

The Georgia Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement have together given Georgia school systems an opportunity to be exempt from some restrictive laws and rules by developing a plan for Investing in Educational Excellence (IE<sup>2</sup>). An IE<sup>2</sup> plan allows the school system to waive such rules as class size, expenditure controls, and certification requirements in exchange for assurances that the system will make greater gains in measures such as graduation rates, SAT or ACT performance, state standardized test data, and International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement participation.

Hall County schools have made great gains in performance measures in the last three years, and we expect to continue making those gains in the future. Because of this current momentum, the Hall County School System intends to enter into negotiations for an IE<sup>2</sup> contract. This contract will assure that Hall County schools will continue to make more than adequate progress as measured by the criteria set forth in the contract. The plan requires the system and each of its schools to have a five-year strategic plan which outlines measurable and attainable goals that go beyond mere adequacy. Our expectation is that all Hall County schools can meet a higher standard of excellence through an IE<sup>2</sup> contract. In this contract, the system and each school will determine specific areas of flexibility, but with the flexibility, the system and schools must assure concurrent measures of accountability that go beyond the minimum levels the state requires.

With an IE<sup>2</sup> contract, neither the system nor the schools may waive any requirement of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. All of the requirements of the Single Statewide Accountability rule must be met and exceeded. Nothing in the contract will allow the system to do less than what it is doing now. The contract will assure greater rigor for all Hall County schools and all Hall County students.

**Hall County's IE<sup>2</sup> proposal will be generally outlined at a public hearing after the regular Board of Education meeting on Monday, November 9, 2009. The regular Board meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the District Office at 711 Green Street. The public will have an opportunity to respond to issues regarding the proposal during the hearing, following the Board meeting.**