



The National Parent Education Center
Serving, Supporting and Educating Parents on Education
We help Parents Create Quality Education for Their Child

www.tnpec.org

PRESS RELEASE...July 18, 2011... 1 pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

SUBJECT: Our positions on the **ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS CRCT INVESTIGATION**

In light of the findings of the investigation from the Governor's office, our organization has been flooded with questions and comments about what the investigation and findings mean.

If you have ever visited our website, the following is what you have seen:

In My Shoes, Inc. – The National Parent Education Center was founded as an answer to the lack of honesty. Some of the problems plaguing schools across Georgia and across the Nation are:

- 1) Low standards and low expectations
- 2) Grade inflation
- 3) Inadequate curriculum
- 4) Willingness to mislead parents about their child's abilities
- 5) Willingness to mislead students about their abilities...

Please understand: This investigation is about all of the above.

I. OUR POSITION on Georgia's CRCT:

In My Shoes, Inc – The National Parent Education Center focuses on Quality and High Quality Education.

Therefore, as many parents who work with us know, the CRCT is an instrument used to assess overall school improvement – i.e. whether or not Adequate Yearly Progress has been made.

The CRCT was and is not an assessment instrument designed to determine the following:

- >student success
- >student improvement
- >quality/high quality education in a school
- >how your child's performance compare with other students across the district, city, state or country

Again, the CRCT was and is **not** a valid or reliable instrument to determine anything other than the school meeting adequate yearly progress. That is the Criterion that the CRCT (Criterion Referenced Competency Test) was designed to assess.

Note: To understand the difference between adequate, quality and high quality assessment and indicators please visit www.tnpec.org and click on the **Adequate v. Quality v. High Quality Education Indicators** link located under Quick Links on the right-hand side of the homepage.

Overall:

Students who are not receiving an adequate education, definitely are not receiving a quality education.

II. OUR POSITION on Ethics Violations in GA

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission is the responsible agent for investigating complaints against Georgia Educators and not the Governor's office.

During the past two years, our organization has observed many Ethics violations in the cases we have worked and filed Ethics violations' complaints with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Unfortunately, we have noticed a discouraging pattern in the Commission's findings. All the findings resulted in the Commission stating:

...the was no probable cause to investigate this matter further because the allegation was deemed to be a local policy and procedure issue...this case will be expunged.

What does this mean?

- a. In essence, educators who may want to complain about Ethics violations have no agent outside of their Local Educational Agency (LEA) itself being responsible for investigating the complaint in the State of Georgia.
- b. It is very probable that this and other Ethics violations will continue and educators who speak out will experience retaliation including termination.
- c. Because of complaints being expunged, educators may have multiple complaints, which an LEA may cover up.

Here is a listing of the complaints we have filed:

In My Shoes, Inc – The National Parent Education Center filed the following Ethics complaints:

>September 2009 Dekalb County School System

*Complaints filed against top level administrators in Dekalb County School System including the Superintendent and four top-level administrators under him.

*Alleged Ethics Standards violations: Standard 1,2,4,8,9 &10

>July 2010 Dekalb County School System

*Complaints filed against the Principal, Asst. Principal and teacher at McNair Senior High School.

*Alleged Ethics Standards violations: Standards 2, 4, & 10

>July 2010 Gwinnett County School System

*Complaints filed against the Principal and 2 teachers at Arcado Elementary School

* Alleged Ethics Standards violations: Standards 1, 4 & 10

>July 2010 Rockdale County School System

- *Complaints filed against Principal and teacher at Edwards Middle School
- * Alleged Ethics Standards violations: Standards 1, 2 & 10

Note: When invited, *In My Shoes, Inc – The National Parent Education Center* will discuss the merits and details of the complaints.

III. OUR POSITION on the Disenfranchisement of Minority Students access to Quality Education:

Former APS Board Chairman and member Khaatim El discussed how these findings cut across racial lines and his inability to prevent disenfranchisement of predominantly Black, predominantly low income students.

This is true.

And, it is openly happening across the Metro Atlanta Area going unnoticed because parents are being systemically misled and don't know what to look for.

What we know...

In helping a parent who sought our services, our organization uncovered a massive disenfranchisement of tens of thousands of minority, especially African American students in Dekalb County School System. And, for whatever reason many parents, educators, African American leaders and media entities have turned a blind's eye.

This case is currently in the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. Visit our website www.tnpec.org and click on the link at the top to learn more about the complaint.

Just to note: We have noticed other school districts disenfranchising students because of color. However, we need parents who are willing to go through with a complaint.

Note: We need your help; and upon invitation, *In My Shoes, Inc – The National Parent Education Center* is more than willing to discuss the merits and details of this case.

III. OUR POSITION on a Resolution to prevent this from again happening.

- Have your Local School System implement ITBS testing** for all students in grades from 1st though 8th in addition to the CRCT.

Why?

1. ITBS is a Norm-referenced test and therefore, parents can elicit a lot of information about their child's performance including how their child compares to other students in the test population across the county.
2. ITBS testing would make it very difficult for a large number of educators across the country to be in cahoots with one another to mislead parents and students about testing results.

b. All school districts should publish all school test results (CRCT, ITBS, SAT, ACT, AP etc.) on their website. APS does not publish test results on their website. APS parents please demand this.

Why?

Parents will have more knowledge to consider when evaluating their child's schooling and education.

c. The establishment of an agency other than the LEA to investigate Ethics complaints.

Why?

The APS CRCT investigation has shown us what a LEA may do when it has to investigate or hold itself accountable. It may engage in a cover up.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US:

Over the years, *In My Shoes Inc.-The National Parent Education Center* has become recognized as the serious organization for parents who are serious about getting the highest level of quality education for their child.

WE ARE WELCOME AND APPRECIATIVE...

We welcome and appreciate the opportunity to work with all organizations and media entities serious about improving education, getting help for parents and/or wanting straight answers without the hype and ego.

Please feel free to contact us at info@tnpec.org .