



Friday, February 12, 2010

Dear Friend:

Recently, the Governor's Office on Student Achievement reported to the Georgia Board of Education that a large number of schools from throughout the State, including Atlanta Public Schools (APS) elementary and middle schools, have larger-than-average numbers of erasures on answer sheets from the 2008-2009 Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT).

The Atlanta Education Fund, along with the Atlanta Public Schools, takes these findings seriously. We are concerned about the report this week regarding test scores at certain APS schools, and have offered our support in whatever follow-up work might be necessary to understand whether there were problems and determine appropriate corrective action. Additionally, it is critical that practices are put in place to ensure that this situation does not present itself again.

The integrity and credibility of the school system are essential to the success of our students. APS is working closely with the Governor's Office of Student Achievement in looking into the allegations, and the district is supporting an independent review to complete a thorough investigation and openly reporting its findings. If in the course of the investigation the APS finds that tampering occurred, the consequences will be severe.

The Atlanta Education Fund remains 100% committed to Dr. Hall and the work her team are doing to transform our schools. This is an important journey from which we must not be diverted.

We would be doing a disservice to the students of APS and our entire community if we let the prospect of a problem keep us from moving forward. The most important thing we can do at this point is to let the facts guide us quickly to whatever answers and follow-up actions are necessary and in the best interests of our students.

We appreciate your continued support of the AEF and APS. We will be in touch with you as more information becomes available. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Rice".

John Rice
Board Chair
Atlanta Education Fund

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William 'Bill' McCargo".

William "Bill" McCargo
President
Atlanta Education Fund