



**GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**

For immediate release

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**GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP TO HOLD ANNUAL
MEDIA SYMPOSIUM FOR EDUCATION REPORTERS**

Event to Focus on Race to the Top, Funding, Charter School Issues; More

ATLANTA -- The Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education will hold its fourth annual Media Symposium Friday, January 22 at Georgia Public Broadcasting headquarters here. "An Inside Look at Education in Georgia" was developed to provide reporters and editors an opportunity to hear from the experts on a wide array of complex issues.

The Partnership will release its annual "Top Ten (Education) Issues to Watch" report to start the day-long session. State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox will follow with an update on Georgia's public education system and what's on her agency's agenda as the new legislative session begins.

Governor Sonny Perdue's education advisor, Erin Hames, will provide an update on the state's efforts in the competition for federal Race to the Top funds. Charter schools will be the subject of discussion between Jennifer Rippner, Senior Policy Advisor, Education Counsel LLC, and Phil Hartley, attorney, Harben & Hartley. Jeff Johnson, Executive Director Community Affairs and on-air talent with WPCH-TV, will moderate the discussion.

After a catered lunch, the attendees will get an inside look at covering the Georgia Department of Education from Matt Cardoza, the agency's communications director. Closing out the day will be a presentation on "School Funding: Fundamentals and Forecasts" featuring Herb Garrett, Executive Director, Georgia School Superintendents Association, and Alan Essig, Executive Director, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute.

The event will begin at 9:30 and conclude at 2:30 and is open to media representatives with an interest in the state's public education system. There is no charge and parking is free. Reservations are required. Contact Georgia Partnership Communications Director Bill Maddox, 404-223-2464/bmaddox@gpee.org. GPB is located at 260 14th Street. Check www.gpee.org for more details.

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