student performance.
 - Motivate (bonuses) and monitor (report cards).



History of Recent Reforms

- No Child Left Behind (NCLB) 2001
 - Assessments (developed by each state) in key subjects and grades.
 - Analyze the performance of all subgroups.
 - Measure “Adequate Yearly Progress” (as defined by the state).
 - Publish results.
 - No rewards, only sanctions – public school choice, tutoring, corrective action, restructuring, new governance, state take-over.



After the all the reforms, how are we doing nationally?

- The U.S. ranks 15th out of 31 countries on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) Reading exam.
- The U.S. ranks 19th out of 38 countries on the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).
- The U.S. ranked 18th out of 24 countries for educational system effectiveness in a study conducted by UNICEF.
- Math and reading scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) have remained flat for high school students for over 30 years.
- From 1973-1990, the number of students scoring over 600 on the Verbal portion of the SAT declined by 25 percent.

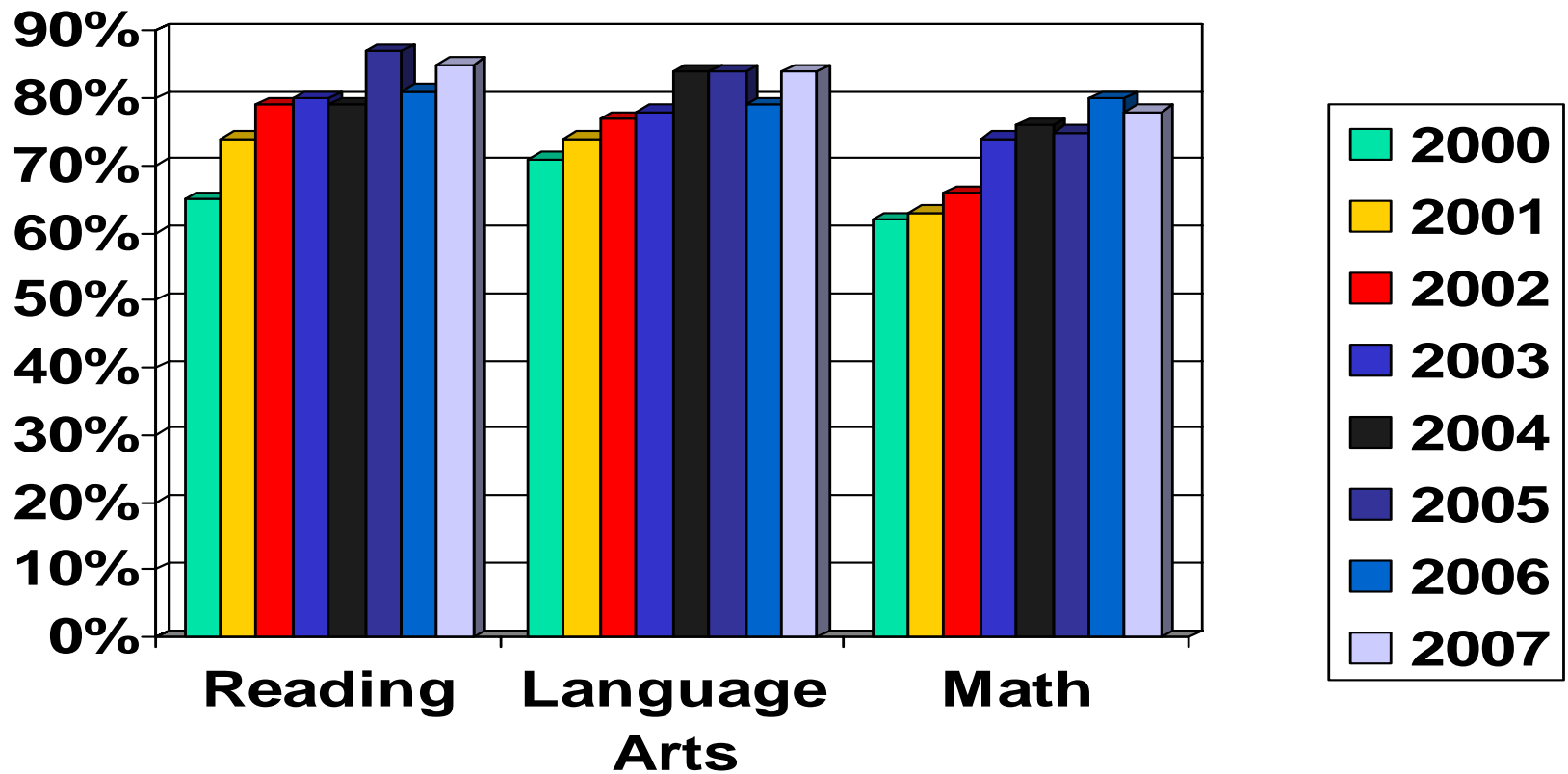
How do we measure success in Georgia?



