

BALLOT INITIATIVE

NOV.
2016

VOTE NO

ON SR 287

(SO-CALLED OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT)



“Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?”



SR 287, the so-called Opportunity District Amendment, pushes the same failed policies that have undermined student progress in Louisiana and Michigan.

The OSD plan is modeled on the top-down approach that has been used with devastating results for students again and again in places like New Orleans and Michigan. The fact is research has shown consistently that state takeovers, like the OSD plan, do not work.



SR 287 is not about raising student achievement.

The amendment does not include any educational interventions to raise student achievement. Instead, the OSD focuses on punitive school assessment policies that seek to test and punish, rather than to support and improve. School accountability systems should not be designed to set schools up for failure.



The OSD Amendment means less opportunity for students, not more.

The OSD amendment, like many state takeovers, is just another attempt to pave the way for charter school expansion and privatization schemes. Handing struggling schools over to corporate charter operators does nothing to raise opportunity for students. The truth is charter schools are exempted from many of the standards that are meant to ensure quality teaching and learning in neighborhood public schools.



State takeovers, like the one proposed in SR 287, take away local control and accountability.

This initiative takes the “public” out of public education. Under OSD, there is less opportunity for direct public accountability, as parents, educators and community members lose their ability to have a voice in what happens in neighborhood schools.



Georgia’s students and their families deserve better.

Ensuring *real* opportunity for all students means giving schools the resources and supports kids need to overcome barriers to success. What parents, educators and community members really want is schools where educators are respected and well-supported, and children can get a well-rounded, vibrant curriculum that prepares them for a bright future.

For information, go to: <http://ga.aft.org>

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