

A Legacy of Accomplishments on Behalf of All NJ Children

***. . . When critical issues are debated in Trenton,
GSCS gives member districts a real
seat at the table.***

- Over 16 successful years as a leading advocate for public support of public education for all children
- Successfully lobbied against the 1990's law that forced the reduction of guidance counselors, nurses and school librarians
- Won numerous amendments to CEIFA to ensure quality education would not be leveled down and school budgets not be destabilized
- Publicly recognized by legislators as being key in securing substantive facilities state aid for nearly 250 districts that had not received aid for capital projects in recent history
- Instrumental in initiating legislative action to introduce and move A-3680, amendment legislation to S-1701
- Presented statewide and regional educational forums bringing together public policy experts, state legislators, school administrators and parents to discuss NJ school finance
- Compiled statewide data on educational issues to evaluate how education costs impact tax bills and public support for public education
- Promoted and served on the Governor's Education Mandate Review Commission
- Successfully worked for the additional \$37 million for local districts included in NJ's FY04 Budget Appropriations Act for Extraordinary Aid for Special Education for students with costs above \$40,000, even while state aid to regular operating districts was held flat
- Worked with the Association for the Children of NJ to see that a new \$15 million gubernatorial-ACNJ grant initiative, Early Learning Launch Initiative (ELLI), reached all districts, including middle and upper income districts

GSCS . . .

***A member directed
grassroots advocacy
organization representing
parents, Board of
Education members,
school administrators,
and community
members***



What Has GSCS Done For You Recently?

- Played a pivotal role in 2007 in organizing successful grassroots opposition to legislation that would have consolidated NJ's school districts into 21 countywide districts run by political appointees with no local accountability
- Took the early lead to successfully push for revisions to the original draft of the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 (SFRA), which proposed that all basic special education aid be distributed according to a wealth-equalized formula, depriving many suburban districts of their only substantial source of state aid. The SFRA proposal was changed so that 1/3 of that aid was restored to "categorical" status, following the child regardless of community wealth
- Continuously served and is recognized as the voice for suburban school districts throughout NJ, not only in the media, but also "at the table," presenting testimony to the Legislature and having an open-door relationship with lawmakers, leaders and policymakers
- Continued a public message focusing on the negative impact on all property tax rates when state aid is underfunded

Where Do We Go From Here?

- ***GSCS will continue*** to push for categorical status for special education with aid following the child and appropriate levels and application of extraordinary aid. Our focus will remain on providing for our most vulnerable students-particularly in suburban districts-while preserving regular education programs and stabilizing property taxes.
- ***GSCS will continue*** to monitor implementation of the SFRA and address inequities and unintended consequences.
- ***GSCS will continue*** to monitor and address promptly all new education-related legislation.
- ***GSCS will continue*** to be your eyes, ears and voice in Trenton, preserving and promoting quality education for NJ public school students in all districts.