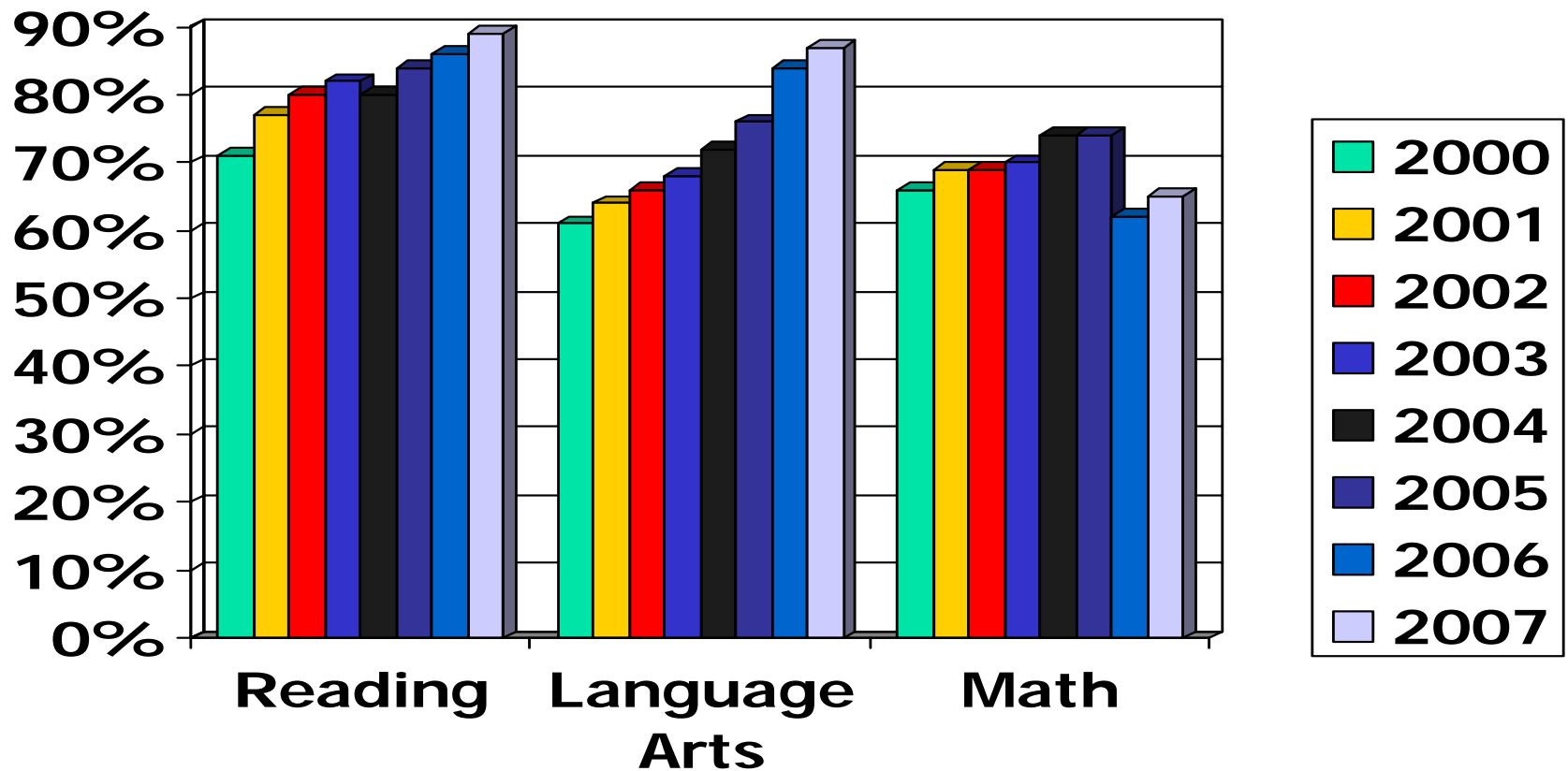
Indicators of achievement:

- Performance on Assessments
- High School Completion
- Workforce readiness
- Readiness for higher education
- College Completion

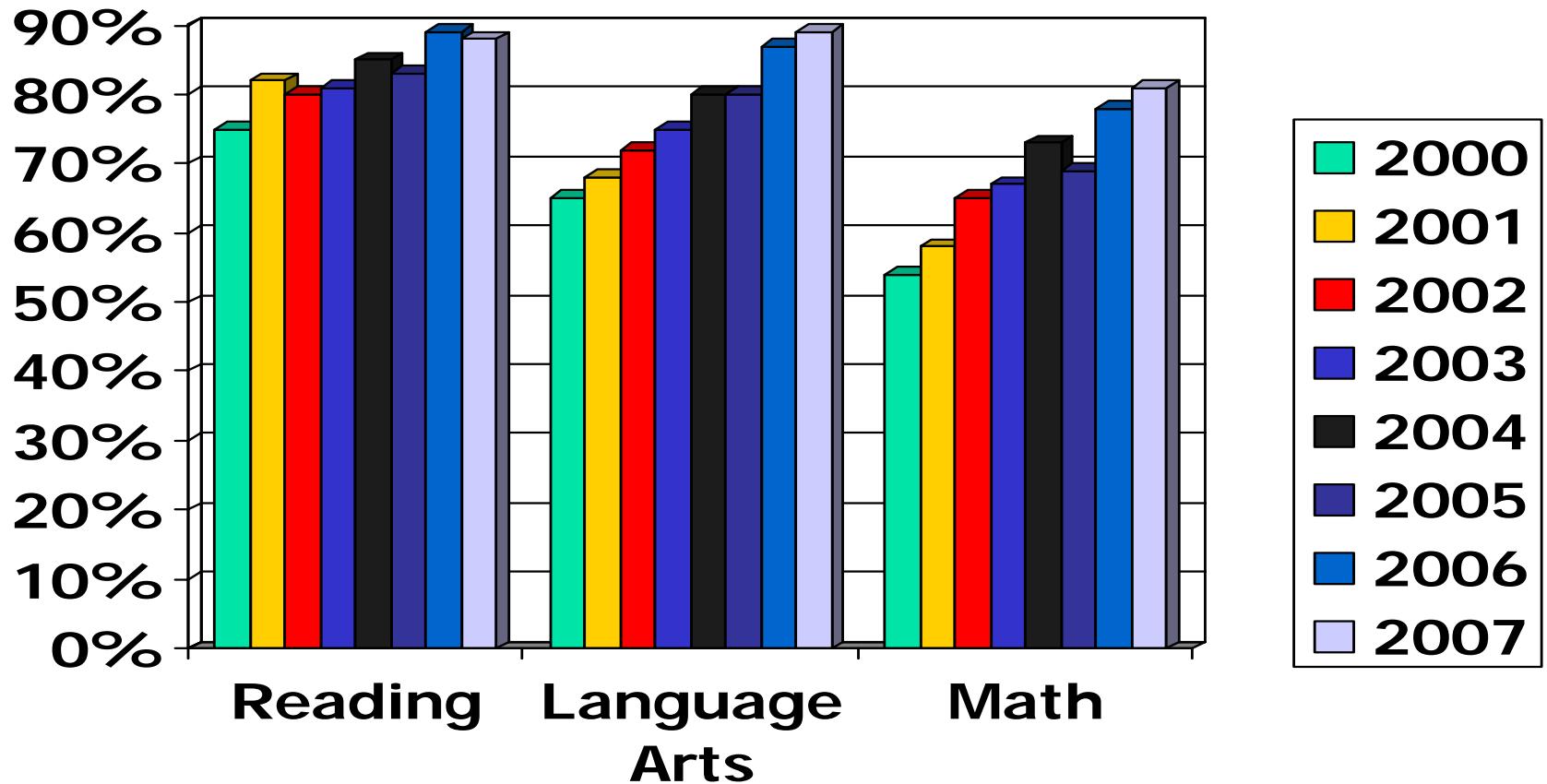
4th Grade CRCT: Students who “Meet and Exceed” the Standard



