



In My Shoes, Inc - 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...February 7, 2012... 10 am

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

SUBJECT: Our positions on **HR 1162 - constitutional amendment to establish alternate state charter school authorizers**

What you should know:

In Georgia, since 2001, our organization has worked with parents, assisting them in getting their child's educational needs met. It has been challenging, it has been difficult and in one case, it has required Former Governor Sonny Perdue's office to issue a directive to a local LEA, so the child's educational needs could be met. The child was zoned out of a High Quality Educational Program meeting her educational needs and which was funded by Public taxpayer dollars.

Unfortunately, this is a common practice in Georgia. It is routine for a LEA to determine where quality and high quality educational programs will be housed and who gets the opportunity to access them.

In *Brown v. Board* and *Mendez v. Westminster*, what was made clear is that... *it is illegal to use public funds to deprive a child of equal educational opportunity*. *Brown v. Board* was based on race, and in the *Mendez v. Westminster* case, both parties were Caucasians.

Although many schools in Georgia and LEAs qualify and receive Title I funding, the focus is on meeting the minimum state standard and not ensuring that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education.

**“TITLE I—IMPROVING THE
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
DISADVANTAGED**

“SEC. 1001. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this title is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

What we have concluded:

1) In essence, many LEAs take *'the shoe determines the size of the foot'* position. In other words, LEAs limit the number of students accessing high quality educational programs based on the number of seats available, thereby leaving many students' educational needs unmet and thus allowing them to regress – a term in education called *'Regress to the Mean'*.

2) Many students attend schools and sit in classrooms where their educational needs are not being met because LEAs have made the decision for them, which is their school will focus on meeting the minimum state standard.

3) The GDOE and many LEAs strategically fail to disclose local schools' Norm Reference Test Scores in a reasonable amount of time. Therefore, limiting information to parents, hindering parents from being made aware of academic deficiencies revealed in performance indicators (specifically ITBS scores), and obstructing parents from making appropriate and time sensitive choices.

4) Under Former State Superintendent Kathy Cox, ITBS required testing in 3, 5 and 8 grades was changed to giving LEAs the option of administering the test once between grades 3 and 5 and once between 6 and 8 grades. Consequently, parents of students who do not take the test until 4 and 5 grades will not know that their child's reading skills may be very deficient especially when compared to their counterparts across the Nation. In addition, the curriculum changes in 4th grade from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn' thus, increasing the gap and contributing to Georgia being rank towards the bottom in education.

5) Needless to say, we are in favor of and **support HR 1162**.

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 Welcoming 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 .