



David W. Johnson



Jeannie M. (Sis) Henry

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) is dedicated to serving the legislative needs of each one of our members. One of our purposes is to give school boards a voice when lawmakers make decisions on issues that have a critical impact on our school systems or on the governance of public education. We strive to “represent the collective resolve” of Georgia’s 180 locally elected boards of education. We take pride in our process of inclusion and grassroots advocacy.

GSBA includes its members in the development of its legislative positions. School boards select a delegate to represent their board at our annual meeting, the Delegate Assembly, held in June. Before the meeting, school boards are invited to propose edits, amendments and deletions to GSBA’s legislative positions, or they may suggest new positions. At the Delegate Assembly, all of the proposed changes are considered and voted on by the delegates. (Delegates also elect GSBA’s officers.)

Because building confidence in Georgia’s public schools is critical for the success of the state’s 1.6 million students, it’s important that school board members and other educational and business leaders partner with us on issues that have a significant impact on our school systems. These partnerships may take the form of testifying on legislation at the Capitol or at legislative hearings, contacting legislators, developing joint statements or conducting meetings with stakeholder groups.

GSBA holds numerous meetings, such as our annual Advocacy Workshop in Macon, to help our members become informed advocates for public education. Every year Legislative Site Visits in Atlanta, give school board members and superintendents the opportunity to meet with their legislators and get an update on what’s going on under Georgia’s gold dome. As this year’s Georgia General Assembly approaches, you can find daily reports, e-mail alerts and legislative tracking via GSBA’s Capitol Watch Online. As we continue to build a strong grassroots network across the state, we thank you for supporting GSBA and advocating for Georgia’s public school children.

*Sincerely,
David W. Johnson
GSBA President
Floyd County Board of Education*

*Jeannie M. (Sis) Henry
GSBA Executive Director*

Georgia School Boards Association

GSBA officers, district directors and staff are available to provide information as needed. The staff can be reached at the Capitol during the session or at the GSBA offices.

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2012 Legislative Priorities

The following statements represent the 2012 legislative priorities of the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). The positions are ones that GSBA feels are critical to the success of students and to ensuring excellence in the governance of local school systems. The GSBA Board of Directors chose these as priorities from the association’s total list of legislative positions, which are available on GSBA’s website at www.gsba.com.

Local Impact Statements

GSBA urges that all bills include a fiscal note detailing the budgetary impact on local school districts and other governmental entities in accordance with Georgia Code Title 28, Chapter 5, Article 3A, State and Local Government Partnership.

State Tax Policy

GSBA urges the General Assembly to develop a state tax policy to address the continued erosion of the state revenue base through exemptions from the sales and use tax, income tax and other state taxes. GSBA also urges the General Assembly to create a tax system that is fair, stable, transparent and yields adequate revenue for the state to succeed in meeting its goals.

Authority over Local Funds

GSBA urges the General Assembly to reject legislation leading to the erosion of the local tax base and to reject any attempts to usurp the authority of local boards to determine how local funds are used.

Constitutional Authority of School Boards

GSBA urges the General Assembly to align legislative initiatives with state constitutional provisions regarding the control, management and funding of public schools.

Revision of Public School Funding

GSBA urges the General Assembly to favorably consider recommendations of the State Education Finance Study Commission that more adequately address the educational needs of Georgia’s public school students and more equitably balances state and local costs.

ADVOCATE For Public Schools!



GSBA
 Georgia School Board Association