



Mission

GSSA is committed to all of Georgia's public school children. We accept as our mission the role of chief advocate for these children. We are dedicated to the premise that *all* children can be successful in school. Our goal is to transform ideas into action helping schools become exciting places of learning that can make a difference in the lives of Georgia's future leaders.

Position Statements

I. Beliefs of the Georgia School Superintendents Association

The Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) believes all children can be successful in school. We believe it is the responsibility of all citizens to participate actively to ensure that a successful educational experience is provided for all children.

- The Association believes** that local school superintendents create an environment in the communities they serve which ensures a quality education program for all students. The leadership provided by local school superintendents is crucial to ensuring an effective and efficient system of schools in each community in our state. Local school superintendents are and must continue to be advocates for children in collaboration to seek solutions and to consider the best interests of students in all of their actions
- The Association believes** that all students in the state should have the educational experience that increases their success in school and their future.
- The Association believes** that valued, talented and caring professionals should be employed to teach and lead in the schools of our state in order to achieve the goal of ensuring a high quality educational experience for all children.
- The Association believes** that safe schools are crucial to reflect a positive school environment, and that a healthy school climate is essential to high levels of student achievement.
- The Association believes** that all superintendents must engage in personal and professional learning opportunities to improve leadership effectiveness.

II. Improvement of Student Success

GSSA believes that student learning should be the focus of every initiative to strengthen public education in Georgia. All school districts must have a system strategic plan and school improvement plans that focus on student success.

III. Funding for Public Education

GSSA strongly believes that essential costs included in Georgia's plan for funding its schools should be reflected in the state's formula for financial support of K-12 schools and should be fully funded. Local boards should have the flexibility to augment the state's funding formula with additional local revenue.

IV. Providing and Supporting Highly-Qualified Personnel

GSSA believes all personnel must receive appropriate preparation and ongoing professional development for their assigned roles in the education of our students, which must be aligned with the system strategic plan and school improvement plans.

V. Enhancing Governance of Quality Public Education

GSSA believes student success is enhanced when local, community educators and school system leadership are entrusted with the authority to make decisions about effective strategies for educational outcomes. We believe the state has a proper role in identifying broad standards and the parameters for ensuring that those standards are available to students statewide. The state should provide considerable discretion to local boards of education and educators in determining the most effective means of meeting and exceeding the state standards.

VI. Providing High-Quality Instructional and Support Programs

GSSA believes that the success of all students is dependent upon the effective implementation of the Georgia Standards of Excellence, recognizing that the success of all students is dependent on the ability of districts and schools to meet the varying needs of students. The local board and leadership need to have the flexibility to develop and support new and creative programs, such as move on when ready programs, early literacy programs, and alternative school programs.

VII. Providing Essential Support Services

GSSA believes that public school services that are specifically designed to support student instruction are essential to the total operation of the school system. Additionally, districts need funding flexibility for alternative and new instructional programs.

VIII. Federal overreach into State and Local School Jurisdiction

GSSA believes that the federal government should play a role in supporting the efforts of states and local jurisdictions as they perform the critical task of educating the nation's children. That role has expanded in recent years in a manner that has caused the federal arm to reach far beyond the "support" level.

To review the entire position document, please visit the GSSA website at: www.gssanet.org

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Leadership for the 21st Century