



Fulton County Taxpayers Foundation

Non-Profit Advocate Of Lower Property Taxes In Atlanta/Fulton County

APS Series Vol. 6, July 2010

**Business Leaders,
Stakeholders, City
Leaders and Parents
MUST Demand A
Leadership Change At
APS!**

APS – Where is the Accountability?

The History Of The Cheating

Atlanta taxpayers are outraged at the 256,779 wrong-to-right erasures among the 58 Atlanta schools on the 2009 CRCT achievement tests. Atlanta taxpayers are equally shocked at the lack of shame on the part of the Superintendent and Board of Education.

On February 10th, 2010 – well over 5 months ago – the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement reported that 58 of Atlanta’s elementary and middle schools had a total of 256,779 wrong-to right erasures in the 2009 CRCT, state achievement tests given to Grades 1-8. Of the 58 Atlanta schools cited, 43 were classified by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement as “severe number of erasures from wrong-to-right.” During the past decade, the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement cited the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) in 2001, in the summer of 2008, in 2009 (cited in 2010) in spite of the fact that not a single Principal or Assistant Principal was ever fired.

The 2009 CRCT cheating involving 256,779 wrong-to-right erasures is the largest systemic cheating of a school district in the United States.

*Of the 38 school districts cited by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement on February 10th, every school district – **other than the Atlanta Public Schools** – have investigated and fired those Principals and Assistant Principles of those schools classified as “severe numbers of wrong-to-right erasures.”*

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The Proof Of The Cheating

The proof of the 2009 cheating is comparing the Atlanta test results of 2009 with the Atlanta test results of 2010: Here are a few typical examples:

- 1. At Dunbar Elementary School, Atlanta, 87% of fourth graders supposedly passed the 2009 CRCT Math test; this year, with monitors in place, that number is 49%!**
- 2. At Gideons Elementary School, Atlanta, 92% of fifth graders supposedly passed the 2009 CRCT Math test; this year, with monitors in place, that number is 39%!**
- 3. At White Elementary School, Atlanta, 88% of third graders supposedly passed the CRCT Math test in 2009; this year, with monitors in place, only 27% passed the Math exam.**

Accountability

Adults are supposed to set an example for children. When adults cheat, they send the wrong message to pupils that shortcuts are acceptable over hard work and learning. This scandal is particularly harmful to kids because under state policy, those who fail the CRCT tests are entitled to extra tutoring.

In an AJC Guest Column, 6/30/10, Professor Ben Scafidi of the Center for an Educated Georgia, states: "For the next few weeks, there is a fear that we will continue to see the Atlanta business community enable school leaders in Atlanta where there has been cheating. To date no business leader has demanded real accountability for a scandal that hurts young people.

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“Until all stakeholders say enough is enough, they, too, are morally responsible for another generation of children being promoted without the basic skills needed to read, write, earn college admission or even obtain a significant job.”

The New York Times, in an editorial date June 18th, 2010, states: Yearly testing, required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, is the cornerstone of the school reform effort. It allows districts to know which reforms are working and which are not. And it is the only way to insure that poor and minority children are being taught to meet the same standards as their affluent and white counterparts.”

What Must Happen Immediately!

The business leaders, the parents, and the taxpayers must demand the immediate resignation of Superintendent Hall and her Senior Staff and the summary firing of the Principals and Assistant Principals of the 43 Atlanta schools designated as “severe number of erasures” by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement.

John S. Sherman, President



Fulton County Taxpayers Foundation

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