The Southern Education Foundation’s Introduction to the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus

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The Southern Education Foundation’s mission is to advance creative solutions to ensure equity and excellence in education for students of color and low income students in the South.
SEF Highlights

In 1903, W.E.B DuBois becomes SEF’s First Fellow
SEF Highlights

In 1907, Booker T. Washington joins SEF’s Board of Trustees
SOUTHERN EDUCATION FOUNDATION
SCOPE AND SCALE

EDUCATION CONTINUUM
PRE-K – POST GRADUATE

STRATEGY AREAS
RESEARCH
ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

GEOGRAPHY
SOUTHERN STATES
AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
Strategies - What Do We Do?

• Publish/ Amplify **Research and Data**

• **Strengthen the Capacity of the Advocacy Ecosystem**, including legislators

• **Leadership Development**
SEF’s Latest Engagements In Georgia

- Testified to the Georgia Senate Study Committee on African American Children
- Produce reports and policy analysis
SEF Opposition to School Privatization Efforts

- **School Vouchers** - States offer parents a certain amount of public education funding for private school tuition.

- **Education Savings Account** - States set aside funding and place it in individual accounts for students to be used for a variety of services.

- **Tax-Credit Scholarship** - States offer businesses or individuals tax credits to donate money to non-profit student scholarship-granting organizations.
## Georgia School Privatization Efforts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Avg. Funding</th>
<th># of Participating Schools</th>
<th>Total Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Voucher</td>
<td>Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program</td>
<td>4,873</td>
<td>$6,814</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>$33.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax-Credit Scholarship</td>
<td>Qualified Education Expense Tax Credit</td>
<td>13,895</td>
<td>$4,008</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>$55.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Amount</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$88.9 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Edchoice
Georgia Education Scholarship Act
HB301 / SB173 – 2019

• Established an Education Savings Account for students with disabilities

Main Issues
• Unproven strategy to improve outcomes for SWD or traditional students
• Disinvests in public schools
• Duplicative school voucher program and current IDEA protections
• Fails to pay for avg. costs of attendance ($8k vs real costs of $18k)
SEF’s Legislative Priorities

1. Update and revamp QBE and adopt an “Opportunity weight” for low-income students

2. Advance Community Schools by streamlining wraparound services

3. Eliminate or sunset all school privatization efforts
Main Take Away!

We want to work with you and support your education needs!
Acknowledgements & Thank You

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