Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
December 9, 2021	B-1

Title

Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2022 Legislative and Policy Priorities

Requested Action

School Board Adoption of Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2022 Legislative and Policy Priorities

Summary Explanation and Background

The Georgia Education Coalition (GEC), a consortium of 12 large and growing public school districts in the State of Georgia created for the purpose of increasing collaboration and legislative/policy advocacy between and among large school systems, unanimously approved the attached Legislative and Policy Priorities for the upcoming General Assembly.

Priority Area

Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

GEC 2022 Legislative Priorities

Source of Additional Information

Kyla Cromer, School Board Chair	770.479.1871
Dr. Brian V. Hightower, Superintendent of Schools	770.479.1871
Mike McGowan, Chief of Staff	770.479.1871

The **Georgia Education Coalition**
201 17th Street NW, Suite 1700, Atlanta, Georgia 30363

2022 Legislative & Policy Priorities

1. Champion initiatives and defend policies that **put students and local communities first** in the delivery of high-quality, appropriate public education that **prepares students for their futures.**
    - Promote formative and online assessments, as well as reduction of high-stakes testing.
    - Seek additional investment in technology, infrastructure, and innovative education tools to deliver instruction more effectively in-person and digitally.
    - Support efforts to improve teacher, school, and district evaluative metrics to provide more reliable, actionable, and transparent performance and accountability data.
    - Protect and promote local processes for management of educational materials and delivery of curriculum as prescribed by the Georgia Standards of Excellence.
    - Promote policy, partnerships, and investment supporting graduation pathways and CTAE.
2. Promote **continued investment** in public education and efforts that support **teacher recruitment, training, and retention**.
    - Work to regain full funding of the QBE formula while collaborating with partners to modernize the formula to recognize the true costs of delivering public education.
    - Support salary increases for certified and non-certified personnel, protection of the Teachers Retirement System, allowing retired educators to return to work, and other efforts to recruit and retain quality educators.
    - Promote increased funding for school nurses, counselors, social workers, other mental health professionals and student mental health programs and services.
    - Support legislation and policy increasing transparency and accountability for voucher and tuition tax credit programs and oppose further diversion of public funds to private entities.
    - Demonstrate the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on enrollment and operations and support financial stopgaps to maintain safe, robust in-person instruction.
3. Support efforts, such as flexibility in testing, calendars, and curriculum, to **foster innovation** in and **reduce burdens** on school districts.
    - Protect contracted flexibility and waivers that allow local innovation and efficiencies.
    - Support flexibility in maturity requirements for local district tax anticipation notes.
    - Encourage elimination of state-mandated use of schools as polling places.
    - Support continued district flexibility in the implementation of health and safety initiatives.

DRAFT