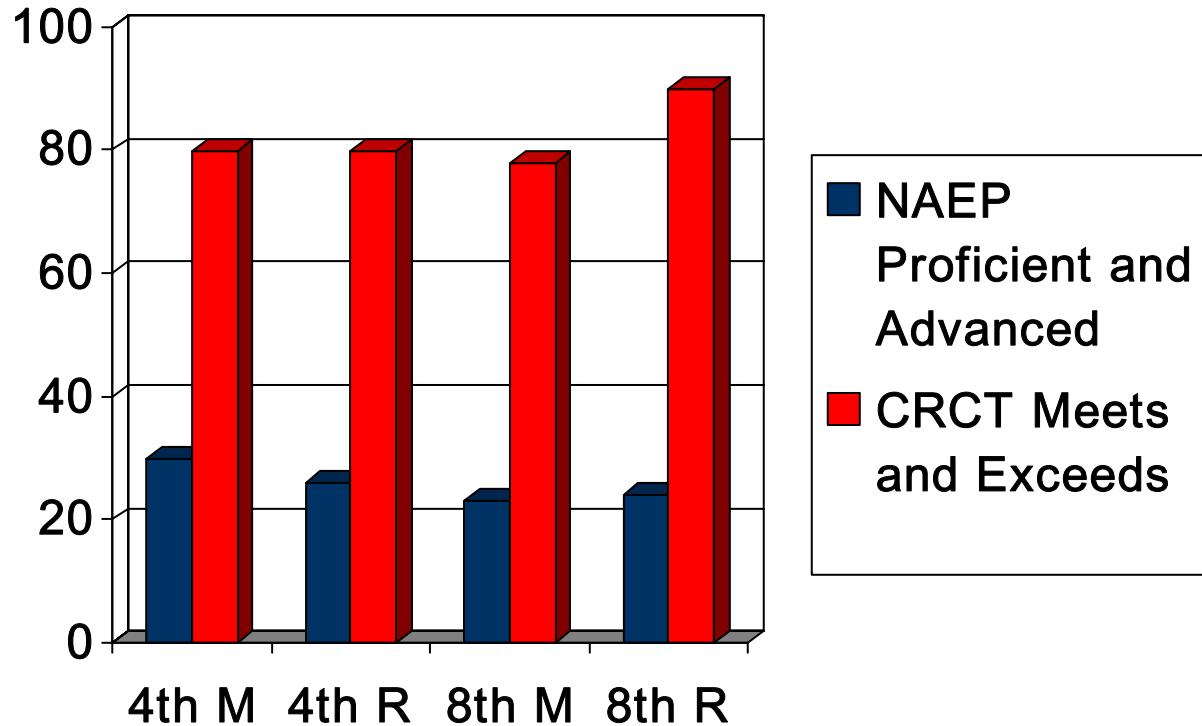
6th Grade CRCT: Students who “Meet and Exceed” the Standard



8th Grade CRCT: Students who “Meet and Exceed” the Standard



CRCT vs. NAEP (GA vs. US)





High School Completion

High School Completion in Georgia

A student must:

- Take the **required number of hours and courses** in either the College Preparatory track or the Career-Technical track.
- Pass the **5 Georgia High School Graduation Tests**.
- Meet the **attendance requirements**.



Credentials Awarded in 2007

■ College Preparatory Diploma	46.1%
■ Dual College and Technology	21.3%
■ Technology/Vocational	23.1%
■ <i>Certificate of Attendance</i>	5.4%*
■ <i>Special Education Diploma</i>	4.1%*

*Considered a “*completer*” in Georgia, but not a “graduate” for NCLB



High School Completion

What is our Graduation Rate?

