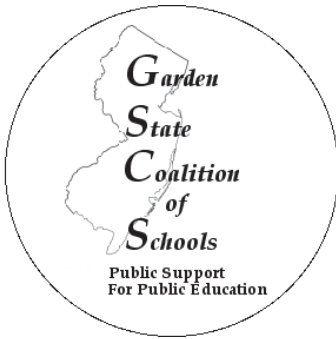


# *A Successful Legacy of Accomplishments on Behalf of All NJ Children*



The Garden State Coalition of Schools has established a long list of successes in our 21-year history, and along the way has earned the respect of Trenton decision makers, as well as education leaders in NJ. Too numerous to list, GSCS' accomplishments have successfully achieved statewide recognition of quality education needs for all NJ children, in particular suburban students, evidenced by the recently stepped up return of state aid to support all public schools and by the relaxing of bureaucratic mandates.

## ***What Has GSCS Done For You Recently?***

- Successfully advocated for special education base costs to increase by nearly \$4,000 in FY '13
- In the FY'12 state budget, recognized as a major force in the 20% giveback of FY'11 state aid loss; successfully pushed for the Governor's \$150M FY'12 state aid increase to go to all districts
- Successfully challenged the proposal to cut \$35M in debt service aid for NJ school districts for FY '09-10
- Argued successfully for revisions to the proposed 2008 School Funding Reform Act that called for all basic special education aid to be distributed on a wealth-equalized formula, depriving many suburban districts of their only substantial state aid source. The SFRA proposal was changed so that one-third of that aid (approximately \$800M) was restored to "categorical" status.
- Ensured that the 2008 School Facilities Construction Act increased from the originally proposed \$250M to \$900M and the originally proposed 20% minimum grant to 40%, both for regular operating districts
- Kept GSCS members updated through an informative website with well over two million hits!

## ***What Does GSCS Provide?***

- A track record since 1992 of working to improve education without diminishing quality
- A primary focus on the inter-related issues of academic achievement, educational practices and school funding
- A broad perspective that reflects the concerns of educators, lay leadership, and communities and parents
- Focused advocacy with expertise in school funding

## ***GSCS Will Continue To . . .***

- Compile statewide data on educational issues, evaluating how education costs impact tax bills and support for public education
- Present statewide and regional education forums, bringing together public policy experts, state legislators, school administrators and parents
- Seek to stabilize regular education programs and property taxes, while pushing for special education categorical and extraordinary aid to follow our most vulnerable children
- Monitor implementation of the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 and address inequities and unintended consequences
- Address new education-related legislation, e.g. tenure reform and teacher evaluations, school funding, special education, charter school issues, mandate relief and reasonable education reform
- Continue to serve as the voice for NJ suburban school districts, 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
- Be your eyes, ears and voice in Trenton, preserving and promoting quality education for NJ public school students in all districts

***To find out about joining GSCS, please turn over.***

# *The Garden State Coalition of Schools*

## ***Please Join Us!***

**For Membership Information, please contact GSCS at (609) 394-2828 or by e-mail at [gscs2000@gmail.com](mailto:gscs2000@gmail.com)**

**Visit GSCS on the web at [www.gscschools.org](http://www.gscschools.org)**

## **2012-2013 Executive Board**

### **President**

Dr. David Abbott  
Superintendent, Marlboro Township

### **President Elect**

Mrs. Judith Wilson  
Superintendent, Princeton Regional

### **Vice President**

Ms. Kathy Judge  
Board Representative, Cherry Hill

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Superintendent, Ridgewood

### **Executive Director**

Lynne Strickland  
160 W. State St. Trenton, NJ 08608  
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## ***Who Belongs to GSCS?***

- GSCS is a statewide organization, its over 100 member districts spanning New Jersey from Camden County to Bergen County and representing nearly 375,000 public school children.
- GSCS members have quadrupled since 1992 and now include districts with a range of financial resources.
- Participants are a unique mix of parents, board of education members and superintendents, all of whom bring a broad perspective to GSCS initiatives.

## ***What Makes GSCS Effective?***

- GSCS is led by a highly motivated, volunteer membership and is grassroots in its decision-making. Tightly organized, GSCS is able to gather and analyze information and make recommendations quickly.
- GSCS is the only statewide educational organization that serves a unique combination of parents, school administrators and Board of Education members.
- GSCS reaches out to work with education partners throughout New Jersey.
- GSCS maintains a presence in Trenton and is able to mobilize its statewide membership, bringing local educators, parents, state legislators and policymakers together quickly.
- GSCS is a leading advocate for public support of public education for all children.

