

CALL TO ACTION

January 27, 2006

SB 390, the 65% Bill, Erodes Local Board Constitutional Authority Your Help Needed to Defeat SB 390!

The Issue

SB 390 requires that 65% of all operational funds – federal, state, local, grants, fees, or any other source-- be spent as defined. The State Board of Education can impose any sanction whatsoever, including the withholding of funds, on any system out of compliance.

The Situation

SB 390 was unanimously voted out of the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday, though opposed by all seven who spoke on the bill. It will go to the full Senate for a vote on Tuesday, January 31, 2006.

GSBA's Position

GSBA opposes SB 390 because, among other reasons, it dictates how local property tax revenue must be expended.

Talking Points

- SB 390 requires that all funds, including local property tax funds be spent in a certain way.
- Local boards of education should make decisions (such as this one) that involve the control and management of local school systems; this issue should be left to the Constitutional authority granted to local boards of education.
- Local boards of education should make decisions that involve the expenditure of funds raised through their Constitutional authority to levy property taxes.
- Local boards of education should be able to base all budget decisions on the academic needs of their students, not on an arbitrary formula.
- Local boards of education already face expenditure controls on state funds for media center and professional learning, just two of the items that cannot be counted as direct instruction.
- Local boards usually have no discretion over how federal funds may be spent, and it is unreasonable to include them.

SB 390, Call To Action, Talking Points (cont.)

- SACS accreditation requires a certain number of administrative and counselor positions. Neither administrators nor counselors count toward the 65% expenditure requirement.
- A study by Standard and Poor's found no correlation between student achievement and the percentage of funds spent in the classroom.
- Considerations such as these should be left to the task force appointed by the Governor to look at the issue of education finance.

Please Do The Following:

- Review the list of Talking Points above, select appropriate ones for your use, and add any others you believe are appropriate for your school system.
- If at all possible, communicate with your Senator while he or she is back home over the long weekend recess. **GET A COMMITMENT TO VOTE NO** on SB 390.
- If possible, come to the Capitol on Tuesday and see your Senator before or during the Senate consideration of this bill. The Senate convenes at 1:00. GSBA staff members will be on hand to help you find your Senator. Look for us on the third floor by the center staircase.
- Finally, let GSBA know by email or phone (770-962-2985 or 1-800-226-1856) who your Senator is and how he or she will vote on this issue.

Thank you in advance for your advocacy in preserving school board Constitutional authority.

HOW THE STATE WOULD REQUIRE 65% OF **ALL FUNDS** BE SPENT

65%

- ü Classroom teachers' salaries and benefits
- ü Classroom paraprofessionals salaries and benefits
- ü Instructional materials and supplies
- ü Field trips and related costs
- ü Athletics and related costs
- ü Music
- ü Arts
- ü Tuition to out-of-state and private institutions for special needs students

35%

- ü Professional learning
- ü Media center (school library) materials
- ü Media specialist (school librarian)
- ü Guidance counselor
- ü High school completion counselor
- ü Academic coaches
- ü Literacy coaches
- ü Instructional Specialists
- ü School Psychologist
- ü School Nurse
- ü Social Worker
- ü Principals
- ü Assistant Principals
- ü School secretary
- ü Data Clerks
- ü Technology specialist
- ü Computers
- ü Software
- ü Transportation
- ü Bus drivers
- ü Meals
- ü Cafeteria workers
- ü Maintenance personnel
- ü Utilities
- ü Superintendent
- ü Accountants
- ü Legal fees
- ü Personnel Director
- ü Adult and Community Education
- ü Building grounds and maintenance

