

# The Board of Public Education

for the

City of Savannah and the County of Chatham

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May 19, 2008

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The Honorable Saxby Chambliss  
United States Senator  
416 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and the County of Chatham, Georgia. The purpose of this letter is to solicit your support of the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), along with appropriate corrective amendments to this landmark legislation.

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System fully supports the stated goals of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) of raising student achievement, closing the achievement gap, and ensuring that each child has a highly qualified teacher. In our role as a duly elected School Board, we continue to welcome the strict accountability for improving student and school performance required under NCLB. Despite the Act's unexpected problems and unfunded mandates, we believe reauthorization is in the best interest of children.

On April 22, 2008, the United States Department of Education issued its proposed Title I regulations for public comment. These proposed regulations attempt to correct several of the identified NCLB deficiencies in the areas of assessment, accountability, supplemental education services, and public school choice. While some of these proposed changes are commendable, we believe it is the role of Congress, and not the Department or the Secretary of Education, to fix the accountability flaws in the Act and to address its unintended consequences.

Having had six years of operational experience in implementing NCLB, school boards across the country have collaborated and identified several improvements that could be made to NCLB that would eliminate barriers to full implementation of the federal law. *The No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007 (HR 648)* includes more than 40 provisions for improving the current law which would maintain the accountability aspects of NCLB, while correcting the emerging inequities that unfairly impact less affluent districts, as well as those with high numbers of minority, special needs, and English language learners. The Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and the County of Chatham believes reauthorization of NCLB with these improvements will help continue the accountability for student achievement brought about by NCLB, while addressing many of the shortcomings in the original legislation.

We appreciate your continued support of the children and staff of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System. Let me know if you need any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Brady".

Lori Brady  
Board of Education Member, District 6  
Legislative Liaison

cc: Board of Education Members  
Superintendent

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