



## Facts About PAGE 2011-2012

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 more than ninety percent of the association's more than 82,000 members are classroom teachers.

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PAGE was founded in 1975 by a small group of educators who believed that a professional educator focuses on what is best for children, works in a professional manner for positive results and does not resort to militant or adversarial actions. PAGE values the right of every educator to freely choose his or her professional affiliations without coercive control by national or state groups.

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Vickie Hammond, an Oconee County educator, is PAGE President for 2011-2012, and Dr. Allene Magill is PAGE Executive Director. PAGE has members in all of Georgia's city and county school systems.

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**The PAGE Department of Professional Learning** has been greatly expanded to help our members face the daunting challenges of today's classrooms and so that the organization can continue to become an increasingly better professional partner to our members. Professional Learning efforts include:

### **PAGE Teacher Academy**

2011 marks the implementation of the redesigned PAGE Teacher Academy. The school team concept is being introduced with a team consisting of two teachers (one teacher will be a novice with 5 years or less of experience; the second will be a veteran) and an administrator (a principal, an academic coach or a school leader). As a result of the Academy experience, teachers will come to understand that teaching is not just about testing and scores, but it is about creating experiences that cause all students to think, to reason, to ask questions, and to learn in-depth

important content and skills. Participants will have opportunities in the PAGE Teacher Academy to learn new ideas and skills, to think deeply about important issues and to demonstrate a belief that all students can learn much more than they are currently learning.

The goals of the PAGE Teacher Academy are to assist school teams to (1) recognize the need and urgency for change, (2) design and develop engaging work for their students, (3) learn how to build capacity in the classroom/school (4) develop leadership skills to influence the course of public education and (5) retain teacher leaders in the profession.

### **High School Redesign Initiative Transforms Georgia Schools**

Improving the performance of high schools took center stage in 2008, as national and state leaders from government, business and education focused on the importance of secondary education. The PAGE High School Redesign Initiative (HSRI) was created to assist Georgia high schools to recognize the need and urgency for change, use demographic and achievement data to help make decisions and plan and develop engaging work for their students. HSRI is designed to (1) provide quality professional experiences for professional educators, (2) to provide educators with processes and strategies for systemic and continuous change, (3) to improve student achievement and high school graduation rates and (4) to build capacity in the school ' s faculty as well as stakeholders.

The HSRI began during the 2006/2007 school year with four high schools. It expanded to ten high schools and four feeder middle schools in 2008/2009, had a total of thirty-three schools (high, middle, and elementary) involved during 2009/2010, and there are thirty-four schools participating in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012.

### **Principal Leadership Network**

The PAGE Principal Leadership Network, designed for talented, future-oriented Georgia principals, deepens principals' knowledge, capability, and confidence to lead change on behalf of students across the state. Principals who join the network desire to redefine the principalship in ways that make student engagement and profound student learning the driving purpose in their schools, the force behind well-reasoned decisions and the shaper of practices throughout their schools. As participating principals, leaders recognize that new models for principal leadership will guide them to become leaders of leaders in their schools, where teachers are deeply respected and supported in becoming leaders, designers, and guides to instruction. Invited principals make a two-year commitment and join a cohort of thirty colleagues similarly driven by a desire to make a lasting difference for public education in Georgia.

### **Leadership Institutes for STAR Teachers and District Teachers of the Year**

These leadership institutes bring teacher leaders together at regular intervals throughout the school year to promote, advance and build upon the skills of teacher leaders, providing them with opportunities to learn how they can lead and become influential advocates for education in their respective schools. The institutes provide a series of one-day, high quality professional learning sessions focusing on significant and relevant topics. Each session is offered in four regional locations on succeeding days and presented by the same national expert or consultant.

**The Academic Coach/Principal Leadership Institute** is designed to assist the academic coach and their principal. We also offer thirty Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) workshops across the state each year that assist educators in becoming highly qualified in specific fields and grade levels.

### **PAGE Foundation**

The mission of the PAGE Foundation is to promote world-class education for all of Georgia's students through initiatives that recruit, develop, retain and recognize highly accomplished teachers. PAGE Foundation programs include:

- PAGE Foundation Scholarships: Offers financial assistance to Student PAGE (SPAGE) members pursuing teaching degrees, non-degree certification or advanced degrees; to PAGE members pursuing advanced degrees in education or content area, initial certification, adding new certification area or endorsement, or completing required coursework to be highly qualified (under the standards of NCLB); and to support personnel pursuing teacher certification.
- Student PAGE (SPAGE): Encourages the practice of high standards of personal and professional conduct and provides scholarships and professional development to Georgia college students who pursue careers in education.
- Future Educators Association of Georgia (FEA Georgia): Teaches middle- and high-school students about careers in education and allows students to become active in the community through experience-based programs with children.
- PAGE Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR): Honors Georgia's outstanding high school seniors and the teachers who have been instrumental in their academic development.
- PAGE Academic Bowl for Middle Grades: Helps middle-school students develop thinking skills and build confidence through team competition.
- PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon (GAD): Allows high-school students to compete individually and as a team in 10 different academic events based on an intense curriculum. Participants develop public speaking and interview skills.

The PAGE Foundation proudly supports the professional learning programs of PAGE, which offers support for new teachers, career-long learning for veteran educators and the creation of teacher-leaders for systemic school improvement.

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PAGE does not endorse political candidates or contribute to their campaigns, but works to establish collegial relationships with elected officials to promote positive legislation for education. PAGE members serve on all major education groups such as the Professional Standards Commission, the Teachers Retirement Board of Trustees, and the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education.