

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.  
Leading Communities.™



March 24, 2008

Editor  
Valdosta Daily Times  
201 North Troup Street  
Valdosta, GA 31603

Dear Editor:

During many of the 11 meetings the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce conducted in 2006 to develop the IMPACT 2012 Business Action Plan, several of the 72 business, government, and education leaders who participated raised the issue of our current school system organization (i.e., two separate systems) and its possible impact on development patterns and our community's ability to recruit, retain and expand certain types of businesses.

The group of leaders recommended that a Task Force be appointed by the Chamber to conduct a study of this issue as "Job #1" in the implementation of the Business Action Plan. The group further specified that the Chamber Board commit to taking action on the recommendations of the Task Force, whatever the outcome of the study.

Task Force appointees are:

- Rusty Griffin Chairman
- Minister Leroy Butler
- Roy Copeland
- Joe Cordova
- Carolyn Eager
- Walter Hobgood
- Rev. John Manning
- J.C. Riley

The mission of the study:

***"An independent study will be conducted to determine the impact of school system organization on economic development and quality job growth with appropriate action taken once the study is completed."***

Upon the recommendation of the Task Force, the Chamber has contracted with the Carl Vinson Institute and the Fanning Institute of the University of Georgia to conduct the study. Completion is expected in mid-2008. For more information visit [www.valdostachamber.com](http://www.valdostachamber.com).

Sincerely,

Rusty Griffin

Rusty Griffin  
Task Force Chairman