

# **GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## **2010 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

### **Gwinnett County Board of Education:**

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**2009 Chairman**  
**District II**

**Dr. Mary Kay Murphy**  
**2009 Vice Chairman**  
**District III**

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**District IV**

**Louise Radloff**  
**District V**

**J. Alvin Wilbanks**  
**CEO/Superintendent**



## Gwinnett County Public Schools 2010 Legislative Program

### **Core Beliefs of the Gwinnett County Board of Education**

Our core business is teaching and learning.

All children can learn at or above grade level.

All children should reach their learning potential.

The school effect is important and has a profound impact on every child's life.

A quality instructional program requires a rigorous curriculum, effective teaching, and ongoing assessment.

All children should be taught in a safe and secure learning environment.

### **Vision**

Gwinnett County Public Schools will become a system of world-class schools where students acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful as they continue their education at the postsecondary level and/or enter the workforce.

### **Mission**

The mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.

### **Strategic Goals**

Gwinnett County Public Schools will . . .

- Ensure a world-class education for all students by focusing on teaching and learning the Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) curriculum.
- Ensure a safe, secure, and orderly environment for all.
- Optimize student achievement through responsible stewardship of its financial resources and the proactive pursuit of all resources necessary to meet current and future demands.
- Recruit, employ, develop, and retain a workforce that achieves the mission and goals of the organization.
- Meet the continuing and changing demand for essential information through technological systems and processes that support effective performance and desired results.
- Provide and manage the system's facilities and operations in an exemplary manner as determined by programmatic needs and best management practices.
- Apply continuous quality improvement strategies and principles as the way the organization does business.

## **Gwinnett County Public Schools Funding**

Understanding the realities of the current economic times and the budget constraints that are being felt at the local, state, and national levels, the Board commits to continue its responsible stewardship of funds provided to support teaching and learning. However, we are at the point that any further reduction in funding, through the loss of local and/or state dollars, will jeopardize our ability to provide students the quality and effective education our community demands and expects; maintain a sound financial position, and retain a AAA bond rating. No legislation should be passed that would erode existing revenue sources at the state or local level.

### **Appropriations**

Fully fund the QBE state funding formula as set forth in state statute, to include equalization funding, until another foundation formula replaces it, thus protecting the K- 12 education appropriation from further austerity reductions. Since FY2002, austerity cuts to the QBE funding formula have resulted in a loss of state revenue for Gwinnett County Public Schools of \$256.9 million.

#### **State QBE Formula Funding Lost**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Funding Lost</b>
2003	\$10.7 million
2004	\$22.9 million
2005	\$27.6 million
2006	\$27.0 million
2007	\$15.5 million
2008	\$13.4 million
2009	\$47.4 million*
2010	<u>\$92.4 million**</u>
<b>Total Loss</b>	<b>\$256.9 million</b>

Notes:

\* For FY09, the State used Federal Stabilization funds of \$15,171,612 to offset a portion of the austerity reduction. The net austerity reduction was \$32,202,827.

\*\* For FY10, the State will be using Federal Stabilization funds of \$39,984,807 to offset a portion of the austerity reduction. The net austerity reduction will be \$52,416,054.

## **Gwinnett County Public Schools Governance**

**Legislation has been introduced and, in many cases, passed that usurps the authority of the Gwinnett County Board of Education to govern our public schools. This is a direct affront to the Constitutional powers given to local boards of education. It is through the management and control of the local board by which each school system can meet the educational needs and expectations of the community. We urge your commitment to protect and reaffirm the Constitutional authority of the duly elected Gwinnett County Board of Education to provide educational services at the local level through its system of public schools.**

### **Maintain Local Control of Public Education**

Local boards should retain their authority in the following areas:

#### **Local Revenue Sources**

Local boards of education should not be restricted by legislation from levying local ad valorem taxes to ensure funding for the quality K-12 educational programs their citizens expect. Any change in the tax code that would adversely affect the ability of local boards of education to generate local revenue should be opposed.

#### **Commission/Charter Schools**

Local boards of education should not be restricted by, nor mandated to comply with, legislation that provides a commission or any other entity authority over school district operations and funding. Legislation of this type is a direct affront to the Constitutional powers given to local boards of education. Boards should retain their ability to fund charter schools that have been approved locally.

#### **Curriculum/Discipline**

Decisions relating to curriculum and student discipline should be left to local boards of education.

#### **Calendar**

Establishment of the annual school-year calendar, including starting and ending dates, and the establishment of the instructional day should rest solely with local boards of education.

#### **Contract Days**

Local boards of education should retain the authority and be given the flexibility to implement state reductions in funding. The General Assembly should resist changes to established contract days as a mechanism for making up lost state revenue. Any reduction in professional development or teacher planning days or shortening of the school year would have a negative impact on student achievement.

## **Gwinnett County Public Schools Continuing Positions**

### **Maintain a Safe and Secure Environment for Teaching and Learning**

The safety and security of students at school is a priority. Federal, State, and local agencies need to provide school districts with the resources to maintain a safe and secure environment for students in order to support current policies and procedures.

### **Resist Efforts to Provide Contracts for Classified Employees**

Local systems should not be required to provide contracts of employment for classified employees. Emphasis should be put on enhancing the benefits provided for classified employees.

### **Oppose Vouchers and/or Tuition Tax Credits**

Legislation that allocates public funds for private schools or home study programs through voucher or tuition tax credits or scholarships should be opposed. No verifiable, objective research exists that correlates vouchers or tuition tax credits with improved academic achievement. Furthermore, vouchers or tuition tax credits erode public education funding, thereby limiting the programs and services available for students who attend public schools.

