



**News from the Georgia School Boards Association
5120 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

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For Immediate Release

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Student Achievement, Legislation, and More to be Focus of Annual Meeting

Over 800 local school board members and superintendents are expected to attend the Georgia School Boards Association/Georgia School Superintendents Association 2006 Annual Conference (December 1-2) and pre-conference training activities (November 29-30) at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta.

According to GSBA Executive Director Jeannie M. (Sis) Henry, "This year's conference program offers an exceptional opportunity for our members to hear from state and national leaders and experts on educational issues, policies, rules and regulations affecting public education." Ms. Henry said that in addition to the largest conference participation in the association's history, attendance at the GSBA school law seminar, new board training and student achievement workshop offered on prior to the conference is also at record highs.

About 170 newly elected board members have registered to attend the New Board Member Orientation, which will take place from noon on the November 29 through November 30. The workshop is designed to bring new school board members up to speed on school finance, school law, roles and responsibilities and other educational issues.

About 500 school board members, superintendents and school board attorneys have registered to attend the school law workshop set for November 30. This year's workshop will focus on legal issues surrounding safety and security issues, personnel issues, special education litigation costs and recent legislation, court and state board decisions.

Nearly 130 educational leaders are attending the new workshop, Enhancing Student Achievement, on November 30. The agenda will focus on the board's role in moving the district from "mediocre to magnificent," collaborative leadership and the use of a "performance culture."

The GSBA/GSSA Conference begins on December 1 and runs through 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 2. Featured speakers scheduled for the conference include: U.S Senator Johnny Isakson, State Representative Brooks Coleman, State School Superintendent Kathy Cox, Georgia Board of Education Chair Wanda Barrs, Reggie Felton from the National School Boards Association and advocacy expert Joel Blackwell.

At the awards luncheon on Friday, media representatives and school boards will be recognized with various awards. On Saturday, a number of school board members and superintendents will receive service award pins recognizing their years of service to their communities and districts.

Additional information on the conference, including schedules, times and speaker information, is available at www.gsba.com. An Agenda-At-A-Glance is provided below for your convenience.

2006 GSBA/GSSA Annual Conference - Agenda-At-A-Glance

Wednesday, November 29, 2006

GSBA New Board Member Orientation

- Noon Registration Begins
- 1:00 p.m. Workshop Begins
- 5:00 p.m. Summary and Adjourn for the Day

Thursday, November 30, 2006

GSBA New Board Member Orientation

- 8:00 a.m. Workshop Resumes
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 5:15 p.m. Workshop Adjourns for the Day

E. Freeman Leverett School Law Seminar

- 7:30 a.m. Registration Begins
- 8:30 a.m. Workshop Begins
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Board Member and Superintendent Session Resumes
- 1:00 p.m. School Board Attorneys Session Resumes
- 4:30 p.m. Workshop Adjourns

Enhancing Student Achievement Workshop

- 8:30 a.m. Registration Begins
- 9:00 a.m. Workshop Begins
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 4:00 p.m. Workshop Adjourns

GSBA/GSSA Annual Conference

Friday, December 1, 2006

- 6:45 a.m. Registration Begins
- 8:30 a.m. First General Session
 - Presentation of School Boards of Distinction Awards
 - State Representative Brooks Coleman
- 11:15 a.m. Mini Sessions
- 12:30 p.m. Awards Luncheon
 - U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson
 - Georgia Board of Education Chair Wanda Barrs
 - Announcement of Georgia Superintendent of the Year
 - Presentation of GSBA Beacon Awards
- 2:00 p.m. Mini Sessions Repeat
- 3:15 p.m. Second General Session
 - Reggie Felton

Saturday, December 2, 2006

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast General Session Begins
 - State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox
 - GSBA/GSSA Service Awards
 - Joel Blackwell
- 10:45 a.m. Conference Adjourns

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