

# Update on Your AASA

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Georgia Fall Bootstrap Conference

October 21, 2010

# Georgia's Voice at AASA

## Executive Committee

Chris Erwin, Banks County

Beverly L. Hall, Atlanta

Herb Garrett, State Executive Director

## Governing Board

Stan Dejarnett, Morgan County

Lynn Plunkett, Floyd County

Paul Shaw, White County

# Georgia Leads the Nation

- 100 % AASA Membership
  - You have access to all of the online resources of AASA, including Tool Kits.
  - You are protected by the Legal Assistance Fund that Herb has helped to strengthen.
  - Your voice is heard in Congress and at U. S. DOE through AASA representation: Bruce Hunter and Noelle Ellerson.
  - When asked AASA's Executive Director, Dan Domenech, can be a voice in Georgia

# Reclaiming Our Voice as Superintendents

- Just when did “we” become the problem?
- Is your school district doing worse now than it did last year or the year before or the year before that?
- Who has proved that the “business model” can “fix” public education?
- Why are we waiting for Superman when super people are already here?--SUPERINTENDENTS

# Georgia and Virginia—A Tale of Two States

- Federal regulations applied to state standards.
- Where is the money going?
- Is 2014 like Y2K?
- In the meantime, what is happening to our students?
- Diane Ravitch: *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education*
- Who is talking about poverty and rural education?
- What about teachers? *The Manifesto*

# Loudoun County Virginia

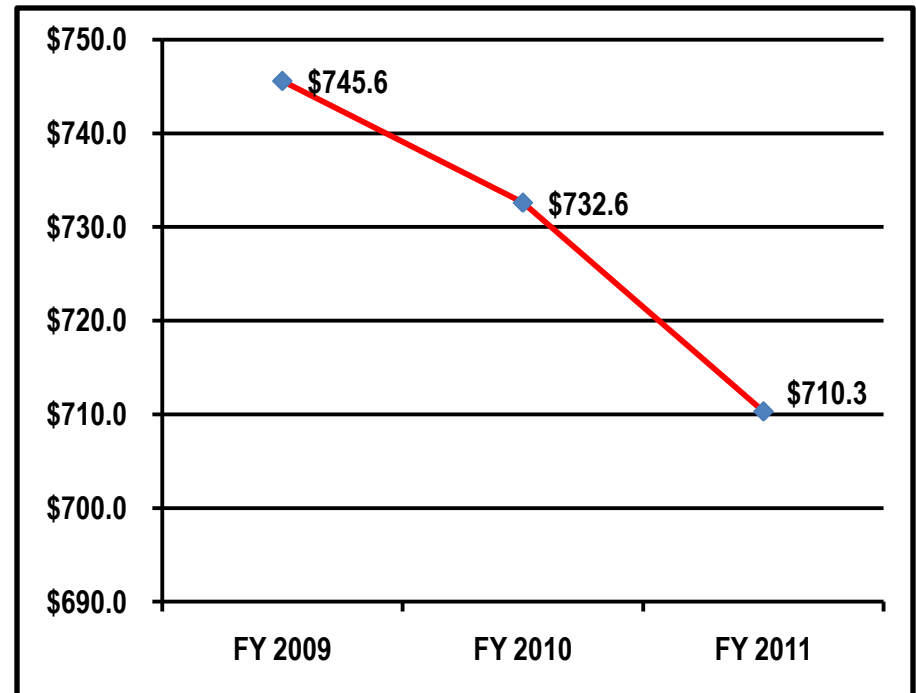
## “the richest county in America”

### Total Operating Budget Funding

#### LCPS Enrollment

FY 2009	57,317
FY 2010	60,096
FY 2011	63,220

Loudoun’s total operating budget has decreased by \$35.3M or 4.7% over the last two fiscal years. The local funding for the operating budget has decreased by \$82.2M or 15.2% during the same period.



