

# Classrooms First

## Governor Perdue's 2006 Education Agenda



### Investing in the Classroom

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- ✓ **Lowering class sizes** for grades K-8 (\$163 million in state assistance).
- ✓ **\$447 million in classroom construction and buses** to help overcrowded schools.
- ✓ Require that **at least 65% of all education dollars be spent in the classroom** instead of administrative overhead.
- ✓ Launch an aggressive new recruitment effort to get the best school principals we can find to where they are needed most. Enhance school leadership training so that all principals can learn from the best of the best (\$4,500,000).

### Respect for Teachers

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- ✓ At minimum **all Georgia teachers will get a 4% pay raise** (217 million) with annual step increases over 50% of teachers will get a **7% pay raise**.
- ✓ **No increases in health insurance premiums** for teachers and employees—the state will pick up the tab for increased health care costs (\$138 million).
- ✓ **Help with school supplies - \$10 million** to issue “classroom cash cards” for Georgia teachers to help defray the costs of school supplies.

### Protecting the HOPE Scholarship – HOPE Chest Constitutional Amendment

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- ✓ **Requires Lottery funds be used only for HOPE Scholarships and Pre-K.**
- ✓ **Saves any excess Lottery revenues for a “rainy day” reserve** and stops spending unrelated to HOPE and Pre-K like the \$1.8 billion spent between 1994 and 2003.

### Keeping Kids in School – Preventing Dropouts

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- ✓ **A High School Completion Counselor for every high school** (\$21 million total) focused on identifying students at-risk of dropping out and working with them to develop a completion plan.
- ✓ **Middle school remediation** funding of \$2.3 million to ensure 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders get to 9<sup>th</sup> grade with the skills they need to succeed.
- ✓ Provide a career interest ladder for students with post-secondary schools to help students understand how their classes relate to their future work.