



2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Our mission is to produce high-achieving students



RESTORE AUSTERITY CUTS

Prioritize restoring austerity cuts. The FY21 cut to our district equated to about \$7.1 million, and the FY22 cut was approximately \$7.2 million. Full funding is always important for student success.



BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS FOR ALL

Provide affordable and quality high-speed internet access to all of Georgia's families. With the increase of digital learning and access to technology, the internet is vital to meeting the academic needs of our students.



ALLOW RETIREES TO RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM

To help with the teacher shortage crisis, allow Teachers Retirement System (TRS) beneficiaries to return to the classroom full-time without affecting their benefits. This provides highly-qualified teachers for students and generates funds for TRS without future liabilities.



SCHOOL SAFETY

Students must feel safe to be able to learn, and employees must be trained to handle a crisis. Preventative efforts would be greatly enhanced if the state legislature included School Safety as a budget line item. Funding expanded services for school safety, school nurses, counselors, behavioral support, and mental health needs would ensure safer schools.

OUR BELIEFS

Protect TRS

TRS is especially important because educators are the only state employees who do not benefit from the state paying 6.2% of their salary into Social Security. Districts which choose to pay into Social Security must use local funds. Our district pays about \$12 million a year into 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 the profession.

Support for Public Education, Not Tax-Funded Vouchers

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

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.

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