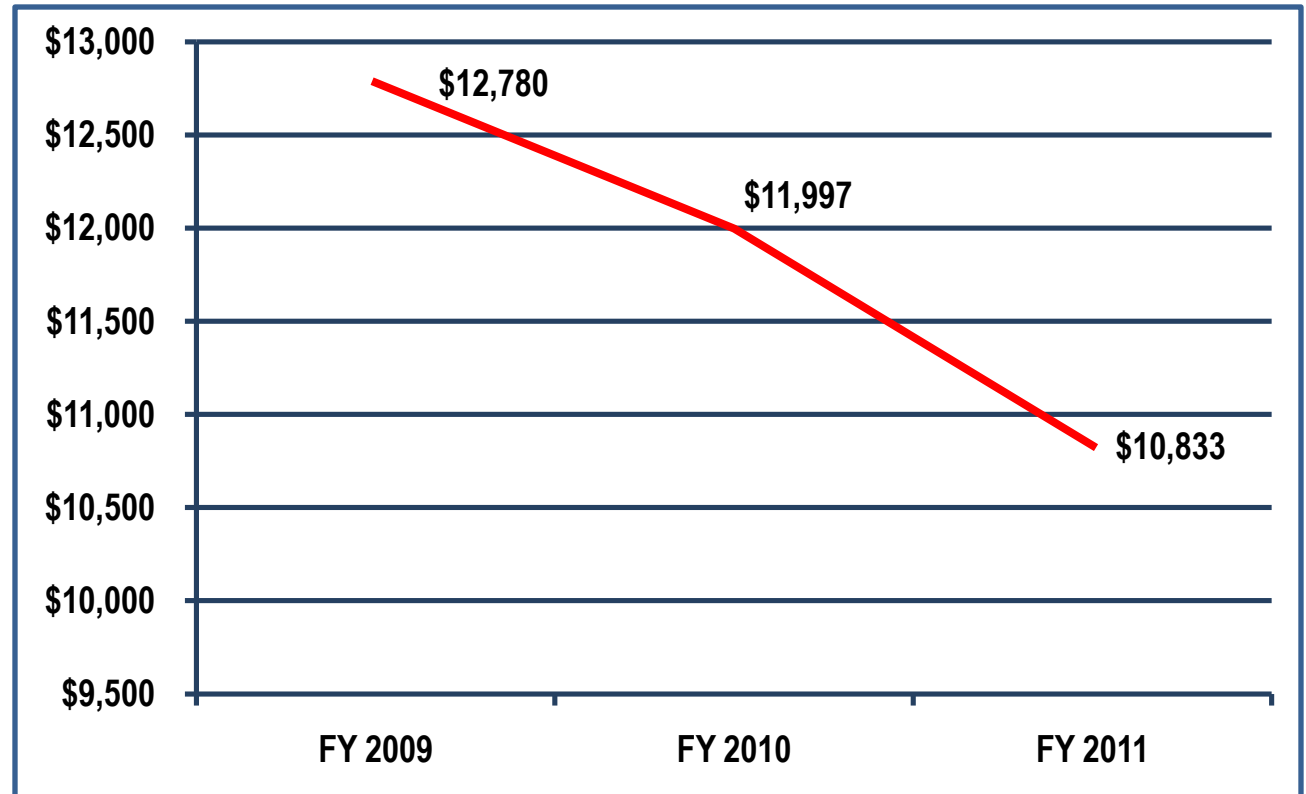
# Loudoun County Virginia

“the richest county in America”

## Cost Per Pupil

FY 2009	\$12,780
FY 2010	\$11,997
FY 2011	\$10,833

**Loudoun's cost per pupil has decreased by \$1,947 or 15.2% over the last two fiscal years.**



# *What should President Obama and Congress use ESEA to do?*

- Control redesign of a broken and failing system
- *or*
- Provide support to states and school districts to operate a system 92% funded by them





# Competing Views in Reauthorization

- The old debate was between
  - Privateers and voucher proponents
  - Advocates for public education
- A new debate has emerged
  - **School people and their advocates wanting improvement**
  - **“Reformers” wanting control and profound structural changes**

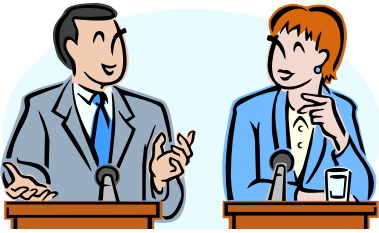
# Is there a New Education Establishment?