State of Georgia says 72%:

of regular diplomas divided by

of regular diplomas + special education diplomas + certificates of attendance + # of dropouts each year (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior)



Georgia Graduation Rates

Cohort Calculation:

of regular diplomas awarded in 2007 77,829

divided by

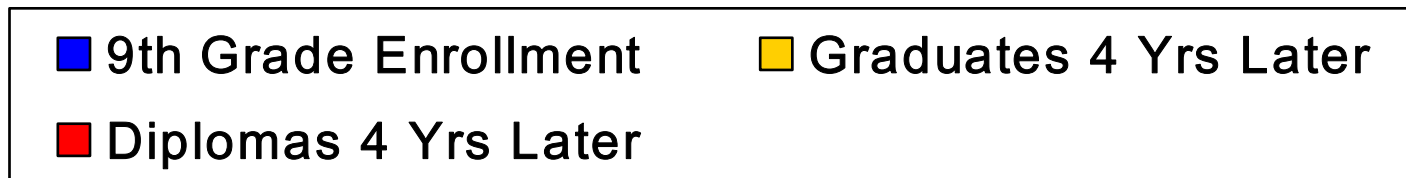
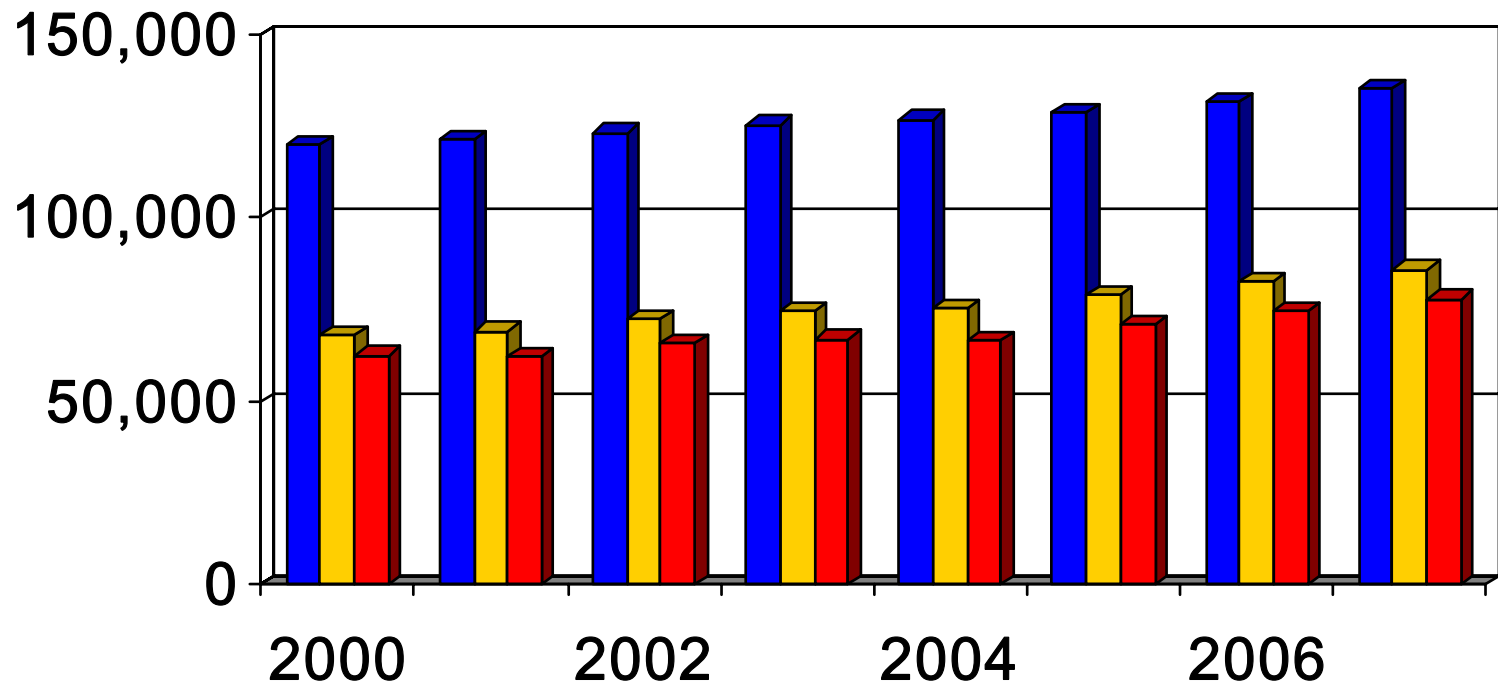
8th grade enrollment 2002-2003 116,150 67%

or divided by

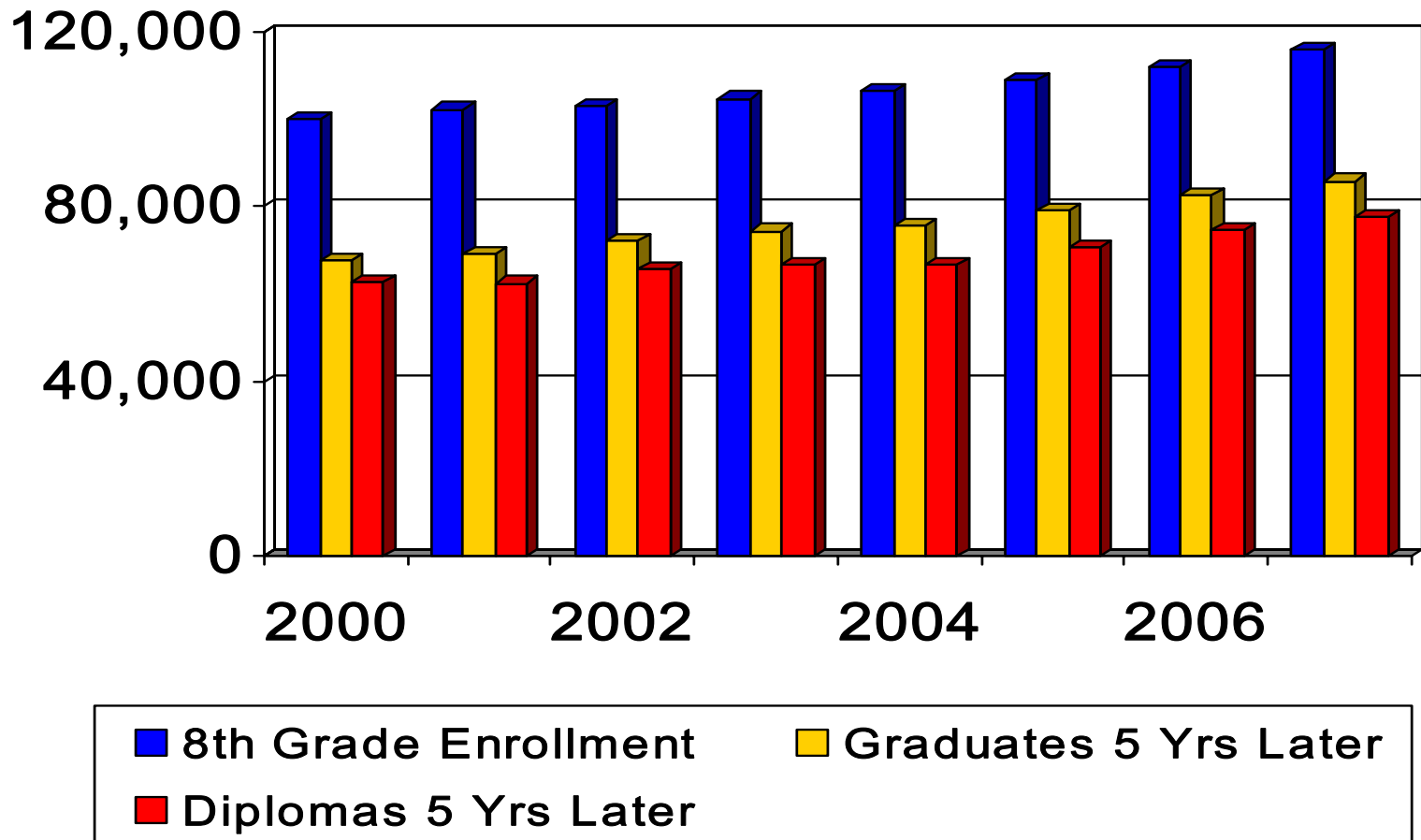
9th grade enrollment 2003-2004 135,091 57%

