



December 19, 2014

Martha Reichrath
Georgia Department of Education
Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Common Core Georgia Performance Standards

Dear Martha,

A highly-educated and skilled workforce is essential to attracting and retaining quality jobs in the metro Atlanta region, as well as in the state of Georgia. As the global workforce evolves, it is more important than ever to improve the alignment between the jobs our employers need to fill and how our students are being educated to ultimately meet those needs.

Georgia needs the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. These high standards will enable consistency across states and provide teachers, parents, and students with a set of clear expectations to ensure that all students have the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college, career, and life upon graduation from high school, regardless of where they live.


In addition, these standards are aligned to the expectations of colleges, workforce training programs, and employers. These standards promote equity by ensuring all students are well-prepared to collaborate and compete with their peers in the United States and abroad. Unlike previous state standards, which varied widely from state to state, the Common Core enables collaboration among states on a range of tools and policies.

The business community is impressed with the standards and the revision process, especially since it allowed a thorough vetting of the standards by educators. The Metro Atlanta Chamber, representing businesses across twenty-nine counties, strongly supports our Department of Education, their work on these standards and the final revisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,


Hala Modellmog
CEO, Metro Atlanta Chamber


Ed Heys
Managing Partner, Atlanta, Deloitte & Touche LLP
Metro Atlanta Education Policy Committee Chair