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## The Shift in Public Schools: From Education to Job-Training K – 12

When President George Herbert Walker Bush decided to change education, he did so from the Executive Branch. In 1991 he created the New American Schools Development Corporation and asked business and industry to support development of his planned “radical, break-the-mold” schools in each congressional district. Thereby, he created a public-private partnership of federal government and business (PPP), with no room for parents or voters in the board room.

Note this fact: PPP is *not* a principle of the free enterprise system. **It’s one of the “isms.”** But, within two years, Congress advanced the plan. In 1993 the U.S. House passed the School-to-Work Opportunities Act with no roll call vote and it passed the Senate in 1994.

**Georgia’s response:** In 1996, school-to-work (STW) came to Georgia *via* the Schrenko-Breeden Youth Workforce Development Plan, an agreement between the Labor Department and the Department of Education to integrate technical education into K – 12 curricula and put 75-80 percent of pupils on career tracks, so graduates will take and remain in local jobs.

**The Youth Workforce Agreement “Rationale” stated: “Georgia’s primary issue related to education reform is the connection between schools, professional job training, and work.”**

That agreement between the State School Superintendent and the Commissioner of the Department of Technical and Adult Education transformed the focus of public education, although legislators and parents had no voice in it.

The merger of education and labor was reinforced when educators attended the November 21-22, 1996 Georgia Department of Labor Workforce Development conference, focusing on implementation of the Federal Goals 2000 Act, the Improving America’s Schools Act and School-to-Work laws. Since then, “seamless education” has been implemented.

Without changing the Constitution or passing a law or consulting parents, the Department of Labor and DOE switched the focus of education from academics to training a workforce, which is contrary to the well-rounded education required to develop student abilities and intellect.

A **“model for seamless education and workforce development”** is the way Coweta County’s Central Educational Center (CEC) defines its non-traditional program. CEC opened as a public charter high school in August 10, 2000 and was named a national “replicable” high school reform model by a consortium of professional educational organizations.

Differences between standard curricula and seamless workforce development curricula are demonstrated by the following CEC charter school curricula as listed on the CEC Website.

- *Academics:* English, Math and Social Studies
- *Career and Technical:* Work Based Learning, Business, Healthcare, Horticulture, Engineering, Drafting, Aviation, Computer Science, Broadcasting, Construction, Metals, Graphic Communications, and Music.

## *Effective 2013-14: ALL Georgia K – 12 Public Schools Must Implement STW*

*“Corporations were surveyed. 50 percent of them said we have jobs, but we don’t have the skilled workers to meet those jobs. We really need to retool our focus in education. One of those is the college and career academy.”*

– Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, May 11, 2012 WALB

H.B. 713 passed in 2012, requiring career education courses for all public school students, effective for the school-year of 2013-14. Implementation previously scheduled for 2012 was delayed. H.B. 713 requires the K – 12 curricula to focus on the following 16 career paths:

Agriculture, food and natural resources	Human services
Architecture and construction	Information technology
Arts, audio-video technology, communications	Law, public safety and security
Business, management and administration	Manufacturing
Government and public administration	Finance
Education and training	Health science
Transportation, distribution and logistics	Marketing, sales and service
Science, technology, engineering, math	Hospitality and Tourism

Skills and education, though interactive, are vastly different. Skills are proficiencies and abilities that may be in-born giftedness or the result of training, apprenticeship or practice.

Education includes the development of knowledge, skill, mind, or character, especially by formal school or study. Individuals may be gifted or skilled in specific areas, but academically deprived. Likewise, educated individuals may not be “handy,” but academically accomplished.

School-to-Work (STW) focuses on training students for employment in blue collar jobs, but provides a minimal academic content, so students won’t be so educated they’ll reject local jobs.

Retooling *from* focusing on academics *to* training “skilled workers to meet those jobs” applies a treacherous “glass ceiling” to education, using outcome-based education’s built-in ceiling that (a) leaves no child behind, but (b) allows no high achiever to excel beyond low-level learning.

