

20 Choices

for Georgia's Future

2012

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Our future is in the balance.

Choice 4

A cuts-only approach will mean a shorter school year and larger class sizes

Potential Cut: After suffering \$3.5 billion in “austerity cuts,” local school systems are additionally crippled by an outdated Quality Basic Education funding formula which is underfunded by approximately \$1 billion.

Consequence: The past several years have been difficult ones for Georgia’s public schools. State funding reductions have left many schools with no options except to make significant reductions in the number of teachers and the length of the school year, as well as to increase the size of classes. During the 2010-11 school year, some Georgia children attended school fewer than 150 days; meanwhile in many foreign countries, students attend school for more than 200 days. How can we expect Georgia students to compete internationally if they lack sufficient class time? Teachers, parents, and students know from experience that smaller classes improve discipline and safety, increase learning opportunities for students, and enhance class preparation and management.

Let’s protect a future of opportunity for all Georgians!

We need to meet our challenges head-on – no gimmicks, giveaways or half steps. That means a **balanced approach that includes revenues** to invest in creating jobs and building an economy that works for everyone – not a cuts-only approach that threatens progress and jeopardizes the middle class. **The patches holding our schools together cannot last much longer. To ensure Georgia’s students achieve in the 21st century, we must rethink the way we meet our financial challenges. Local school systems cannot absorb more cuts.** We need to make choices that work for Georgia’s families.

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2020 Georgia is a broad alliance of community leaders and organizations, who want to make sure our state is a great place to live, raise a family, run a business. We want to make sure Georgia invests what it takes to create jobs and preserve a vibrant middle class – schools, transportation, public safety and other building blocks of a strong economy.

For more information, visit 2020georgia.org or contact info@2020georgia.org.