Where have all the students (57,268) gone?

9th Grade Enrollment vs. Completion 4 Years Later



8th Grade Enrollment vs. Completion 5 Years Later





Academic Performance

2007 Pass Rates on State Tests

*English/Language Arts	GHS GT	96%
9 th Grade Lit	EOCT	67%
American Lit	EOCT	80%
*Math	GHS GT	92%
Algebra	EOCT	63%
Geometry	EOCT	63%

*Required for diploma



Academic Performance

2007 Pass Rates on State Tests

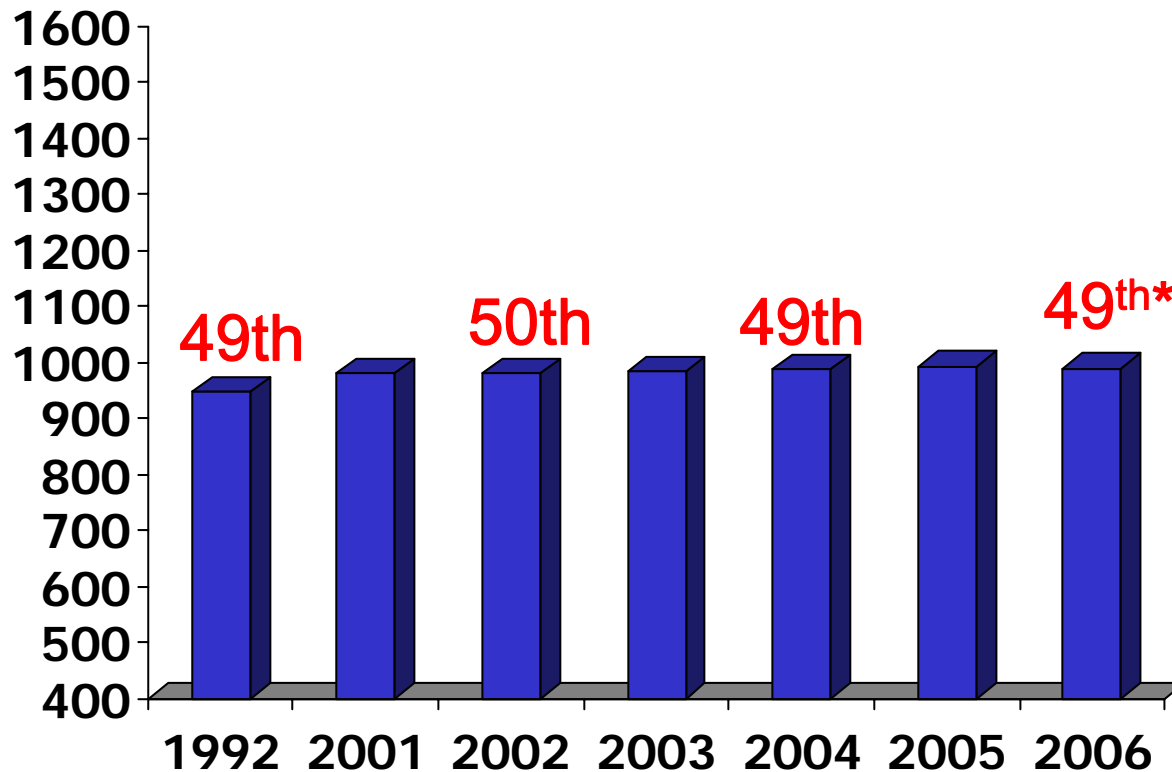
*Social Studies	GHS GT	88%
US History	EOCT	70%
Economics	EOCT	63%
*Science	GH GST	74%
Physical Science	EOCT	61%
Biology	EOCT	56%

