



Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
January 18, 2024	B-1

Title
Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2024 Legislative and Policy Priorities
Requested Action
School Board Adoption of Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2024 Legislative and Policy Priorities
Summary Explanation and Background
The Georgia Education Coalition (GEC), a consortium of 15 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 adopted its Legislative and Policy Priorities in December. Those Priorities are attached for School Board consideration and approval.
Priority Area
Organizational and Operational Effectiveness
Financial Impact
N/A
Exhibits: (List)
GEC 2024 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

2024 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 policy, partnerships, and investment supporting graduation pathways, CTAE, dual enrollment, and work-based learning.
 - Sustain current funding levels for therapeutic supports for students with disabilities.
 - Support efforts to improve teacher, school, and district evaluative metrics to provide more reliable, actionable, and transparent performance and accountability data.
2. Promote **continued investment** in public education and efforts that support **teacher recruitment, training, certification, and retention**.
 - Support efforts to modernize the QBE formula to include additional funding for student transportation and students in poverty and advocate for full funding of the formula.
 - Support programs, funding, and incentives, including protection of the Teachers Retirement System, teacher pipeline innovation, and flexibility in return to work, to train, recruit, mentor, and retain quality educators.
 - Promote increased and dedicated funding for school counselors, social workers, and other mental health professionals, student mental health programs, and school safety initiatives.
 - Support legislation establishing transparency and accountability for voucher and tuition tax credit programs and oppose further diversion of public funds to private entities.
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.
 - Seek additional investment in technology, infrastructure, and innovative education tools.
 - Support flexibility in maturity requirements for local district tax anticipation notes.
 - Seek preservation of sovereign immunity protections to prevent unnecessary disruptions in school operations and processes.
 - Support legislation clarifying the roles of the tax assessor and levying authority in public notices of proposed property tax increases.