The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) is dedicated to serving the legislative needs of Georgia’s school boards. 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 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 1.7 million public school 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 to help school board 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, email alerts and legislative tracking via GSBA’s Capitol Watch Online and the GSBA HUB. 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.
2019-2020 GSBA Legislative Priorities

The following statements represent the 2019-2020 legislative priorities of the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). The positions are ones that GSBA believes 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.

Education Funding Formula
GSBA urges the General Assembly to require any changes to the education funding formula to generate a funding level based on the actual costs to provide a quality program to all Georgia’s public school students. GSBA supports the addition of an inflation index as well as a review of the equalization formula and the calculation of the five mill share.

Expansion of Publicly Funded Private School Options
GSBA opposes the creation of any new program or any expansion of existing programs that directly or indirectly use public funds to pay private school tuition for students. GSBA urges the General Assembly to include accountability measures in such programs including financial and policy transparency, performance evaluation measures, and consequences for poor performance.

Assessments
GSBA supports a continued review of our assessment system to limit the number and to build flexibility into the system for districts to move students as they are ready.

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.

Education Funding Formula
GSBA urges the General Assembly to require any changes to the education funding formula to generate a funding level based on the actual costs to provide a quality program to all Georgia’s public school students. GSBA supports the addition of an inflation index as well as a review of the equalization formula and the calculation of the five mill share.