*Required for diploma



Georgia SAT Performance

Scores For Reading (Verbal) and Math Only

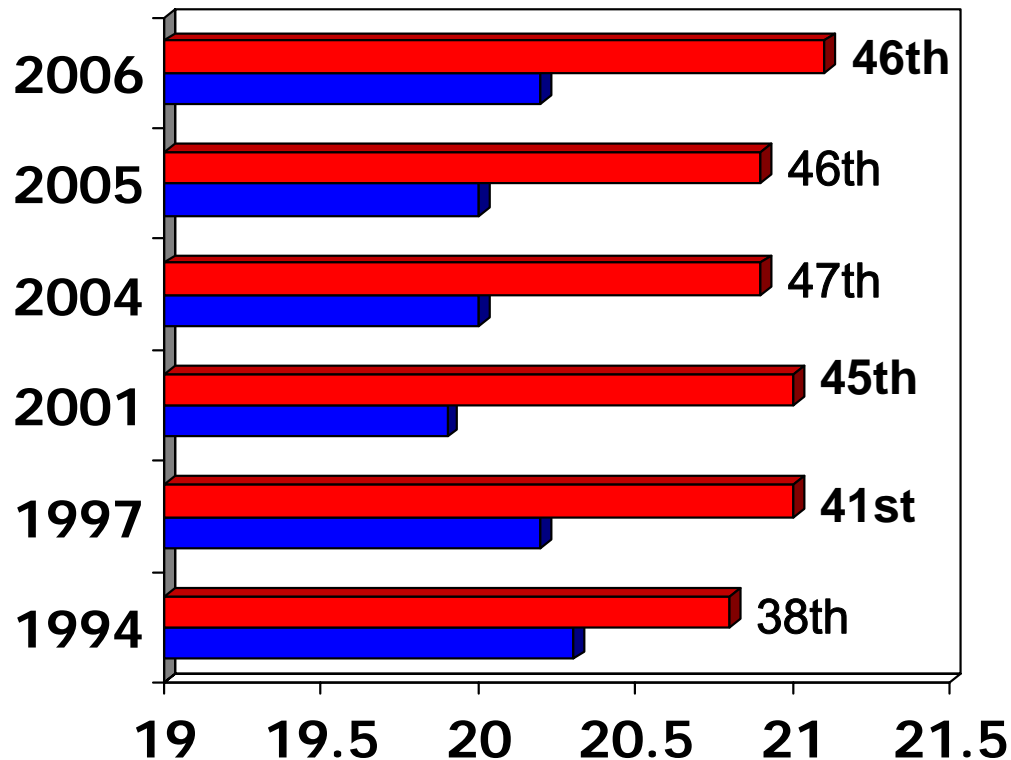


In 2006, Georgia ranked 46th with Writing included.

Comparing 2006 Georgia SAT Scores to States with Similar Participation Rates & Demographics

	Participation Rate	Average Score	State Rank	# of Takers		% White	% Black	Parents with College Degrees
MA	85%	1547	36	59,525		70	6	59%
CT	84%	1539	31	34,522		68	7	59%
VA	73%	1525	34	56,336		61	16	59%
NJ	82%	1507	37	82,990		57	10	56%
NC	71%	1493	40	52,690		65	21	54%
NY	88%	1486	43	153,518		53	11	50%
GA	70%	1477	46	58,308		57	25	54%
PA	73%	1476	47	103,445		76	8	51%

How does Georgia compare on the ACT?





Rigor at Risk Nationwide

The ACT College Readiness Report found that of the students who took the core college prep curriculum in high school:

- 16% are ready for college algebra
- 26% are ready for a college biology course
- 50% are ready for an introductory social sciences course
- 67% are ready for English Composition
- 26% are ready for all 4 core areas
- 19% are not ready for any of the 4 core areas



Why Go To College?

Average Salary

Male

Female

Drop-Out

\$22,151

\$13,255

HS Grad

\$31,715

\$20,650

College Grad

\$55,446

\$36,875

College Plus

\$73,991

\$49,164

Range

\$51,840

\$35,909

Source: 2006 Census Data



What are the Challenges to Improving Public Education?

