

ACHIEVEMENTS

THE GEORGIA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

UNITY BUILDS A STRONGER

PROFESSION - ALL MEMBERS HAVE A VOICE IN SHAPING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

The Georgia Education Association began the fight for better schools for Georgia before there was a public school system. Some of the outstanding achievements of the Association are listed below:

1. The School Law of 1870. This was the beginning of Public Schools in Georgia.
2. The Constitution of 1877. GEA achieved a victory for a complete public school system by persuading the Georgia Constitutional Convention to write this provision into the Constitution.
3. Youmans Textbook Law. In 1916 GEA supported proposal for a uniform textbook law. This law provides a general uniformity of school textbooks in Georgia.
4. The Barrett-Rogers Law. In 1919 this law, providing for consolidation in both elementary and high school work, was sponsored by GEA.
5. The Equalization Fund Bill. An outstanding contribution made by GEA was the sponsoring of the act that set up an equalization fund to help to finance Georgia schools. The first funds were received in 1927.
6. Seven Month School Law -- Free Textbook Law -- Lay State Board of Education. Three basic laws for public education were passed in 1937. GEA not only sponsored these three legislative measures but employed a lawyer to draw the bills which were passed with little opposition.
7. Teachers' Retirement System. GEA employed legal counsel in 1941 with funds contributed by the Georgia teachers to draw up a bill for teacher retirement. The Teachers' Retirement System became operative in 1945.
8. 1947 - GEA sponsored and supported legislation which provided:
 - a. Twelfth Grade Program.
 - b. County Superintendents -- state pay on same professional basis as teachers.
 - c. Transportation -- regulated pupil transportation.
 - d. Teachers' Retirement -- strengthened and liberalized.
 - e. Culpepper Law -- amended to provide for district bonds.
 - f. Finance -- increase in teachers' salary by executive order.
9. 1949 - Minimum Foundation Program for Education enacted into law.
10. 1950 - Amendment to Teachers' Retirement Law passed as proposed by GEA.
11. 1951 - Minimum Foundation Program of Education financed. Public School Building Authority established.
12. 1952 - activation \$200 million School Building Program.
13. 1953 - Teacher Retirement Law amended.
14. 1954 - Sick Leave Bill passed providing 11½ days sick leave on full pay.
15. 1954 - Bill passed removing 15 mills tax limitation for school purposes (by local referendum).
16. 1956 - Social Security coverage for teachers by local boards.
17. 1956 - \$100 floor per month for Teacher Retirement members with 35 years of creditable service.
18. 1957 - Removed limitation on local effort financing MFPE, allocated to increase in teachers' salaries.
19. 1958 - Vested interest in Teacher Retirement after 20 years of service. Sponsored by GEA.
20. 1959 - Act guaranteeing teachers' salaries should schools close.
21. 1960 - Teacher Retirement Act amended to:
 - a. Reciprocity of teaching service in other states or local retirement systems.
 - b. Those teachers who signed non-election cards may receive prior service under certain conditions.
 - c. Teachers who have withdrawn contributions from Teacher Retirement only once may restore prior service.

(over)

22. 1960 - Constitutional amendment raising 15 mill limitation to 20 mills for school purposes at the local level.
23. 1960 - Act reactivation of School Building Authority.
24. 1961 - Teacher Retirement Act amended to include formula (1 3/4% times average five best consecutive years of salary times years of service to forty).
25. 1961 - \$300 salary increase by general appropriation.
26. 1962 - Teacher Retirement Act amended to:
 - a. Simplify accounting procedure.
 - b. Change prior service date from July 1, 1943 to July 1, 1945.
 - c. Make possible armed service credit, when conditions are met.
 - d. Provide a condition for retired teachers returning to active service.
 - e. Provide for transfer between Teacher Retirement and State Employees Retirement.

SERVICES

1. GEA has helped provide for the children of Georgia increasingly better schools, thereby improving working conditions for teachers.
2. GEA publishes the GE JOURNAL which has been recognized as an educational magazine comparable to any in the nation.
3. GEA conducts District meetings in the fall for all members. GEA State Convention in the spring is attended by approximately 1400 official delegates representing the local units.
4. GEA Central Office prepares and distributes releases dealing with current and pertinent items of Association interest.
5. GEA staff assists local associations with the development of their program and the solution of their problems.
6. GEA is alert to teachers' needs and assists in improving professional ethics and standards.
7. GEA works with lay, professional and civic organizations, interpreting and strengthening school programs.
8. GEA staff keeps you advised on educational problems and needs through its publications, by mail, telephone and personal visitation.
9. GEA promotes a spirit of fellowship and common purpose among all teachers, administrators, state departments, colleges and Board of Regents.
10. GEA is building a greater profession for the improved education of the future citizens of Georgia.
11. GEA is sponsoring a program calling for continuing increase in teachers' salaries and an Adequate Program of Education.
12. GEA advocates quality Leadership in the operation of Georgia schools, without which we cannot have Quality Education.
13. GEA sponsors a complete economical insurance program for the membership.