



The Douglas County Board of Education supports the following legislative priorities:

ISSUE: *Against the backdrop of the most recent incidences of violence in our country's schools, the presence of trained school resource officers in each school in our state is needed more than ever before. Lack of funding for personnel and training can often mean that schools do not have school resource officers or must share officers among multiple schools, resulting in a lack of immediate response to potential acts of violence.*

ANSWER: The Georgia Legislature should consider appropriating funds for the use of salary, benefits, and training of one school resource officer per school in each district.

ISSUE: *In response to the COVID-19 crisis, school districts in Georgia experienced a 10% cut to their state funding for FY21.*

ANSWER: When preparing the FY22 budget, the Georgia Legislature should restore the 10% austerity cut.

ISSUE: *It is imperative that our state maintains incentives that keep our teachers in the education profession. While teacher salaries may never be competitive with what an educator might receive in the private sector, teachers do appreciate that their financial sacrifices are recognized and rewarded with a secure retirement.*

ANSWER: Georgia's Teacher Retirement System (TRS) is vitally important to ensuring that talented teachers stay in the profession. Our legislature should remain steadfast in funding a robust TRS, which not only honors the promises made to the previous generation's educators but also encourages the leaders of tomorrow to enter and remain in the field of education.

ISSUE: *For a top quality school system, we must have the tools to attract and maintain non-certified personnel who work in the areas of maintenance and transportation. Currently, these groups of employees are not eligible to participate in Georgia's Teacher Retirement System (TRS). The retirement plan for these employees, Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS), is significantly inferior to TRS. All employees in public education deserve a defined pension plan that offers a guaranteed minimum retirement.*

ANSWER: The Georgia Legislature should offer TRS benefits to all permanent employees in public education in the state.
