



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
SHEILA JONES
District 44

Monday, February 8, 2010

~Events at the Capitol~

Monday, Feb. 8th
Alzheimer's Day

Tuesday, Feb. 9th

Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition Lobby Day

Tuesday, Feb. 9th

Career Technical Student Organizations &
Ga. Association for Career & Technical
Education Day (CTSO/GACTE)
*(Kierra Sanders, Georgia TSA Secretary and
Douglass High Student will be in attendance)*

Thursday, Feb. 11th

Junior League at the Capitol

Wednesday, Feb 24th

Fulton County Council on Aging
&
District 44 Senior Citizens Day
(call Rep. Jones if you would like to attend on
Feb. 24th)

~About the District~

District 44 stretches from Cumberland Mall at I-285 & U.S. Highway 41 to Collier Heights south of I-20. The district is divided into two parts by the Chattahoochee River, the northern part in Cobb County and the southern part in Fulton County & the City of Atlanta.

~District Office~

3050 MLK Jr. Drive, Suite X-7
Atlanta, GA 30311
West Ridge Plaza near Wayfield Grocery Store
(Enter from Lynhurst Drive, the office of
Rep. Jones is on the left)

~Contact Representative Jones~

Cell – 404.542.8683
Email – info@sheilajones.org

**Georgia DOE to Offer FREE Online
High School Graduation Test Remediation**

Free Online **ExPreSS (Exam Preparation for Science and Social Studies)** will be offered by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) online to all high school students and certificate of attendance recipients who were unsuccessful on or who have not yet taken the Science and/or Social Studies GHSGT.

This is a free online remediation course for high school students to help them pass the science and/or social studies portion of the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT). Registration for the courses begins Monday, February 1, 2010.

The GaDOE offered the ExPreSS program last summer in schools throughout the state and saw tremendous results. Students in the program had an overall retest pass rate of 68 percent; more than double the previous year's pass rate on GHSGT retests in science and social studies.

"FreeOnline ExPreSS will also help financially-strapped school districts that may not have the resources to provide extra help to high school students in preparing for the GHSGT."

FreeOnline ExPreSS creates an online opportunity designed to help students prepare for the science and social studies GHSGT. Science and social studies are the two GHSGTs that Georgia students fail most often. It will offer self-paced units based on the instructional plans created for the summer ExPreSS Program.

Students can create their own registration account using their Georgia Testing Identifier (GTID) number. Detailed instructions for creating this account and locating their GTID number will be provided on the ExPreSS website at:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Resources/Pages/Tools/ExPreSS.aspx>

The summer Project ExPreSS program is scheduled for June 14-25, 2010. To get more information, please click on the following link:
https://www.georgiastandards.org/resources/Documents/Student_ExPreSS_Flyer.pdf

Georgia Virtual School Registration Open for 2010-2011 School Year

Registration for the Georgia Virtual School (GAVS) 2010-2011 school year is now open to public school students.

"The Georgia Virtual School is a great way for students to take courses that may not currently be offered in their school," said State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox. "I encourage parents and students to look into all of the courses available and enroll today."

Georgia Virtual School offers a complete high school curriculum with Advanced Placement and college prep level courses. The courses also offer a perfect solution for students who are hospital/home bound or working in an alternative school environment. GAVS gives public school students access to challenging courses and the opportunity to make up credits through the Georgia Credit Recovery Program so they can graduate on schedule. All GAVS courses are fully accredited and taught by certified teachers.

The most popular course offerings are six world languages including: Latin, Spanish, French, German, Japanese and Chinese. The program continues to offer Quality Core Curriculum Math courses including: Algebra I, II, III, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry. The program also offers a limited middle school curriculum on a tuition basis.

High School Career, Technical & Agricultural Education (CTAE) courses (Marketing, Engineering and Technology, Public Safety, Agriculture, and Health Care Science) and Math II and Math III courses are currently in development.

State funding is available for a one unit course or two half unit courses per student per semester for high school level courses. Students may also pay tuition of \$300 per half unit class. All courses must be approved by the student's local school.

Private and home schooled students may begin registration for 2010-2011 GAVS courses on May 1, 2010.

IRS Free File Tax Program

All taxpayers making less than \$57,000 can visit www.irs.gov and use the industry's top tax preparation software for free. Users get the step-by-step help they need to prepare, complete and file federal tax returns online – at no cost.

The program is made possible through a partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance – a group of industry-leading tax software providers. Not only is the program completely free and secure, but taxpayers who use Free File with direct deposit may receive refunds in as little 10 days. To learn more, visit www.freefilealliance.org.

Students residing in House District 44

SERVE AS A PAGE for Representative Jones at the State Capitol

Students must be at least
12 years old.

Students will receive an excused
absence from school, a certificate,
lunch, and \$10.

For an application: call the office of
Rep. Jones – 404.656.0323

Take a Personal Tour of your State Capitol



Call today and make arrangements
for your

Church, Community Organization,
Family, School, or Senior Facility to
– Tour your State Capitol –

404.656.0323

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Partnership Launches 2010 Campaign To Help Thousands Of Working Families Maximize Tax Refunds And Financial Incentives

Free Tax Prep and E-Filing Services. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services offer free tax preparation to individuals, families, or married couples whose households earned less than \$48,000 in 2009. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) benefits offer qualified taxpayers refunds of up to \$5,600.

The Partnership's kickoff comes as part of the IRS' National EITC Awareness Day and encourages local residents to utilize Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites located throughout Metro Atlanta to see if they are qualified to receive the EITC and other benefits.

Qualifying families with three or more children may be eligible to receive refunds as high as \$5,657. For those who qualify but have failed to claim the credit in prior years, they may apply for the EITC retroactively for a period of up to three years, for up to \$12,000.

The benefits for children and working families are clear:

* Families with three or more qualifying children who earn less than \$43,279 (or \$48,279 if married and filing jointly) are eligible for up to \$5,657;

* Families with two qualifying children who earn less than \$40,295 (or \$45,295 if married and filing jointly) are eligible for up to \$5,028;

* Families with one qualifying child who earn less than \$35,463 (or \$40,463 if married and filing jointly) are eligible for up to \$3,043; or

* Single workers who have no children and earned less than \$13,440 (or \$18,440 if married and filing jointly) are eligible for \$457.

For more information or to qualify, individuals and working families can go to www.atlantaworkforce.org or visit the VITA Center located at 818 Pollard Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia, 30331.

LEGISLATORS FURLOUGHED – LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Due to the state's budget crisis, our public school educators and other state employees have had to take unpaid furlough days as a cost-saving measure. A plan was announced for members of the General Assembly to take additional furlough days, which would save the state an estimated \$2.7 million. By the end of fiscal year 2010, lawmakers will have taken 11 unpaid furlough days, including one day a month from August through December last year. Other state agencies have each taken between three and 12 furlough days.



for allowing me to serve as your State Representative for the 44th District.
I thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sheila