

2012 GAE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

(As adopted by the Spring RA Delegates on April 17, 2011)

GAE ENHANCES EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

We will work to:

- ✓ Lower maximum class size.
- ✓ Maximize student learning and minimize high-stakes testing.
- ✓ Fully fund public schools, eliminating the need for furloughs and/or salary reductions.
- ✓ Secure safe public schools.
- ✓ Fully staff all public schools and programs.
- ✓ Prevent all voucher initiatives by ensuring that all education funding is restricted to public school programs.
- ✓ Secure safe bus transportation of public schools students, staff, and teachers.
- ✓ Limit capacity on public school buses to manufacturer's recommendation.
- ✓ Establish a comprehensive program of drop-out prevention.
- ✓ Prevent privatization of any public school services.
- ✓ Maintain the state mandated academic contract year.

GAE SUPPORTS EDUCATORS.

We will work to:

- ✓ Restore and improve salary and benefits including a living wage for all public school employees.
- ✓ Prevent furloughs for all public school employees.
- ✓ Provide quality comprehensive health care benefits and services to active & retired public school employees.
- ✓ Improve retirement benefits for all public school employees.
- ✓ Secure collective bargaining rights for all public school employees.
- ✓ Secure state salary schedule for ESPs.

GAE PROTECTS EDUCATORS.

We will work to:

- ✓ Enact and enforce fair evaluation procedures.
- ✓ Secure an effective and enforceable grievance procedure for all public school employees.
- ✓ Secure fair dismissal procedures for all public school employees.
- ✓ Secure employment contracts for Educational Support Professionals (ESP).

GAE STRENGTHENS EDUCATORS.

We will work to:

- ✓ Provide public school employees a greater voice in decision-making to improve public education.
- ✓ Improve working conditions for public school employees.
- ✓ Provide comprehensive induction/mentoring for all beginning public school employees including additional pay for mentor teachers.
- ✓ Ensure that nationally certified professionals are compensated at the level commensurate with their certification.