



**News from the Georgia School Boards Association**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**GSBA's STATEMENT CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION FOR SCHOOL BOARD EXCELLENCE**

On Wednesday, September 10, 2008, the Commission for School Board Excellence presented its recommendations to the Georgia Board of Education. The recommendations single out school board members for a far-reaching set of government reform measures – measures that would not apply to other elected officials.

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) is on record as supporting meaningful and well thought out government reform that maintains a balance in the current governance structure in our state, and GSBA believes school board members will support many recommendations found in the report. However, GSBA is concerned over some of the continuing information shared throughout this process and the wrong impression it leaves with the general public.

**Statement: Over the past 10 years, about one fifth of the state's 180 school boards have run into trouble with SACS.**

This statement leaves the lingering impression that 20 percent of Georgia's boards are currently dysfunctional. It has also been used as part of the rationale for the work of the Commission. Several weeks ago, GSBA contacted SACS to get further clarification on this statement. Correspondence from SACS to the association cited the following, "Everyone of these school systems to date (with the exception of Clayton County) have been able to address these concerns by taking steps to improve the quality of board governance. In many cases, the school systems have used this opportunity to strengthen the quality of leadership (board and administration) to ensure that such concerns do not happen again."

**Statement: School board members are running for their positions because of the salaries they are paid and using their positions as full time employment.**

Many school board members receive no salaries for their service except a small per diem. Those that do receive salaries often are paid a similar amount as city and county commissioners in their area (the following link contains the salaries of school boards in Georgia).

[http://www.gsba.com/downloads/newsroom/Quick%20Facts/Brd\\_Enrollment&Compensation\\_Alpha.pdf](http://www.gsba.com/downloads/newsroom/Quick%20Facts/Brd_Enrollment&Compensation_Alpha.pdf)

Finally, the Georgia School Boards Association has provided the Commission with information and data at their request. However, even with repeated requests and promises, GSBA was never given the opportunity to stand before the full Commission to share how the Association assists local boards in achieving excellence or to answer with firsthand knowledge any questions posed by the Commission. In Georgia, there are far more success stories than failures.

GSBA and its board of directors stand ready to work with the Commission and the state board in refining its proposal and recommended legislative actions. We also encourage the Commission and state board to look to best practices of successful school boards as they move forward in designing a school board accountability system for the 180 elected school boards of Georgia.

GSBA is a voluntary association of the state's 180 elected boards of education. It's mission is to ensure excellence in the governance of local school systems by providing leadership, advocacy and services, and by representing the collective resolve of Georgia's 180 elected boards of education. Please visit [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com) for more information on the association.

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