



2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Our mission is to produce high achievement for all through continuous growth.

1 SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, NOT TAX-FUNDED VOUCHERS

Reallocating tax dollars to private schools weakens public education. Please oppose any further attempts to expand Georgia's existing school choice voucher programs. Limit the diversion of public funds to private schools or home study through vouchers, scholarships, education savings accounts, tuition tax credits, or tax exemptions.

2 INCREASE TEACHER AND STAFF PAY

School districts nationwide face unprecedented recruitment and retention challenges. The State of Georgia must consider providing financial incentives in order for Districts to attract and keep quality educators.

3 EXPAND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETIREES

To help with teacher shortages statewide, allow Teachers Retirement System (TRS) beneficiaries to fill any teaching vacancies available. Currently, TRS retirees may only teach in certain content areas.

4 PRIORITIZE SCHOOL SAFETY

Students must feel safe in order to effectively learn, and employees must be trained to handle a crisis. In order to equitably address the safety needs of Districts, add a budget line item to address school safety. The amount allocated for each District should be based on full-time enrollment at each school.

Our Beliefs

Fully Fund QBE

Full funding is critical to student success. Our Board is grateful for the restoration of austerity cuts made in FY22. As legislators review the QBE formula, consider increasing the amount distributed to Districts in a way that accounts for the number of students living in poverty.

Protect TRS

TRS is especially important for recruiting and retaining our teachers. Teachers are the only state employees who do not benefit from the state paying 6.2% of their salary into Social Security. Our District pays about \$13.8 million a year to Social Security. TRS works well, so there is no need for reform, overhaul or change. Supporting and strengthening TRS encourages teachers to stay in Georgia and discourages them from leaving the teaching profession.

Local Control by Community Boards of Education

Our Board supports local control and flexibility, not state mandates. To support local governance, legislation should be aligned with constitutional authority of school boards. Local Board members and administrators know their educational needs, communities, and families best.

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Mark Scott

Board Members

Dave Crockett	Jon Nichols
Helen Hughes	Dr. Rick Unruh
Mark Ivory	Bryan Upshaw
Lori Johnson	

Houston County Legislative Delegation

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