

## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

### **PRIORITY ONE: Improve / Reauthorize the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act**

Reauthorization of NCLB with the more than 40 provisions for improvement included in H.R. 648 will help continue the accountability for student achievement brought about by NCLB, while addressing many of the shortcomings in the original legislation. Language providing additional support for middle grades education, such as H.R. 3406, should also be incorporated. Defer implementation of further NCLB sanctions until such time as reauthorization is completed.

### **PRIORITY TWO: Provide adequate Federal funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

Part B of IDEA originally authorized Congress to contribute up to 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure (APPE) for each student with a disability. However, school districts have received less than 20 percent of APPE in federal funding for many years. With temporary ARRA funding, this situation has improved but is still less than 40 percent (for SCCPSS, ARRA funding has raised the percent funded from 15 to 30 percent for the current year). However, after 2 years, ARRA funding will expire and school districts will be again forced to redirect scarce funds from their general education budget to cover the shortfall.

### **PRIORITY THREE: Improve / Reauthorize E-Rate**

E-Rate provides schools with discounts on telephone and internet access. This year, Congress will be considering reauthorization of the Telecommunications Act which provides authorization for the Universal Service Fund and E-Rate. In 2004, the FCC ruled that the E-Rate program was subject to the Anti-deficiency Act. Each year since, Congress has passed an exemption for E-Rate from the Anti-deficiency law. Continued authorization of the E-Rate program, along with a permanent resolution to the Anti-deficiency issue, is essential to districts such as SCCPSS.

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For Additional Information, Contact  
Lori Brady, Board Member – District 6 /  
Board Legislative Liaison at (912) 484-2704

## *Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools*



### **Legislative Priorities**

**2009 – 2010**

(Approved 11/4/09)

#### **Members of the Board of Public Education**

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<b>Julie T. Gerbsch</b>	<b>District 7</b>
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#### **Superintendent of Schools**

**Thomas B. Lockamy, Jr. Ed.D.**

#### **Mission**

*To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels.*

#### **Vision**

*From school to the world: All students prepared for productive futures.*

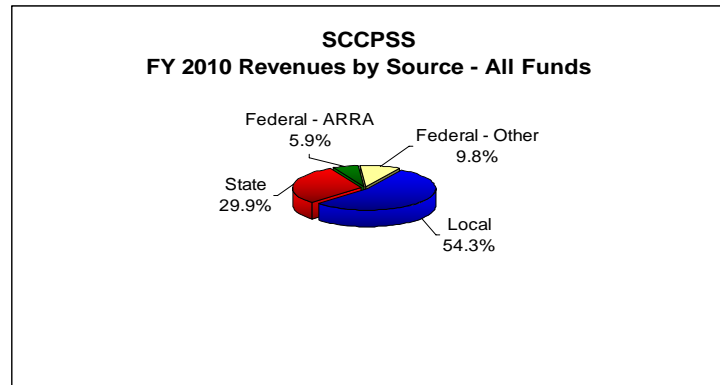
## STATE PRIORITIES

### PRIORITY ONE: Protect local control of public education

The Georgia Constitution places each school system under the management and control of an elected board of education. We view with concern any legislative initiatives which would result in or have the effect of limiting the authority or the revenue generating potential of local school systems. School calendar decisions should remain local, with the State Department of Education providing adjusted testing and data collection windows to support local districts. Unfunded / under-funded mandates must be curtailed or eliminated.

### PRIORITY TWO: Provide a reasonable State funding mechanism for public education that adequately addresses critical local school district needs

The Georgia Constitution also makes the provision of an adequate public education a primary obligation of the state of Georgia. The current mechanism has been eroded over time and is no longer adequate. In SCCPSS, State funding provides less than 1/3 of total district revenues.



### PRIORITY THREE: Provide for an adequate supply of highly qualified educators to meet the projected statewide demands

The quality of the classroom teacher is the single most important component to increasing student achievement. Georgia must find innovative ways to increase the supply of qualified educators. Demand for excellent teachers will continue to far outpace supply for the foreseeable future.

### PRIORITY FOUR: Expand school safety zones

Extend the definition of school safety zones to include properly designated school bus stops.

### PRIORITY FIVE: Support annual State tax expenditure reports

Georgia has an ever-growing list of exemptions and credits that apply to the taxes the State collects on income, property, and the sale of goods and services. These tax breaks add up to millions of dollars each year that would otherwise have been collected if the exemptions or credits did not exist. This loss in revenue from exemptions and credits is known as tax expenditures. While the General Assembly reviews, debates, and prioritizes the budget and appropriations each year, the exemptions and credits in the tax code escape review or debate. To improve transparency, these exemptions and credits should be reviewed and considered each year as a part of the state budget process and published in an annual tax expenditure report.

Currently, 39 states produce some variation of a tax expenditure report.

Comparison of Selected School System Expenditures, QBE Earnings, and State Funding for FY 2009 SCCPSS					
<u>Category</u>	<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>QBE Earnings</u>	<u>Local 5 Mill Share</u>	<u>\$ Funded by State</u>	<u>% Funded By State</u>
All Teacher Salaries	\$163,170,497	\$133,131,537	\$44,599,065	\$88,532,472	54.3%
Art/Music/PE Teachers Only	7,692,373	3,045,358	1,020,195	2,025,163	26.3%
Substitutes/Sick Leave	3,839,026	316,178	105,919	210,258	5.5%
Nurses Salaries	2,033,352	531,257	-	531,257	26.1%
Textbooks	3,696,396	860,782	288,362	572,420	15.5%
Maintenance and Operations	25,164,631	9,705,288	3,250,825	6,454,463	25.6%
Security/Police	2,619,942	-	-	-	0.0%
Transportation	15,864,060	3,417,202	-	3,417,202	21.5%