Student Demographics

Eroding public support for public education

Unequal Funding

Teacher Quality

Governance

Changing Demographics of Georgia's Students 2003-2007

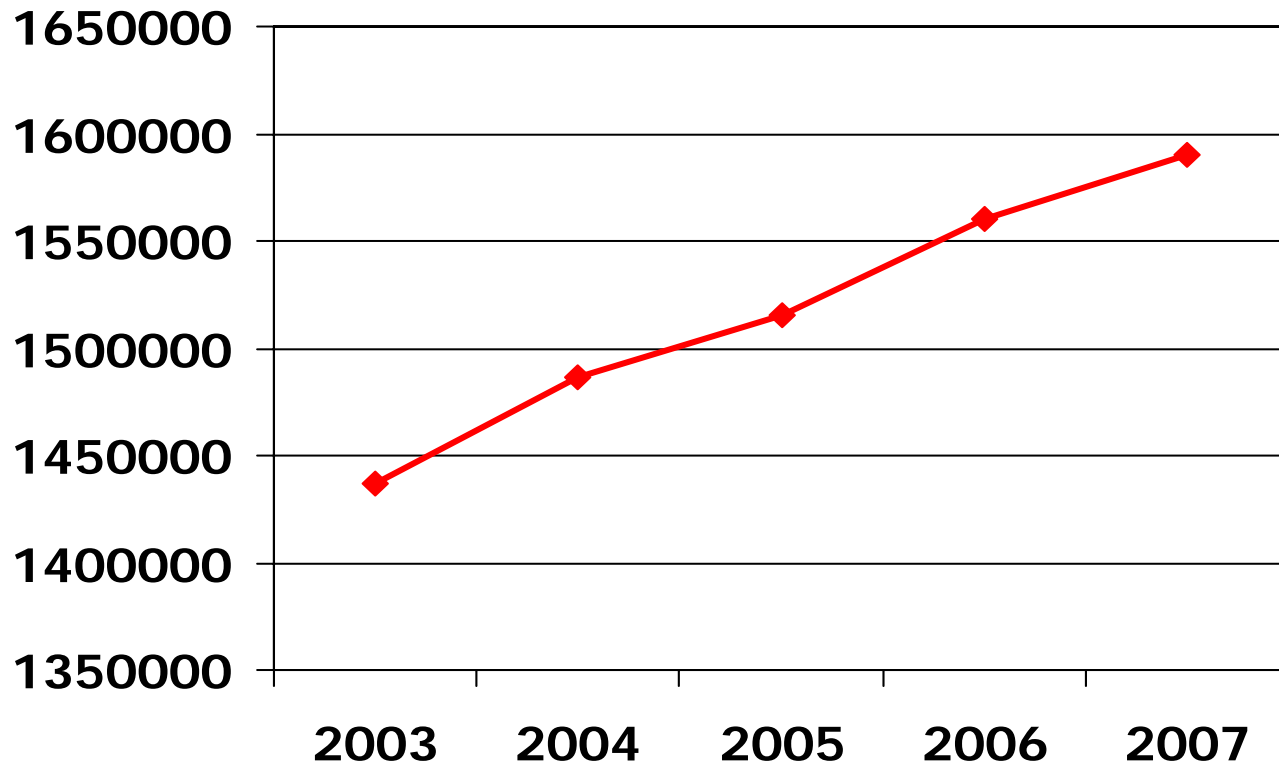
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	5 Year Change
Total K-12	1,437,294	1,486,125	1,515,646	1,559,828	1,589,839	152,545
Asian	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	+1%
Black	38%	38%	38%	38%	38%	0%
Hispanic	6%	7%	8%	8%	9%	+3%
White	52%	51%	49%	48%	47%	-5%
FRL	45%	46%	48%	50%	50%	+5%
LEP	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	+1%
Special Ed	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	0%