### **Require Impact Statement for Any New Legislation**

Establish a mandatory, minimum 12-month waiting period prior to the implementation of any new state education legislation. In addition, require a clear and complete description of the potential fiscal, operational, and programmatic impact of the legislation on local schools and school districts.

### **Support Flexibility for Local School Systems**

Continue supporting the flexibility afforded local systems through the IE<sup>2</sup> partnership contracts between local systems and the State Board of Education.

### **Fund Capital Outlay at Maximum Levels**

Fund at the \$200 million level for Regular Entitlement and at the \$100 million level for Exceptional Growth.

## Shortfalls in State Funding K- 12

FY2010

[FY2009\*, FY2008\*, FY2007\*, FY2006\*]

Requests	Gwinnett's Total Cost	State Funds	Gwinnett's Funds	State Percentage	Local Percentage
Maintenance and Operations	\$88,912,000 ['10]	\$47,691,000 ['10]	\$41,221,000 ['10]	53.64% ['10]	46.36% ['10]
	\$83,390,000 ['09]	\$47,691,000 ['09]	\$35,699,000 ['09]	57.19% ['09]	42.81% ['09]
	\$75,979,000 ['08]	\$47,300,000 ['08]	\$28,679,000 ['08]	62.25% ['08]	37.75% ['08]
	\$70,816,000 ['07]	\$46,432,000 ['07]	\$24,384,000 ['07]	65.57% ['07]	34.43% ['07]
	\$65,000,000 ['06]	\$43,600,000 ['06]	\$21,400,000 ['06]	67.08% ['06]	32.92% ['06]
Instructional Materials, Supplies and Textbooks	\$21,485,000 ['10]	\$13,647,000 ['10]	\$7,838,000 ['10]	63.52% ['10]	36.48% ['10]
	\$21,057,000 ['09]	\$13,647,000 ['09]	\$7,410,000 ['09]	64.81% ['09]	35.19% ['09]
	\$35,895,000 ['08]	\$13,488,000 ['08]	\$22,407,000 ['08]	37.58% ['08]	62.42% ['08]
	\$22,603,000 ['07]	\$13,094,000 ['07]	\$9,509,000 ['07]	57.93% ['07]	42.07% ['07]
	\$29,706,000 ['06]	\$12,300,000 ['06]	\$17,406,000 ['06]	41.41% ['06]	58.59% ['06]
Training and Experience Lag	\$6,900,000 ['10]		\$6,900,000 ['10]		100.00% ['10]
	\$6,600,000 ['09]		\$6,600,000 ['09]	0.0	100.00% ['09]
	\$6,300,000 ['08]		\$6,300,000 ['08]		100.00% ['08]
	\$6,000,000 ['07]		\$6,000,000 ['07]		100.00% ['07]
	\$5,700,000 ['06]		\$5,700,000 ['06]		100.00% ['06]
Sick and Personal Leave	\$14,333,000 ['10]	\$1,551,000 ['10]	\$12,782,000 ['10]	10.82% ['10]	89.18% ['10]
	\$14,272,000 ['09]	\$1,551,000 ['09]	\$12,721,000 ['09]	10.87% ['09]	89.13% ['09]
	\$12,295,000 ['08]	\$1,539,000 ['08]	\$10,756,000 ['08]	12.52% ['08]	87.48% ['08]
	\$10,529,000 ['07]	\$1,505,000 ['07]	\$9,024,000 ['07]	14.29% ['07]	85.71% ['07]
	\$9,500,000 ['06]	\$1,500,000 ['06]	\$8,000,000 ['06]	15.79% ['06]	84.21% ['06]
Transportation (State-mandated services only, estimated)	\$70,268,000 ['10]	\$6,754,000 ['10]	\$63,514,000 ['10]	9.61% ['10]	90.39% ['10]
	\$63,135,000 ['09]	\$6,849,000 ['09]	\$56,286,000 ['09]	10.85% ['09]	89.15% ['09]
	\$60,538,000 ['08]	\$6,952,000 ['08]	\$53,586,000 ['08]	11.48% ['08]	88.52% ['08]
	\$59,613,000 ['07]	\$7,188,000 ['07]	\$52,425,000 ['07]	12.06% ['07]	87.94% ['07]
	\$50,800,000 ['06]	\$6,900,000 ['06]	\$43,900,000 ['06]	13.58% ['06]	86.42% ['06]
Gwinnett Retirement System	\$52,905,000 ['10]		\$52,905,000 ['10]		100.00% ['10]
	\$52,456,000 ['09]		\$52,456,000 ['09]	0.0	100.00% ['09]
	\$48,519,000 ['08]		\$48,519,000 ['08]		100.00% ['08]
	\$45,181,000 ['07]		\$45,181,000 ['07]		100.00% ['07]
	\$37,104,000 ['06]		\$37,104,000 ['06]		100.00% ['06]
Austerity Reduction (See note 1 & 2)	\$92,401,000 ['10]		\$92,401,000 ['10]		100.00% ['10]
	\$47,374,000 ['09]		\$47,374,000 ['09]	0.0	100.00% ['09]
	\$13,420,000 ['08]		\$13,420,000 ['08]		100.00% ['08]
	\$15,468,000 ['07]		\$15,468,000 ['07]		100.00% ['07]
	\$27,000,000 ['06]		\$27,000,000 ['06]		100.00% ['06]

**Notes:**

- 1) For FY10, the State will be using Federal Stabilization funds of \$39,984,807 to offset a portion of the austerity reduction. The net austerity reduction will be \$52,416,054.
- 2) For FY09, the State used Federal Stabilization funds of \$15,171,612 to offset a portion of the austerity reduction. The net austerity reduction was \$32,202,827.

Prior year's figures are based on actual costs. Current year figures reflect FY2010 budget projections.