

March 3, 2008

As you receive this message, I am on my way to Washington, D.C., to speak at the event where the government performance report card for all 50 states will be announced by Governing Magazine and the Pew Center on the States. I will be there representing your hard work and dedication to excellence, so I wanted to share the results with you as soon as the report was released this morning.

Georgia's overall grade this time is B+. No state made an A, and only three states achieved A-. I am proud to report that not only did we bring up our 2005 grade of B, but our individual grades also went up in three out of the four management categories evaluated.

For five years, we've all been working toward our goal to make Georgia the best-managed state in America. That is still our goal. We have advanced from a class of 20 states making a B or better in 2005 to the honor roll in 2007. The next grading period is already underway, and Georgia is making progress every day.

The credit goes to your team effort. By joining the forces of innovation, inspiration and implementation, you are giving Georgians better value for their tax dollars and better service from their government. It isn't about grades. But it is critically important to know that our results are scoring high on national benchmarks for efficient, effective government.

I deeply appreciate your extraordinary service to our state, and I am honored to be your co-worker in this great mission. That is especially true today, as Georgia is one of two states spotlighted at the Pew Center's announcement ceremony. Let's celebrate our accomplishments and continue our efforts at being principle-centered, results-oriented and customer-focused. Thanks for all you do for the people of Georgia.