## “Reformers”

- Blow it up and start again  
Choice & Corporate  
control model
  - Democrats for Education Reform
  - Education trust
  - Fordham foundation
  - Alliance for Excellent Education
  - Aspen Group
  - Gates Foundation
  - Broad Foundation
  - Walton foundation

## Educators

- Federal support for state and local leadership
  - AASA
  - NSBA
  - NEA
  - AFT
  - CCSSO
  - **PTA**
  - NAESP
  - NASSP
  - NABSE
  - etc



# **Competing Views:** **Forced standardization** **- versus -** **Supplement State and Local**

- Standardization
- Federal requirements & mandates dictate
- State as federal enforcer
- Diminished Local authority
- Increased Local Responsibility
- Decreased Local authority
- Federal leadership in Equity, Research & Demonstration
- Federal Assistance for Students With Greater Needs
- Federal Funds to Help Address Systemic problems
- Balance local/state federal authority and responsibility
- Greater federal/state transparency in rule making

# Research Lacking Regarding Key Administration Proposals

- Performance pay improves instruction and therefore student outcomes
- More Charter schools will lead to improved student outcomes
- Firing lots of teachers improves student outcomes in persistently low scoring schools
- Firing principals in every low scoring school is essential to improve student outcomes

# Reauthorization Issues

## Formula vs. Competitive:

- The Administration, in its Blueprint for Reauthorization and FY11 Budget Proposal, wants an increase in the proportion of federal dollars that would move through competitive grants.
- Competitive grants put small, rural districts, those lacking the administrative capacity, and/or ESAs at a disadvantage for securing funds

# Lack of consensus means slow going

- ESEA has been in the process of being reauthorized since 2007. In that time, nearly every education group has argued that ESEA should be refocused, reframed and renamed to supplement the improvement of educational outcomes for low income and minority students:

# Summary

- Progress is being made toward reauthorization just not this year
- The debate is very contentious between education groups and the “reformers”
- The administration has sided entirely with the “reformers”
- The hill is open to educators’ views
- Some issues are very technical, which unfortunately leads to easy answers that are wrong but emotionally satisfying
- The coming election may have a huge impact on reauthorization



The 2007 Brown Center Report  
on American Education:

# HOW WELL ARE AMERICAN STUDENTS LEARNING?

*With sections on the nation's  
achievement, the mysteries of  
private school enrollment, and  
the impact of time on learning*

