

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Richard Woods
State School Superintendent
Georgia Department of Education
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Superintendent Woods:

We write to convey our grave concerns surrounding reports that one of Georgia's largest public school systems, Atlanta Public Schools (APS), utilized politically motivated lesson plans created by the New Georgia Project and Rock the Vote to improperly influence high school students to oppose Georgia's election law and voter identification as a whole. The New Georgia Project, established in 2013, was spearheaded by Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams and has a clear partisan agenda.

Parents across Georgia and throughout our nation have voiced their concerns with the politicization of school curriculum and we have heard increased calls for classrooms to be focused on teaching the comprehensive facts on issues and not only one-sided, divisive concepts. Instead, APS's partnership with these organizations to advance the "Democracy Class Atlanta" program points students to Rock the Vote's own opinion analysis, which classifies the state of Georgia as a "slacker" on voting policies, such as requiring voter identification to vote¹, despite the overwhelming 80 percent of Americans who support this policy.² These lesson plans also urge students to volunteer specifically with the New Georgia Project to advance its political aims.³ According to reports, 2,450 high school juniors and seniors participated in this two-month program thus far.⁴

Students should graduate from our K-12 schools with the tangible skills to earn a living, manage their household and be an active member in civic society, and they deserve to learn multiple viewpoints and have the opportunity to form their own opinions, free from political indoctrination. As you continue to engage Georgia's students, parents, and educators, we respectfully request that the Georgia Department of Education stand in strong support of preventing one-sided, partisan activities from invading the classroom.

Sincerely,



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21746919-democracy-class-lesson-2-not-just-every-four-years>

² https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/reports/monmouthpoll_us_062121/

³ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21746919-democracy-class-lesson-2-not-just-every-four-years>

⁴ <https://www.ajc.com/education/david-perdue-blasts-atlanta-high-schools-classroom-lessons-on-voting/4322X3KOKNE45IX24QW4G53J6A/>

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Austin Scott

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Jody Hice

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

A. Drew Ferguson IV

A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress

Andrew S. Clyde

Andrew S. Clyde
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Marjorie Taylor Greene

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Member of Congress