

PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Georgia Parent Teacher Association and The University of Georgia Take Strides to Solve Childhood Obesity**

(Atlanta, GA) February 25, 2009 – Finding solutions to a growing nationwide problem is on the forefront of the Georgia PTA and the University of Georgia's Department of Kinesiology agendas. These two dynamic organizations are teaming up to solicit parents' opinions and insights on solving the problem of childhood obesity. In the state of Georgia alone, obesity among children under the age of 18 has risen to an estimated 28% since 2003.

Research consistently reveals that children's programs have far greater impact and success when parents believe and support such programs. Therefore, this pro-active approach of seeking solutions to combat childhood obesity from parents themselves has the potential to significantly enhance the health and wellness of children and youth in communities across the nation. The GA PTA's support of this project will allow parents to have a dominant role in the development of a survey instrument that will accurately and reliably gather the voices, ideas, and suggestions of parents regarding fitness and wellness programs for school-age children.

The project calls for the involvement of approximately 800 parents of school-aged children across the state of Georgia. They will complete a brief survey and provide feedback about the instrument itself. This feedback will be used to improve and enhance the instrument and then redistributed to parents for further improvements and validation.

Through the GA PTA, the University of Georgia has made contact with parents at the local level to take part in this project. As a result, an important and valuable survey tool for educators, administrators, health professionals, and policy makers will be developed to measure what parents support and see as valuable in reducing childhood obesity in their communities.

This project will enhance the awareness of solutions to childhood obesity and provide a platform for parents to voice their opinions and suggestions about solutions to this nationwide health issue. Additionally, the collective voice of concerned parents about childhood obesity may influence decision-makers to act and invest in the health and wellness of children in Georgia and across the nation.

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