Cagle’s comments are reminiscent of the following quote from UGA Dean Yeany in 1998:

**“We don’t just want to perpetuate academic learning – at some point it has to be applied to the workplace.... Schooling should transition right into work and I think schooling has become so academic that it isn’t transitioning well into work.”**

Dean Yeany’s quote was reported November 9, 1998 in UGA’s faculty newsletter, *Columns*. The article reported that new teacher education training would focus on context and workplace to better prepare students for jobs. Explaining the reason UGA received an \$864,000 federal grant for the STW teacher-training project, Dean Yeany said, “This is a big investment by the federal government to develop a model they hope will become available to other colleges.”

*The CEC Experience* said the creation of the Central Educational Center (CEC) charter high school, mentioned on page one, was a direct “response to needs expressed by local business and industry leaders.... The curriculum is based on the job competencies related to each of the certificate programs offered.” CEC is unique in this respect: Coweta County students may choose to attend for one or more block periods and return to their base school for academic courses and extracurricular activities. That’s not the norm and will be changed by 2013-14.

**ACTION – Vote NO on the constitutional amendment authorizing a State-Level Commission to charter schools.**

## ***It's Here! UN Agenda 21, Climate Change/Sustainable Development***

*“Current lifestyles and consumption patterns of the affluent middle class – involving high meat intake, use of fossil fuels, appliances, home and work air conditioning, and suburban housing – are not sustainable.”*

UN Earth Summit Secretary General Maurice Strong, 1992

The United Nations summed up its global plan in *The Future We Want* outlining its June 20-22, 2012 Sustainable Development Conference, dubbed “RIO+20,” reminiscent of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, where 40 proposals entitled “Agenda 21” were adopted by 178 nations.

The signature of President George H.W. Bush, who popularized the term “New World Order,” ensconced Agenda 21<sup>1</sup> as “soft law” in the U.S. In 1993, with the stroke of his pen, President Bill Clinton signed EO 12852 to establish the President’s Council on Sustainable Development.

Two days before RIO+20, World Congress ICLEI<sup>2</sup> participants admitted (a) discarding the term “climate change,” (b) replacing it with “sustainable development<sup>3</sup>,” and (c) using “inexact terms” (deceit) to trick conservative governments, who did not know UN rules would kill jobs, restrict freedoms and lower living standards. ICLEI is responsible for founding Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development in 1992. In 2003 ICLEI changed its name to “Local Governments for Sustainability,” to downplay international ties and financial obligations to the UN.

The ICLEI Global Network list of 36 pages, size 8 ½ x 11, includes seven pages listing 562 U.S. local governments that adopted ICLEI’s **Agenda 21**. Georgia locales implementing Agenda 21 *via* ICLEI are: Athens-Clarke County, Atlanta, Decatur, Morgan County, Savannah, Tybee Island and Chatham County. This list was accessed online in 2011.

Georgia E.O. By Executive Order, Governor Perdue launched his Communities of Opportunity (Co-Op) Initiative March 12, 2007 to “create some real change throughout rural Georgia.” The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) administers Co-Op, working closely with the Governor’s Rural Development Council and public and private partners to develop *locally-driven* strategies for *local improvement*, with incentives to encourage *local involvement*.

Stimulus money from the American Recovery and Re-Investment Act provides funding of “stackable” loans for downtown businesses or those with 500 or fewer employees. Start-up small businesses and existing businesses that “green-ovate” may borrow from \$500 to \$35,000.

ICLEI in Georgia. The ICLEI network launched in 2009 spans Georgia communities from urban Atlanta to rural Morgan County to coastal Savannah and Tybee Island. ICLEI held a Georgia State Network Meeting in Morgan County on September 1, 2010, with presentations about Green Building, Community Energy Financing and the Green Business Challenge.

