



Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

706-250-4800

[www.gael.org](http://www.gael.org)

January 5, 2015

## **To All Concerned with Education in Georgia:**

**The Georgia Association of Educational Leaders on several occasions has offered the following support for the Georgia Common Core Standards:**

The Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) believes that the infusion of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) into our Georgia Performance Standards to produce the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) is moving our schools in a more positive direction in terms of ensuring that all students are striving toward high, rigorous academic learning goals. Overall, our members, including superintendents, curriculum and instructional supervisors, elementary, middle, and secondary principals, special education directors, school personnel directors, and other support staff, believe in the CCGPS and their ability to lead to deeper levels of learning for Georgia students. GAEL believes that the CCGPS will increase students' skill mastery across subjects and provide for deeper conceptual understanding of math and English language arts.

The CCSS were developed by experts identified by the National Governors' Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers using the work of states that had already developed rigorous college and career ready standards. Georgia was one of the states selected to participate in the development of the CCSS and one can clearly see elements from the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). After the initial draft, the standards were posted for public comment; GAEL and its affiliates encouraged teachers and leaders to provide input and feedback. The Common Core State Standards clearly state what students should know and be able to do at the end of every grade, kindergarten through high school, in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening, vocabulary, and mathematics. The standards establish what students need to know and be able to do; they do not mandate curriculum or how teachers should teach. District and building level leaders and teachers decide how to teach the standards and decide which resources meet the needs of their students. GAEL strongly supports the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS).

**All of our affiliates endorsed the above statement. Please permit me to furthermore endorse those standards and the recommendations for modification made by the State Department of Education. We maintain our belief that the new and improved Georgia Common Core Standards are what is best for Georgia's students.**

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Stokes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jimmy C. Stokes, EdD  
Executive Director  
Georgia Association of Educational Leaders**