

# PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2024

### 2023 PAULDING COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

#### SENATE DISTRICT 30

**SEN. MIKE DUGAN**  
236 STATE CAPITOL  
ATLANTA, GA 30334  
404-656-7872  
mike.dugan@senate.ga.gov

#### SENATE DISTRICT 31

**SEN. JASON ANAVITARTE**  
323-A CLOB  
ATLANTA, GA 30334  
404-656-0085  
jason.anavitarte@senate.ga.gov

#### HOUSE DISTRICT 16

**REP. TREY KELLEY**  
504-G CLOB  
ATLANTA, GA 30334  
404-656-0188  
trey.kelley@house.ga.gov

#### HOUSE DISTRICT 17

**REP. MARTIN MOMTAHAN**  
501-A CLOB  
ATLANTA, GA 30334  
404-656-0178  
martin.momtahan@house.ga.gov

#### HOUSE DISTRICT 18

**REP. TYLER PAUL SMITH**  
408-C CLOB  
ATLANTA, GA 30334  
404-657-1803  
tyler.smith@house.ga.gov

#### HOUSE DISTRICT 19

**REP. JOSEPH GULLETT**  
501-D CLOB  
ATLANTA, GA 30334  
404-656-0178  
joseph.gullett@house.ga.gov

#### HOUSE DISTRICT 64

**REP. KIMBERLY NEW**  
612-F CLOB  
ATLANTA, GA 30334  
404-656-0178  
kimberly.new@house.ga.gov

### PROTECTING STUDENTS AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

- ✓ Establish line-item funding for school safety.
- ✓ Increase funding for counselors, social workers, psychologists, and mental health programs for students.
- ✓ Extend the state-funded property tax relief grant (HB 18) to all Georgia homeowners.
- ✓ Eliminate state-mandated use of schools as polling places and move the May primary election to early summer to avoid school sessions.
- ✓ Support legislation clarifying the roles of the tax assessor and levying authority in public notices of proposed tax increases.

### ELEVATING THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND STRENGTHENING THE TEACHER PIPELINE

- ✓ Increase funding for salaries and benefits for ALL employees including classified employees (bus drivers, paraprofessionals, nurses, social workers, etc.) to help address critical staffing needs.
- ✓ Protect and strengthen the Teacher Retirement System to help recruit our best and brightest to the field of education.
- ✓ As we have done locally, extend the salary scale to expand step increases beyond 21 years of experience.
- ✓ Expand "Return to Work" opportunities for retired teachers.

### FUNDING PUBLIC EDUCATION

- ✓ Fully fund the current Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula and recognize poverty as part of a larger effort to modernize the K-12 funding formula to more accurately reflect the true cost of public education, including, but not limited to, transportation, safety, special education, and mental health.
- ✓ Increase funding to offset any increase in state health insurance costs for non-certified school employees.
- ✓ Support early literacy by adding funding for Science of Reading-based coaching and professional learning.
- ✓ Maintain current funding for the Georgia Network for Education and Therapeutic Supports (GNETS) program.
- ✓ Oppose Equalization Grant changes that would negatively impact district funding.
- ✓ Increase funding to support capital projects, including new construction, expansion, renovation or replacement projects for existing facilities. This is a critical need for a low-wealth school district experiencing rapid growth, like the Paulding County School District.

*Please note: Paulding County School District is one of the largest, fastest-growing and low-wealth school districts in Georgia, highly dependent on and vulnerable to legislative changes, including changes in State funding.*