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PAGE Celebrates SB 364 Passing in the House

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators celebrates the unanimous passage of SB 364 in the Georgia House of Representatives today.

SB 364 provides important relief on testing and educator evaluation requirements, including reducing the percentage of student growth measures on evaluations from 50 percent to 30 percent for teachers and 70 percent to 40 percent for leaders. Further, student measures will not be utilized for evaluations unless students are in attendance for 90 percent of a teacher's course. The bill also reduces the number of required tests from 32 to 24 during a student's K-12 academic experience.

PAGE urges Gov. Nathan Deal to sign this important reform into law as soon as possible to allow the state Department of Education and local districts to plan for these revisions for the 2016-2017 school year.

"PAGE thanks legislators for hearing the voices of educators, parents and students across our state for supporting these important reforms in educator evaluation and testing," said Dr. Allene Magill, executive director. "Georgia's 1.7 million students deserve to learn from educators who are committed to every student's academic progress, their development as critical thinkers, and their ability to pursue creative expression."

Georgia's current testing and evaluation programs are a disservice to students and educators. Over-reliance on testing interferes with the delivery of quality educational experiences to students, and the amount of testing alone takes away from instructional time.

Educator evaluation reform and student testing relief are the major legislative priorities for PAGE during this 2016 session of the General Assembly. The direct advocacy effort of PAGE's legislative team at the Capitol and PAGE members' individual efforts with the "I Promise" campaign have been instrumental in the proposed reforms that are now one step closer to becoming law.

The **Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE)** is an independent, professional education association for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals and other school personnel in Georgia. **PAGE is the state's largest organization for professional educators**, and nearly 90 percent of the association's **90,000-plus members** are classroom teachers and aspiring educators. PAGE members serve in schools in every city and county school system throughout Georgia.

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