

2017 Legislative Priorities

The Fulton County Board of Education petitions the Fulton Legislative Delegation, the General Assembly, and the Governor to address educational funding, accountability, and local control issues during the 2017 legislative session. We ask lawmakers to consider the following recommendations:

Student Assessments

Fulton County Schools supports the concept of testing students at the level they are studying, which is at or above their chronological peers. We also support the 2016 legislative provisions in SB364 that reduced the number of required state assessments. In keeping with the spirit of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), we advocate further reducing the testing burden on our students by limiting the assessments required within Georgia's Single Statewide Accountability System to only those that are required by ESSA.

Teacher and Leader Evaluations

Fulton County Schools strongly supports the ESSA requirement that states and districts ensure poor and minority students are not taught at disproportionate rates by ineffective, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers. We advocate for a state teacher and leader evaluation system that employs indicators that more accurately identify effective teachers and leaders. We applaud the recent reduction in the weighting of test scores in teacher and leader evaluations following the implementation of SB364 in the 2016 legislative session and encourage an additional reduction of this weighting with a subsequent increase in the weighting of professional growth indicators.

Annexation

Fulton County Schools believes that current statutes should be amended to require that school districts be provided:

- Advance notice of a proposed annexation and time to analyze its effect on the school district
- Opportunity to provide an impact statement prior to any public hearing on proposed annexation
- An ability to object to the annexation if a substantial impact to the operation of the school district has been demonstrated

Fiscal Impacts

Fulton County Schools believes that effective and efficient stewardship of local, state, and federal funds requires appropriate short and long-term planning and budgeting. With this in mind it is imperative that:

- Fiscal impact statements are required on educational legislation involving new mandates or programs for school systems
- Any educational legislation allows for an adequate delay in implementation, thereby providing districts with essential time to adjust budgets, implement programs, and reduce costs

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