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SENATOR FRAN MILLAR
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The General Assembly
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

September 30, 2011

Governor Nathan Deal
The Office of the Governor
State of Georgia
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

As you know, House Bill 192 created the State Education Finance Study Commission to study the costs and resources required to educate Georgia's children. The legislation also requires that the Commission provide you with interim recommendations by September 30, 2011. We want to provide you with recommendations approved thus far by the Commission as well as to update you on our next steps.

The Commission's initial recommendations are focused on stand-alone programs or components of our current funding structure that were easily examined outside of the larger funding formula. These recommendations may be considered "low-hanging fruit" in that they address issues that are some of the top priorities of school systems and may be remedied at little or no cost to the state. The recommendations included in this report were adopted unanimously by the Commission at our meeting on August 25, 2011. The Commission feels strongly that these interim recommendations are a very good start to meeting the needs of our students, changing the way we fund education in Georgia and improving academic outcomes. The Commission requests that you consider these recommendations for inclusion in your FY 2013 budget.

With the interim recommendations completed, the Commission is now focused on addressing our long-range goals. These include creating a funding formula designed to meet the needs of current and future students and redefining the partnership between the state and local school systems. As we continue our work, we welcome the opportunity to work with your staff to incorporate your policy goals and objectives in the new formula.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Brooks Coleman in cursive.

Representative Brooks Coleman
Co-Chair
Education Finance Study Commission

Handwritten signature of Fran Millar in cursive.

Senator Fran Millar
Co-Chair
Education Finance Study Commission

BC/FM/dmn

Enclosures:

Executive Summary
School Nurse Recommendation
Professional Learning Recommendation
Capital Outlay Recommendation
65% Rule Recommendation
Home School Reporting Recommendation

CC: State Education Finance Study Commission Members