



## From CAPITOL to CLASSROOM

The results of the 2011 Legislative Session are in.

Find out what passed, what didn't, and how it will affect you.

Click to view: [2011-2012 Georgia Annual Salary Schedule](#)

### **Definitions:**

**Supported** - GAE actively lobbied for passage.

**Opposed** - GAE actively lobbied to make legislation palatable. There are very few bills that are absolute non-negotiable.

On most legislation, we try to find the common ground that 1) does not compromise the identity of the Association and 2) demonstrates to lawmakers that we have more than "NO" in our vocabulary.

*\*denotes GAE requested legislation*

**What's Crossover Day?** - It's the day in which a bill must have been successfully voted out of the chamber of its origination

### **House Bill 81: Fiscal Bill Impacting School Resources**

Legislation introduced with a fiscal note affecting any local school or local school system received by the Office of Planning and Budget shall be promptly transmitted to the State School Superintendent who promptly transmits a copy of such fiscal note to each local school.

**Status:** Did not make crossover

**GAE Position:** Supported

### **House Bill 172: Temporarily Extends Multiple Provisions, IE Squared Continued...**

Extends the date school systems must notify DOE of their intention to request flexibility—temporarily extends expenditure waivers for cost of direct instruction, media center, staff and

professional development and additional days of instruction; temporarily extends flexibility in maximum class size and certain deadlines relative to annual teacher contracts.

**Status:** Passed House – amended to HB 192 which was signed by the Governor on 5/13/2011

**GAE Position:** Opposed GAE has long advocated for decreased class sizes. We did not support the increased class size aspect of the bill. We are happy that systems will have more time to determine whether they want to become IE Squared systems. We think this extra time is appropriate given the novelty of the legislation.

### **House Bill 173: Expungement of Records**

Expungement means the records will be destroyed in accordance with an established records retention schedule if after review by the Professional Standards Commission no probable cause exists to recommend disciplinary action of an educator under investigation.

**Status:** Passed House, met Crossover – amended to HB 285 which was signed by the Governor on 5/12/2011

**GAE Position:** Support

### **House Bill 175: Online Clearinghouse Act**

Creates a clearinghouse through which local school systems may offer their computer-based courses to students of other local school systems. Provisions put in place for course fees and payment, grade assignment, dual enrollment and nonpublic school students.

**Status:** Passed House, met Crossover

**GAE Position:** Supported

### **House Bill 181: Scholarship Program for Special Needs Students**

Authorization for State Board of Education to waive prior school year requirement on a case-by-case basis for specific medical needs of student upon request by parent/guardian.

**Status:** Passed House, met Crossover

**GAE Position:** Opposed original language- recommended changes to language

### **House Bill 186\*: Career Pathways**

Provides for and expands career pathway options for high school students ensuring career and college readiness; minimizes the need for college remedial coursework; core academic standards required to be embedded in career, technical, and agricultural education courses, and enables high school students to attain soft skills certification.

**Status:** Signed by Governor on 5/13/2011

**GAE Position:** Supported

### **House Bill 192: State Education Finance Study Commission**

This Commission was established to evaluate the Quality Basic Education Formula and undertake a comprehensive study of the method of funding schools in Georgia.

**Status:** Signed by Governor on 5/13/2011

**GAE Position:** Supported

### **House Bill 257: Reduction-in-Force Policy tied to Performance**

Local boards of education required to have a written RIF policy based primarily on performance and secondly length of service.

**Status:** Did not crossover

**GAE Position:** Opposed original language and urged legislators to postpone until there is a common evaluation instrument that will effectively highlight the difference in performance between educators.

**House Bill 416: Membership in Labor Organizations**

Prohibits collective bargaining by public employees

**Status:** Tabled in Committee

**GAE Position:** Opposed

**House Bill 452: Student Transportation**

Updates contracted vehicle specifications for transporting students, including passenger cars and multipurpose passenger vehicles or trucks.

**Status:** Did not crossover

**GAE Position:** Supported

**House Bill 473\*: Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS)**

Increases the contribution rate by \$10.00 for new employees and those rejoining PSERS on or after July 1, 2012. This increase would improve the retirement benefit by \$20.00 times the number of creditable years of service.

**Status:** Two years to pass retirement legislation

**GAE Position:** Supported

The Senate had a similar bill (SB 246)

**House Bill 474\*: School Bus Video Camera Monitoring System**

Provides for a video camera monitoring system to be placed on all public school buses purchased on or after January 1, 2012.

**Status:** Did not crossover

**GAE Position:** Supported

**House Resolution 248\*: National Board Certified Teachers**

Resolution expressing intent of the House of Representatives to restore funding for National Board Certified Teachers at the earliest possible date as funding permits.

**Status:** Passed House, adopted

**GAE Position:** Supported

**Senate Bill 14\*: Mandatory School Age**

Mandatory attendance age raised from 16 to 17 for students in public, private, or home school.

**Status:** Did not crossover

**GAE Position:** Supported

There were additional bills that addressed mandatory attendance age. GAE also supported Senate Bills 43, 49, and 208.

**Senate Bill 68: Parent Trigger Bill**

Allows at least one-half of the parents or legal guardians or a combination thereof to sign a petition requesting the local board of education to implement one or more of the four interventions for turning around persistently low-achieving schools.

**Status:** Did not crossover

**GAE Position:** Opposed

**Senate Bill 87: Vouchers-Georgia Educational Freedom Act**

Expands Special Needs Scholarship Program benefits and definition of “eligible student” to include students with a disability, Section 504 students, foster care, and military families.

**Status:** Tabled in the Senate

**GAE Position:** Opposed with recommendations to keep the funding established for public schools in schools designated for the public

**Senate Bill 153\*: Professional Development Plans, Terminations, Suspensions, etc...**

Legislation call for revisions to Professional Development Plans, terminations and other employment concerns.

**Status:** Did no crossover

**GAE Position:** Supported

**Senate Bill 184: Termination, suspension, non-renewal, demotion, reprimand of teachers and other school personnel**

State funds withheld from school systems that adopt RIF policies which use length of service as the primary or determining factor. Policy shall weigh demonstrated teacher effectiveness in advancing student achievement as the primary factor when implementing a RIF policy.

**Status:** Did not pass because Senate did not agree to House version

**GAE Position:** Opposed