

# THE GEORGIA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

# HOW DOES IT WORK?



## WHEN YOU OWE TAXES TO THE STATE OF GEORGIA



up to \$1,000



up to \$2,500



up to \$10,000

## YOU CAN PAY YOUR TAXES TO GA

and they are used for public services, such as: public education, transportation and public safety.



## OR, YOU CAN DIVERT THOSE TAXES UP TO THOSE LIMITS TO PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

The "student scholarship organizations" that collect and distribute tax funds to private schools that are largely unregulated and unchecked.



## WHAT IS THE IMPACT?



Since Georgia enacted the program in 2008, we have diverted almost \$300 million to private schools, while our public schools have been underfunded by more than \$5.5 billion.

This means fewer teachers, fewer school days, and fewer art and music programs for our public school students.

## HOW DO THE TAXES YOU PAY AFFECT PUBLIC EDUCATION?

Taxes you pay the state should support  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT**

- serve each and every student
- are accountable to their communities for how well they educate and prepare each student
- are accountable for how they spend tax funds

Tax money you divert supports  
**PRIVATE SCHOOLS THAT**

- choose which students to accept or to exclude<sup>2</sup>
- have no educational standards they must meet or report
- are unaccountable for how they spend tax funds

**IN GEORGIA, WE BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY FUNDED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE 9 OUT OF 10 CHILDREN IN GEORGIA WHO ATTEND THEM.**



For more information, see the Southern Education Foundation's 2011 report on this program, "A Failed Experiment: Georgia's Tax Credit Scholarships for Private Schools."

1. The Georgia Legislature was awarded the "Black Hole Award" in 2012 from the Society of Professional Journalists for this law, for its "heinous violation of the public's right to know."

2. Private schools do not have to provide transportation, free or reduced school lunches, or special education services. A majority of private schools in the state are religious, and many have policies that exclude gay students