A February 6, 2012 report said Dunwoody, Georgia received \$750,000 from EPA for Smart Growth Assistance. The sustainable community Green Building Toolkit helps Dunwoody identify and remove local restrictions that prohibit sustainable designs and green buildings.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda 21 Terms: sustainable development, green jobs, regional planning, smart growth, biodiversity, growth management, redistribution, urban growth boundaries, consensus, and government-private-corporation partnerships.

<sup>2</sup> The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) was founded in 1990 to advance the sustainable development strategies of Agenda 21. The plan: persuade local governments to support UN restrictions on energy use and economic development. To disguise its relationship with the UN, ICLEI formally changed its name in 2003 to “Local Governments for Sustainability” to more covertly promote the UN energy, economic and political agenda.

<sup>3</sup> “ICLEI’s bait and switch is shameless and deceptive. ICLEI is weaving a crafty spider’s web that will entangle communities before they realize how its restrictive rules will kill jobs and reduce freedoms and living standards,” said David Rothbard, President, Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT).

## *Danger! Lame-Duck Session in Congress Begins November 7*

Although it's only August, the weeks between November 7<sup>th</sup> and Inauguration Day are known as the "lame-duck session," a dangerous time when Congress often makes some bad decisions.

Especially this year, the Senate could be pressured to ratify international treaties that interfere with state and federal constitutions and laws. Case in point is the Convention on the Rights of the Child the UN adopted in 1989. Every country in the world has ratified that treaty *except* the United States and Somalia, although the U.S. *has* ratified two of the Optional Protocols. I suspect one of those Protocols was behind Georgia's 2011 decriminalization of prostitution for anyone under 18. A similar bill in Congress was stopped in a Senate Committee last December.

According to Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, treaties authorized by the U.S. become the "supreme law of the land and the judges in every State shall be bound" by them. So, if the U.S. ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, parental authority over their children would be eliminated and UN philosophy about children would be the supreme law of the land.

A new threat emerged this year, when the UN adopted the Third Optional Protocol that provides a communication process for anyone under age 18 to complain directly to the UN. Since it's currently available for signature in countries all over the world, consider this. If the U.S. had already ratified the Third Optional Protocol and the Reverend Creflo Dollar's daughter had complained to the UN, not only would the case be brought before Georgia and U.S. officials, the 18-member UN Committee on the Rights of the Child would have jurisdiction, as well.

**ACTION – Ask Senators Chambliss and Isakson to vote NO on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Third Optional Protocol. D.C. for both: 1 877 851-6437; Senator Chambliss 1 800 234-4208, Isakson 770 661-0999**

## *When Voting, Don't Forget the Little Fish in the Pond*

City officials in Phoenix, Arizona used laws governing churches to stop a family home Bible study, arrest, charge and sentence the home owner. On July 9, 2012, Mr. Salman began serving a 60-day sentence in a Tent City Jail, was fined \$12,000 and put on three years' probation.

In 2007 the Salmans were ordered to stop the home Bible studies. "Church related activities, including Bible studies, are not allowed" without City approval. The city said the studies differ from reunions, football parties and Boy Scouts, since Bible studies are "religious in purpose."

If the gatherings were weekly poker nights for guests, the home would not be called a casino, but city officials claim hosting a religious gathering converts the home into a formal church.

Since personal beliefs *do* influence official decisions that govern our lives 24/7, please inquire about candidate values before electing them to make laws. Three elected officials – an alderman and two mayors – rejected the religious values of Chick-fil-A and unconstitutionally prohibited the business from expanding in Chicago and Boston. In recent years, local officials, repeatedly, fined a Clarkston home owner for growing vegetables on his residential property.

The Clarkston incident indicates progress of Agenda 21. In rural Georgia Agenda 21 became "hard law" as H.B. 225 passed in 2011, but Agenda 21 "soft law" is taking control everywhere.

**ACTION – Consider the beliefs and values of candidates before you vote. Candidates intolerant of Christian values often make morally offensive laws. Remember, one alderman and two mayors succeeded in blocking a business because the owners believe and practice Bible Truth.**

*Georgia Insight* is a conservative publication financed entirely by its recipients.