



FULTON COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Non-Profit Advocate Of Lower Property Taxes In Atlanta/Fulton

August 2006

Atlanta Public Schools Revisited

The Office of the Fulton County Tax Commissioner has just informed me that "The Atlanta Public Schools – with its recent increase in tax millage – accounts for **61%** of the total property tax for those taxpayers living in Atlanta."

The Cost-Per-Pupil is a whopping \$11,215, but compounding the problem is an additional expense reported in a recent article in The Atlanta Journal &

Constitution, (1/19/06): "Atlanta Public Schools will spend about \$89,000 to analyze its Cost Per Pupil, which is one of the highest in the state." The AJC further stated, 'The analysis is expected to dig deeper into the Cost-Per-Pupil figure than a previous study, Superintendent Beverly Hall said. 'It will compare Atlanta with districts having similar demographics. This will allow the citizens of Atlanta to see where the money goes,' Hall said."

"Comparing Atlanta Districts With Similar Demographics"

There is no need to spend \$89,000 to "analyze the Cost-Per-Pupil in a demographically similar school district." Atlanta taxpayers could save well over \$160 million annually were the Superintendent and Atlanta Board of Education to look at our adjoining county, DeKalb Public Schools. The comparison of demographics and costs have been carefully researched with the latest available data on the Georgia Department of Education website, www.doe.k12.ga.us. The similarity in demographics is readily obvious in Exhibit I:

ATLANTA & DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

	Atlanta	DeKalb
White	8%	10%
Black	86%	76%
Amer. Indian	0%	0%
Asian	1%	4%
Multi - racial	1%	2%
Hispanic	4%	8%
Total Minority	92%	90%
Total Students	49,924	101,092
SAT Scores 2005	875	922
Hot Lunch Program *	76%	64%

* Available only for students of limited-income families.

Date of student data March 2006 (FTE 2006-3)
State of Georgia Dept. of Education

In each of the seven "Basic Budget Areas" for every school system in Georgia, there is a breakdown of the major expenditures. The research shows expenditures with a minimum of \$1 million in potential savings for Atlanta. The specific expenditures in each of the seven "Basic Budget Areas" where APS is significantly higher than DeKalb on a Cost-Per-Student basis, follows in Exhibit IV.

Atlanta & DeKalb County Schools - Comparison of Costs				
Accounts with a minimum of \$1,000,000 in potential savings if				
Atlanta's Cost-per-Student Equaled DeKalb County's				
	Atlanta's Cost Per Student	DeKalb's Cost Per Student	Difference	Atlanta Exceeds DeKalb
110 -Teachers	\$4,032	\$3,153	\$879	\$43,850,673
113 -Substitute Teachers	211	64	147	7,333,389
115 -Extended Day Teachers	24	2	22	1,097,514
116 -Professional Development Payment	49	7	42	2,095,254
118 -Art, Music, PE Teachers	297	147	150	7,483,050
140 -Aides & Paraprofessional's	293	268	25	1,247,175
148 -Accountant	28	0	28	1,396,836
171 -Teacher Support Specialist	27	1	26	1,297,062
176 -School Social Worker	57	21	36	1,795,932
190 -Other Management Personnel	166	129	37	1,845,819
191 -Other Administrative Personnel	588	254	334	16,662,258
300 -Purchase - Professional & Technical Svcs*	553	199	354	17,659,998
310 -Contracted Services - Central*	40	0	40	1,995,480
410 -Water, Sewer & Cleaning Services	71	31	40	1,995,480
430 -Repair & Maintenance Services	157	33	124	6,185,988
520 -Insurance	44	17	27	1,346,949
530 -Communication	78	16	62	3,092,994
580 -Travel - Employee	46	12	34	1,696,158
595 -Other Purchased Services*	274	0	274	13,669,038
610 -Supplies	330	222	108	5,387,796
620 -Energy	297	169	128	6,385,536
641 -Textbooks	51	22	29	1,446,723
642 -Books (other than textbooks)	40	2	38	1,895,706
730 -Purchased - Equipment Other	126	54	72	3,591,864
732 -Purchase or Purchase-lease Buses	25	0	25	1,247,175
880 -Federal Indirect Cost Charges	50	12	38	1,895,706
Totals	\$7,954	\$4,835	\$3,119	\$155,597,553
By reducing its spending to equal DeKalb, Atlanta would save \$155,597,553				
(The total savings of all items would be \$164,726,874 as shown in Exhibit II)				
*Consulting Fees Paid.				
Cost data from Ga DOE October 2005				
State of Georgia Dept of Education				

A Call To Action

The City of Atlanta is ranked by the Kiplinger Tax Survey as "among the ten highest tax-burdened cities in the United States." To help stop the exodus of poor and middle-class homeowners, the Atlanta Board of Education should rescind its recent school tax increase by significantly reducing its Staff Services, General Administration and Maintenance & Operations. This would be in the best interest of the Atlanta taxpayers as well as the City of Atlanta which is actively seeking to attract additional Fortune 500 firms.

FCTA members – their friends and neighbors – are urged to email the following members of the Atlanta Board of Education:

Kathleen B. Pattillo, Chair	District 4	kpattillo@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Emmett D. Johnson , Vice-Chair	At-Large 9	edjohnson@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Brenda J. Muhammad	District 1	bmuhammad@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Khaatim S. El	District 2	khatimsel@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Cecily Harsch-Kinnane	District 3	chkinane@atlanta.k12.ga.us
LaChandra D. Butler	District 5	lbutler@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Yolanda K. Johnson	District 6	yjohnson@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Eric W. Wilson	At-Large 7	ewwilson@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Mark B. Riley	At-Large 8	mriley@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Note:

Members who are not receiving our emails, please send your current email address to fcta@bellsouth.net

Please detach here

Save money on your property tax by joining the FTCA, with the advantage of a Professional Appraiser appealing your reassessment.

Join the Fight to Bring Better Government to Atlanta and Fulton County!

For those who have not joined, I enclose my annual membership of
\$50 Family ___ \$100 Patron ___ \$200 Corporate Member ___ \$500 Corporate Sponsor ___
\$1000 Corporate Champion ___

If you prefer, you can charge your membership or a donation on-line at www.fcta.us

I enclose a contribution to the FCTA legal fund of \$50___ \$100___ Other___

If you prefer, you can charge your membership or a donation on-line at www.fcta.us

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____