**BROOKINGS**



# How are public schools doing?

## The NAEP math test shows dramatic gains.

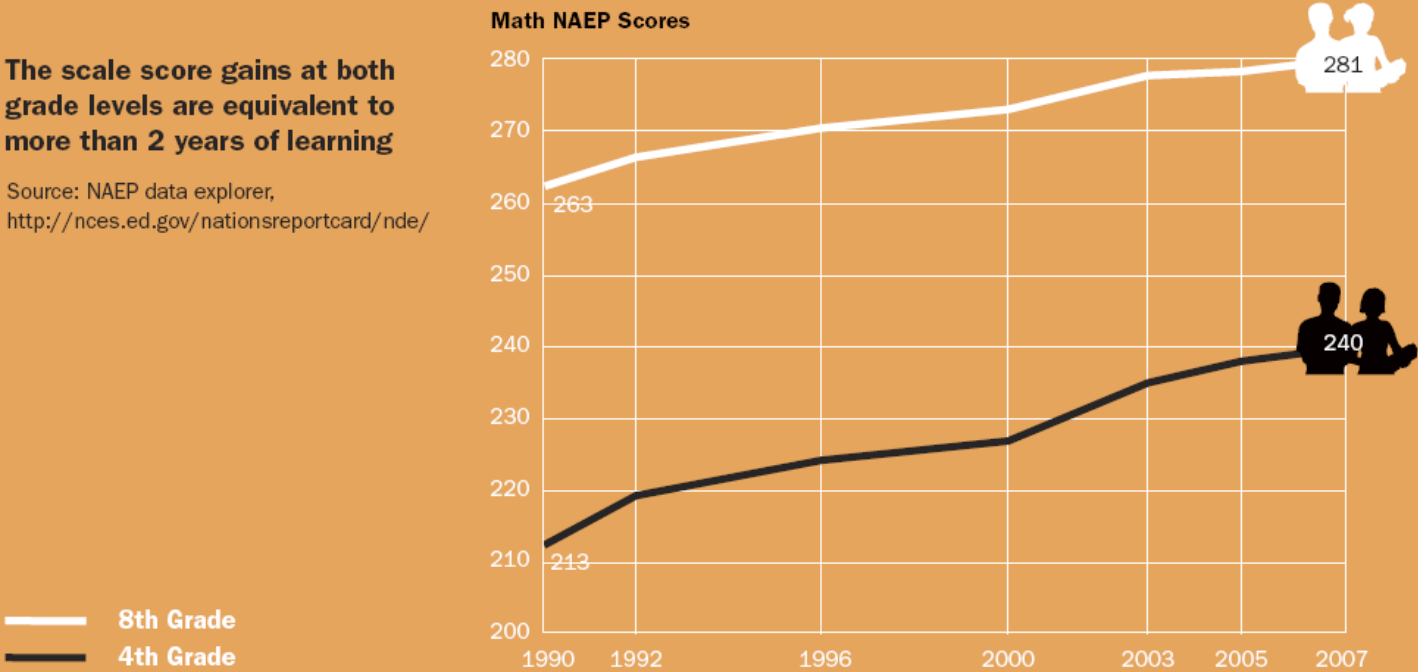
Fig

1-1

The scale score gains at both grade levels are equivalent to more than 2 years of learning

Source: NAEP data explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>

Math NAEP Scores



# How are public schools doing?

**Math scores have been steadily increasing since 1990.**

**Table**

**1-1**

	1990	1992	1996	2000	2003	2005	2007	1990-2007 Change	Change in Years of Learning
<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>+27</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>+18</b>	<b>2.3</b>

Years of learning based on 1990 score differences. Grade 4: 1 year equals 1/4th the difference between 4th and 8th grades (12.5 scale score points). Grade 8: 1 year equals 1/4th the difference between 8th and 12th grades (7.75 scale score points).

NOTE: Beginning with 1996, scores reported here include students who required special accommodations to take the NAEP