FRL = Free and Reduced Lunch

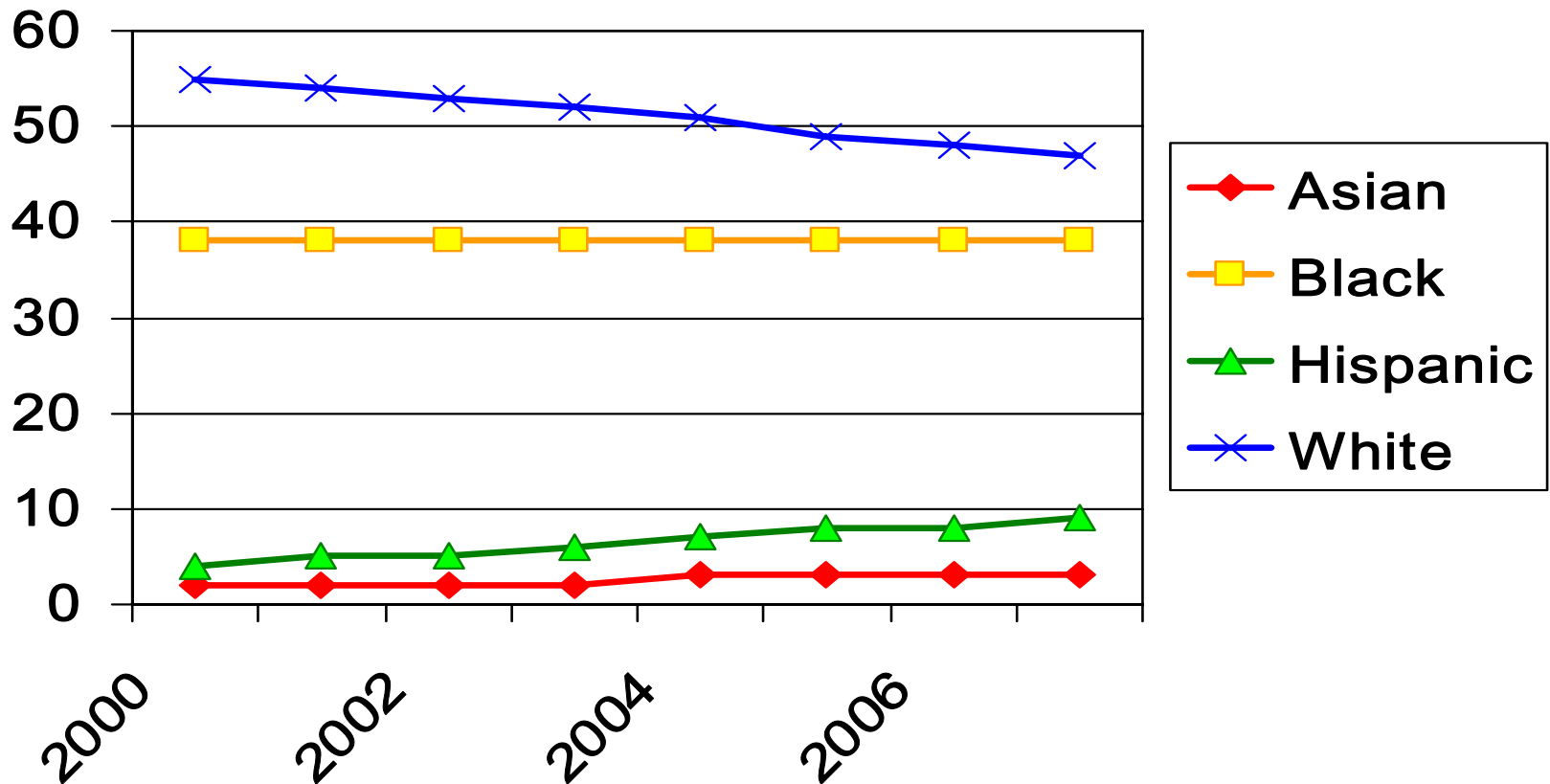
LEP = Limited English Proficient



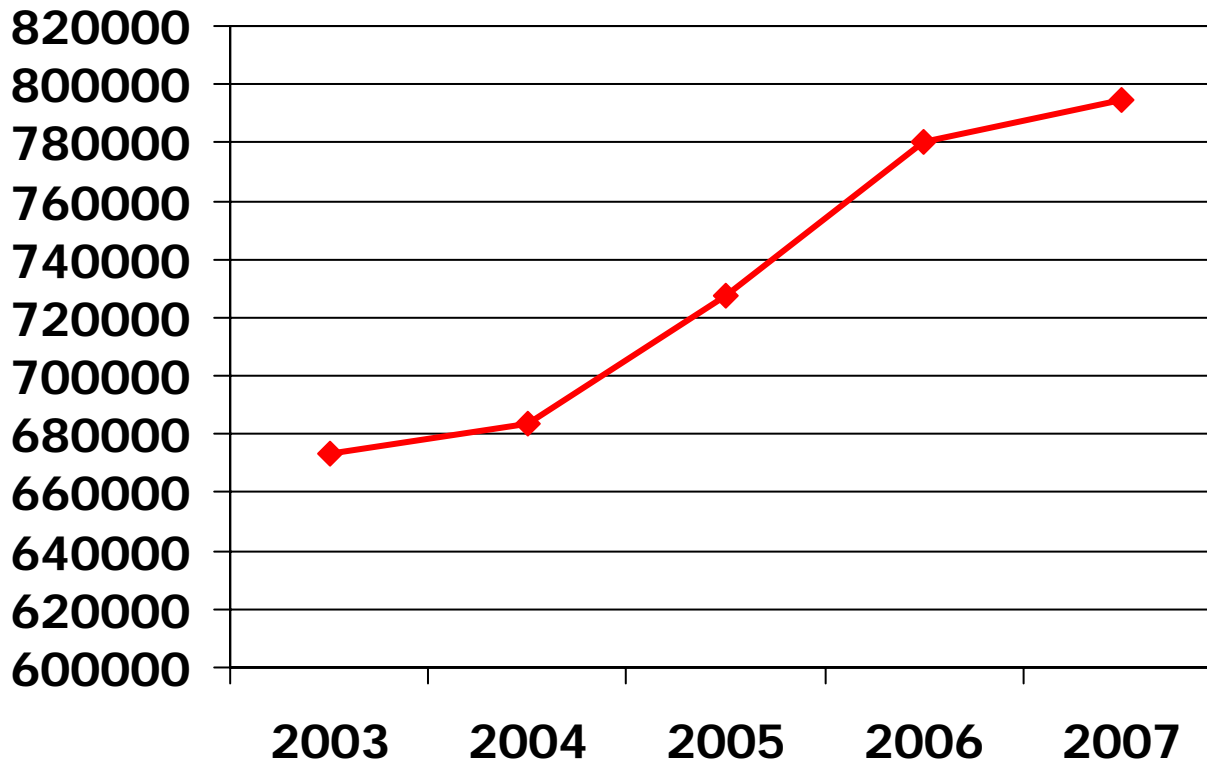
Georgia Public School Enrollment



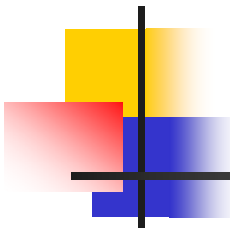
2000-2007 Demographic Trends



Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunch



How Does the Public Grade Public Schools?



	<u>Nation</u>	<u>Local</u>
■ A	3%	9%
■ B	19%	34%
■ C	55%	38%
■ D	20%	13%
■ F	4%	5%

2007 *Education Next* Survey



School Funding

The average school system's budget is a combination of:

- Federal funds 6%
- State funds 52%
- Local funds 42%



School Funding

- Locally raised dollars:
 - Property taxes
 - 1% sales tax
 - Bonds
- Locally raised dollars stay local.
- Inequities arise in counties that have little property tax and/or sales tax wealth.



Teacher Quality

“The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers.”

- How do we **attract** the best and the brightest?
- How do we **prepare** teachers?
- How do we **retain** teachers?
- How do we **compensate** teachers?
- How do we **produce** more science and math teachers?



Teacher Quality

What do the best performing countries (Finland, South Korea, Japan, Canada, Singapore) do?

- Teaching is a high status profession.
- Candidates are carefully screened.
- Teacher-training places are limited.
- Hiring is from the top of the class.
- Ongoing extensive training every year.
- Collaborative work environments.



Dysfunctional Governance

“There are too many kids in this tub
There are too many elbows to scrub
I just washed a behind that I'm sure
wasn't mine
There are too many kids in this tub.”

Shel Silverstein: *The Crowded Tub*



Governance: Federal Government

Congress

- Title I – poor students
- IDEA – students with disabilities
- ESOL – non-English speaking students
- NCLB – No Child Left Behind

US Department of Education

Federal Courts



Governance: State Government

State Constitution

Governor

State legislature

State Board of Education (K-12)

State Superintendent of Schools (K-12)

State Department of Education (K-12)



State Education Agencies

- **University System of Georgia (USG) – Public colleges and universities**
- **Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE) – Technical colleges**
- **Professional Standards Commission (PSC)**
Teacher licensing, certification and discipline
- **Bright From the Start - Pre-K Program**

Each state agency is separately funded and has its own board and executive.



Local Governments

- 180 school systems – 159 county systems and 21 city systems
- 180 locally elected Boards of Education
- 180 appointed superintendents
- 180 Central Offices



What Can We Do?

- Understand the Issues.
- Appreciate the challenges.
- Encourage national standards.
- Support initiatives to improve teacher quality.
- Question the current governance structure.
- Don't fall for the “political” solutions.
- Keep the faith.