

Jimmy Stokes

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Subject: GASSP Legislative Update--Sine Die Edition



Georgia Association of Schools
Serving Georgia educators

Legislative
2010 Sine Die

The End of the Train Wreck

At 11:58 PM on Thursday night, April 29, 2010, the longest and most expensive legislative session in the history of the State of Georgia came to a symbolic end. Upon the announcement of *sine die* the legislators filled the air in both chambers with papers and confetti—one of the most effective acts of the 2010 General Assembly. The 2010 General Assembly passed a budget that cut over \$400 Million from public education, enacted legislation whereby individuals can bring guns on to school campuses as long as they are locked in a car, and came within an eyelash of passing some of the most punitive legislation toward teachers in modern history. (Pay-for-performance died an anguishing death with Sen. Dan Weber combing the Capitol on Thursday night looking for someone who would permit the legislation to be attached to their bill—NO takers. In a 7:00 PM world class political wrangling attempt, the Governor attempted to add language to a conference committee bill that would have PAGE and GAE require that their members file *certified mail* requests every six months to continue dues withholding, but thanks to many NEW friends of teachers, the measure was soundly defeated.) Observers remarked on leaving the Capitol after *sine die*, “Why did they spend so much time (and money) and get so little accomplished?” The answer appears quite simple—lack of leadership. The Governor and the majority party leaders, particularly in the Senate, received one put down after another from the new wave of state politicians—there is hope yet!

Listed below are the bills that we **BELIEVE** passed the 2010 General Assembly. Time will only tell what actually passed. There was so much wrangling and amending on Day 40 that it is difficult to know what finally made it through both chambers and how it finished the process. Next week we will offer a finalized version.

2010 Passed Bills Note: The Governor has until June 8 to veto or sign these bills, after that they are law.

Full description of the bills can be seen at www.legis.state.ga.us

- HB 400 Bridge Bill, sets up expansion of CTAE programs and industry certification
- HB 493 Creates Georgia Youth Conservation Corps
- HB 571 Prohibits any teacher or administrator from having sex with students in their school
- HB 651 DOE may distribute sex offender list electronically
- HB 905 Extends capital outlay through FY15
- HB 906 Makes May 15 the contract notification date for teachers through 2013
- HB 907 Expands middle school funding to any arrangement of middle school grades
- HB 908 Relaxes spending controls through 2013, provides class size increase with SBOE waiver,
- HB 910 Requires gender equity reports to DOE; requires annual DOE report
- HB 916 Changes retirement/return to work rules, particularly for retirees under 60 years of age
- HB 923 Grandfathers educators in ed leadership programs M2012, S2013, D2014, to be paid w/o leadership position
- HB 936 Transportation funds may be used to refurbish buses
- HB 977 Prohibits superintendents from receiving raises in years where teachers are furloughed
- HB 980 Local BOE members may engage in bail bond business
- HB 1013 BOE must publish annual a report of ELOST projects and expenditures
- HB 1079 PSC fees paid by credit card; PSC does all background checks; requires detailed report on weapons expulsions
- HB 1086 Expands to private school teachers the privacy of records extended to public school teachers
- HB 1103 Authorizes reduction of funds to charter schools that become virtual schools
- HB 1200 Permits local BOEs to accept donations for field trips
- HB 1307 Excuses the 10 PLU requirement for teacher certification for four years
- SB 84 BOE qualifications, ethics, nepotism policy effective January 1, 2010; grandfathers prior to July 1, 2009
- SB 239 Parents required to enroll students within 15 days of moving into a school district
- SB 250 Softens law on school disruption; expands bullying statute including cyber bullying
- SB 299 Removes felony charge on first possession of weapon in school, does not change school policy
- SB 319 Adds computers and software to definition of textbooks
- SB 340 Requires local systems to file electronic transcripts with GSFC for grades 9-11
- SB 341 Requires state residency to earn \$500 GED scholarship voucher
- SB 387 Lawfully requires GSFC to maintain GACOLLEGE411 website
- SB 392 Requires school systems to use approved motor carriers for charter buses

- SB 427 Establishes Georgia Foundation for Public Education to receive gifts and donations
- SB 457 Empowers high school clusters to become high school charter systems
- SB 518 Requires pledge of allegiance to US and Georgia flag curriculum

FY 2011 Education Budget

Academic Coach	Eliminate state funding
Ag Education	Reduce extended year by 5%, area teacher program by 10%, Young Farmer reduced 10%, and Youth Camps reduced by 10%
Central Office (DOE)	Reduce AAASP, eliminate Spelling Bee, Science Olympiad, and Academic Decathlon; <u>Reduce 100 positions</u>
Charter Schools	Reduce planning grants by \$75,501
Georgia Virtual School	Reduce Course Development by \$232,033; Increase slots by 1700 using current resources
GYSTC	Cut funding by \$100,000
Information Technology	Reduce funds by \$3,785,047, fold into RESAs
Governor's Honors	Reduce funds to a four week program for 2010 and 2011
Non QBE Formula Grants	Eliminate alternative sparsity grants, no new high performing principal grants
National Board Certification	Eliminate all funds
Nurses	Reduce funds by \$1,600,500
Nutrition	Reduce funds by \$12,998,706
Preschool Handicapped	Reduce funds by \$1,308,783
Pupil Transportation	Reduce funds by \$5,051,367 and use bond funds to purchase buses
QBE Equalization	No change Governor recommended to Revise the Equalization grant by adjusting the 5 mill base to 8 mills – Final – NO
QBE Program	<u>Reduce funding formula by \$527,023,763</u>
RESA's	Reduce funds by \$2,776,770; transfer math mentor funds to RESAs; transfer ETC functions to RESAs
School Improvement	Reduce funding by \$2,577,554
Severely Emotional Disturbed	Reduce funding by \$1,473,240
State Interagency Transfers	Reduce employer contributions to State Health Plan by \$51,954,094; Add all teachers from three state schools to program
CTAE	Reduce extended day 5%, Vocational Supervisors 10%, Industry Certification 10%, YAP 10%; Eliminate funding for HSTW; Total=\$1,541,659
Testing	Eliminate SAT Prep and use GACollege411 for practice tests; Reduce PSAT by \$815,000, AP reduced by \$4,200,000 (PSAT and 2 AP tests will be provided for Free and Reduced Price Lunch

students), Fund optional ITBS, Eliminate Grade 1 and 2 CRCT,
Eliminate writing assessment for grades 3 and 5

**Bottom line: Reduce state spending on
public education by \$403,075,679**

ii

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