

exist solely for the education welfare of children, and that instruction is the basic purpose of schools.

It is our contention that when lay people and our State and national leadership accept this philosophy of public school education, then and only then will our public schools be permitted to do that which they were established to do—instruct children.

After some years of self-evaluation and study, the 1964 General Assembly of Georgia acted on the basis of the foregoing philosophy in accordance with the following quotation :

The General Assembly of Georgia, recognizing the importance and extreme necessity of providing improved educational opportunity for all Georgians—children, youth, and adults; of establishing equality of educational opportunity for Georgia's children and youth regardless of where they may live or what their station in life may be; of establishing and maintaining minimum standards for public schools so that every Georgia child and youth can attend an accredited public school; of improving the quality of education through continued development and improvement of balanced programs designed to provide academic and occupational preparation of Georgia's children and youth for adult life in this age; of developing a public school program that will attract, hold, and fully utilize competent professional personnel in the public school systems of this State; of establishing and maintaining adequate planning, research, and experimentation programs so as to assure continued future improvement of public school education in Georgia; of providing for better efficiency in the operation of public schools, elimination of waste, and better utilization of existing school services and facilities; of the need to finance adequately the improvement of Georgia's public education program and facilities; of the need to assure Georgia's children and youth of receiving an improved minimum level of education; and of the need for providing a method whereby all Georgians shall pay their fair share of the cost of such program, and recognizing fully its responsibility to provide a means whereby the foregoing needs might more readily be met, does hereby establish a State Minimum Foundation Program for the education of Georgia's children and youth.

Stemming out of this act, our State board of education began to assert its full leadership in moving toward the kind of instruction asked for by the people and required by our State legislature.

A study financed by our State board of education and conducted by Dr. W. D. McClurkin of George Peabody College for Teachers on the "Organization of School Systems in Georgia" has pointed us in the direction of larger area school systems and larger schools which would provide the necessary financial support for quality instruction.

Our State department of education, with assistance from local school people, are involved in an 8-month study and evaluation of an instrument to evaluate local schools and local school systems. "Standards for System Wide School" evaluation have never been attempted before by any of our States.

We also have the benefit of a recent 11 Southern States' study of "School Size and Program Quality in Southern High Schools," which included Georgia high schools, conducted by Dr. Joe L. Jackson of George Peabody College for Teachers. The composite thinking of these studies, and our new MFPE law point us in the direction of the quality of instruction Georgia wants. They also point up the kind of organizational vehicle on which we must travel to obtain the kind of instruction Georgia wants. These spectacular reports and this law are serving as a basis and foundation for what we think is a good education program. This is an effort on Georgia's part to help ourselves attain this objective, the attainment of which objective will of necessity require time, leadership, patience, and money if we can only