Source: NAEP data explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>

# How are public schools doing?

**Fourth graders have made progress in reading since 2000.**

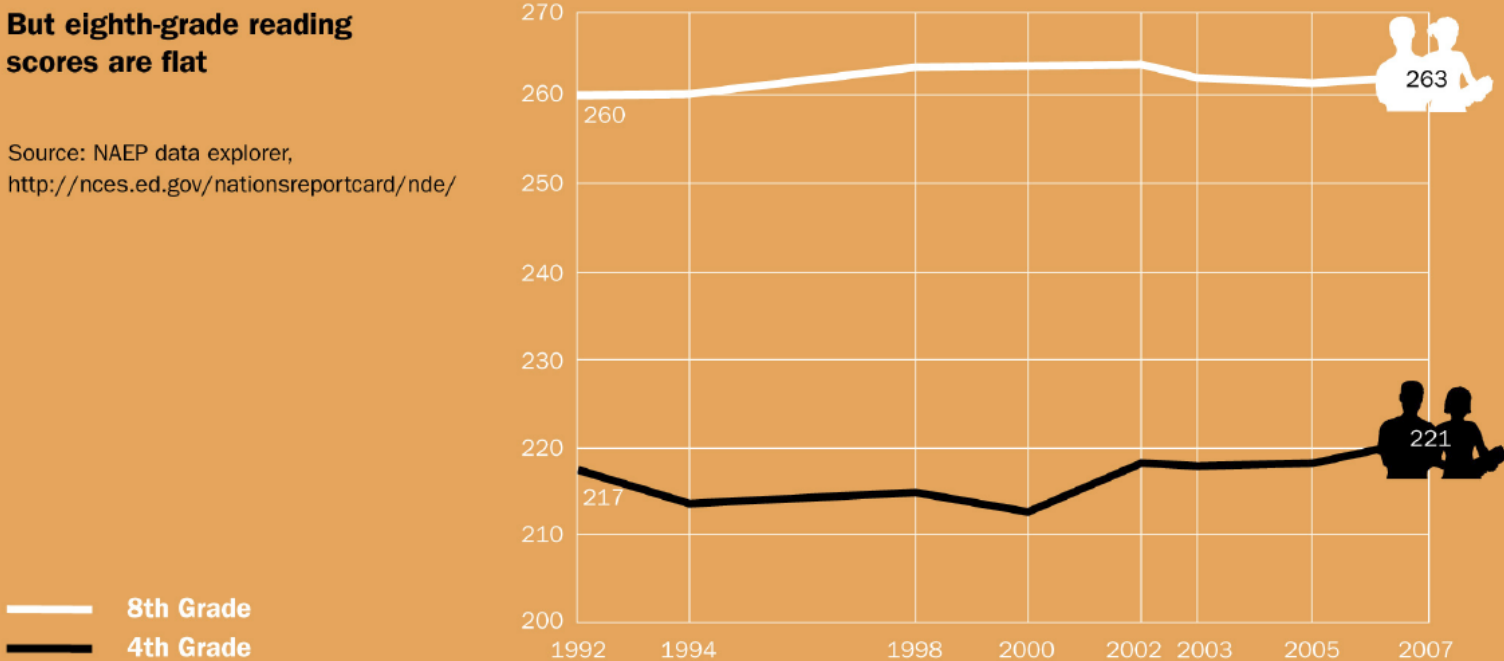
Fig

**1-2**

**But eighth-grade reading scores are flat**

Source: NAEP data explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>

Reading NAEP Scores



# Advocacy Goal:

## Second stimulus

- Worked closely with NEA/AFT/CGCS and NSBA
- Surveyed 1,400 superintendents (11%)
- 81% of respondents reported planned layoffs- of 270,000 - largely teachers and then support pupil personnel
- Press picked up and Public education supporters in Congress responded by seeking \$23 billion
- It shrunk to \$10 billion but AASA data drove the discussions
- In final days Speaker's office asked for and received additional data

# **Advocacy Goal:**

## **Stop move to Competitive Grants**

- Allied with NEA/AFT/CGCS & NSBA plus other smaller organizations
- Visited every Democratic office on House and Senate authorizing committees with a message of sticking with formula grants
- House and Senate authorizing and appropriations committees have declared that Title I and IDEA will be the main funding targets

# **Advocacy Goal:**

## **Improve Special Ed Testing in ESEA**

- Helped form a discussion with the disability community and special educators on the problem
- Reached an agreement to eliminate the 2% rule ASAP
- Met with US ED and found favorable interest
- Meeting with authorizing committee staff and finding favorable interest
- Not there yet but the road ahead is pretty clear of problems – problem is slow ESEA

# Vouchers

- Senate Armed Services Committee passed the FY2011 National Defense Authorization Act (S 3454), which included an amendment that would provide \$7,500 in government funds to military families with special needs children to use to pay for tuition at a private or a different public school.
- Many of the protections touted by proponents of this amendment are already provided to students under IDEA.
  - Current provisions and requirements of IDEA provide better services for the child. The ultimate goal is providing services, something guaranteed through IDEA but not the voucher.
- Would reduce Impact Aid for all federally connected schools.

## Next Steps: Time for **You** to Get Involved

- Advocacy is a marathon, not a sprint.
- Take advantage of the campaign season and invite your Congress members to visit your district.
- Get to know the education LA!
- Decisions will be made whether or not you weigh in.
- AASA's advocacy efforts only go so far; hearing direct from AASA members with the same message significantly strengthens the message.







NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
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School Administrators

# THE GREAT EDUCATION CONVERSATION

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# JOIN THE GREAT EDUCATION CONVERSATION

**Are you prepared to change the conversation on school reform to reflect our true successes? What does “reform” mean to you?**

**Attend AASA’s National Conference on Education to ensure you have all the information you need to discuss our progress so far and paint a clear picture of the future – join the Great Education Conversation!**

**REGISTER TODAY** at [www.aasa.org/nce](http://www.aasa.org/nce) and claim an active role in the conversation!



# Horace Mann

- “The public school is the greatest discovery made by man.”
- “A public school system throws open its doors and spreads the table of its bounty for all children.”