

Our Funding History and Its Impact on Georgia's Media Centers

Governor	Legislation Affecting Media Center Allotments	Fiscal Year	Amount Per FTE
Harris	QBE Act of 1985	FY85 (1985-1986)	\$16.28
Miller	House Bill 409 passed, which required 100% of the Media Center Allotment be spent on library media centers. The General Assembly showed their support by also passing House Bill 409, which required 100% of the Media Center Allotment be spent on library media centers.	FY99	\$19.54 (a 20% increase from the previous year)
Barnes	A+ Educational Reform Act. Under this law, 100% of the Media Center Allotment was to be spent on library media centers, and 90% REQUIRED to be spent in the school where earned. That portion not spent in this manner was to be returned to the State.	FY 2001	\$19.54 retained.
Barnes	Media Center Allotments were cut from \$19.54 per FTE to \$9.77 for the 2002-2003 school year. A statement from the governor stated that this was a temporary measure. Barnes budget contained cuts in education only to areas not labeled "direct instruction". Total cut in media allotments was \$14 million state-wide.	FY2002	\$19.54
Perdue	No changes were made during this fiscal year.	FY 2003	\$9.77
Perdue	Governor Perdue's revision of HB 1187, SB 249, was passed with all site expenditure controls removed. For 2003-04, 100% of media funds, "including materials," were to be spent on media costs only with no site expenditure controls. The expenditure control would be audited at the system level. Each system determined how they would spend the media funds on media costs. This left the door open for growing systems to spend the funding on opening new school library media centers. It was hoped by GLMA that the funds would be spread on an FTE basis to all schools in each school system, but that was left up to the local system. "For 2003-04, each local school system shall spend 100 percent of the funds designated for media center costs for such costs at the system level, and 100 percent of the funds designated for media materials for media materials at the system level."	FY 2004	\$9.77
Perdue	"For 2003-04, each local school system shall spend 100 percent of the funds designated for media center costs for such costs at the system level, and 100 percent of the funds designated for media materials for media materials at the system level." (No change)	FY 2005	\$9.77
Perdue	Through an email campaign, GLMA was successful in getting the House to increase our FTE funds from \$9.77 to \$14.65, a 7.6 million-dollar increase. The Senate cut this amount down and the final increase passed on March 30, 2006 was \$5,106,071, an increase to \$13.03 per FTE. Governor Perdue proposed that teachers be given \$100 gift cards which passed. Media specialists were not included in the gift card program.	FY 2007	\$13.03
Perdue	"Governor Perdue proposed redirecting funding from the pilot elementary foreign language program (which was limited to 29 schools statewide) to provide foreign language media materials to students statewide through media centers." The governor also proposed \$11.2 million for classroom cards for teachers, including one card per media center. (Even though a one time additional allotment of \$1,200 for elementary media centers passed, this money was never let down by the legislature, consequently elementary media centers did not see this additional \$1,200.)	FY 2008	K - 5: \$15.31 + a one time allotment of \$1,200 per media center Grades 6 - 12: \$13.03 (no change) \$100 gift card per media center

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Perdue	No changes were made during this fiscal year.	FY 2009	Grades K - 5: \$15.31 Grades 6 - 12: \$13.03 (no change)
Perdue	Governor Perdue sought to temporary waive expenditure controls for media center allotments in omnibus legislation that contained several pieces of education legislation. The legislation passed, but was later vetoed as the governor opposed other portions of the bill.	FY 2010	No Change in allotment funding. Media Center and teacher gift cards were eliminated
Perdue	There was no change in state library allotments, however, HB 908 passed which suspended expenditure controls over media center funds until the 2012-2013 school year allowing school systems to redirect the funding to other needs.	FY 2011	No change in state allotment funding, Expenditure controls over library funding were waived.
Deal	Funding for GALILEO in the K-12 schools was a major issue this year. Over the years the funding for GALILEO databases has increased and the Board of Regents asked the Dept. of Education to pick up the difference in cost. This is what is known as the 'special initiatives" fund at the DOE (about \$100,000). Every year, this fund is questioned and viewed as a fund that can be cut. If the DOE Special Initiatives fund had been cut, we would have lost GALILEO in the K-12 schools. As a result of an email campaign, the legislators retained this fund to save GALILEO in the K-12 schools.	FY 2012	No change in state allotment funding. Expenditure controls waived through the 2014-2015 school year. Funding to retain GALILEO K-12 passed.
Deal	House Bill 244: New statewide teacher evaluation instruments were introduced. These evaluations apply to principals, assistant principals, and teachers. School library media specialists are not included in this evaluation instrument.	FY 2013	Grades K - 5: \$15.31 Grades 6 - 12: \$13.03 (no change)
Deal	House Bill 172, also as known as the Flexibility Bill, was passed which extends the suspension of expenditure controls over media center funds through the 2014-2015 school year. HB 172 allows local systems to waive expenditure controls on media center costs, professional development, and costs related to direct instruction through the 2014-2015 school year. This bill also extends the maximum school size waivers and deadline for tendering teacher contracts to May 15th through the 2014-2015 school year. Senate Bill 89: The Digital Classroom Act strongly encourages local boards of education to provide instructional materials and content in digital or electronic format on and after July 1, 2020	FY2015	Grades K - 5: \$15.31 Grades 6 - 12: \$13.03 (no change) Funds sent to school systems at these allocations. Flexibility in spending for most systems.
Kemp	Funding for the 2020 school year includes monies to increase the base salary schedule for certified teachers and employees. Initially, school counselors and media specialists were excluded from this pay raise, but then included after protest. The legislation includes a \$3,000 increase for school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, media specialists, special education specialists, and technology specialists.	FY2019	

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According to Donita Hinckley, the current Library Media Liaison at the Georgia Department of Education, both charter and strategic waiver systems can divert funding if they request a waiver from the state (personal communication, 30 November, 2020).

Definitions:

Charter School System: “a local school district that operates under the terms of a charter between the State Board of Education and the local school district. The system receives flexibility from certain state rules and regulations in exchange for greater accountability. (Georgia DOE)

Expenditure Controls: Conditions placed on public funds to ensure that public resources are spent as intended, within authorized limits, and following sound financial principles.

Media Materials: “those instructional materials including print, non-print periodicals, online databases, supplies, and equipment that are critical to the support and enhancement of the school library media center program. These materials are housed in and circulated through the library media center for use by the entire learning community of the school.” (Georgia DOE)

Strategic Waiver School System (SWSS): “ A local school district that operates under the terms of an SWSS contract between the State Board of Education and the local Board of Education. The system receives flexibility in the form of waivers of certain state laws, rules and guidelines in exchange for greater accountability for increased student performance. SWSS contracts are intended to provide local school districts with the flexibility they need to increase student achievement.” (Georgia DOE)

Davis, E. & Ruthotto, I. (20 October 2015). *Financing Georgia's schools: A briefing.*

Retrieved from https://csf.gsu.edu/files/2015/10/Financing-Georgias-Schools_October-2015.pdf

Georgia Accrediting Commission. Inc. (April, 2019) April 2019 bulletin. Vol. 51.

Retrieved from <http://gac.coe.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Bulletin-FY20-4-15-19.pdf>

Schools must spend \$6 per student on books, software subscriptions and other library media, exclusive of equipment each school year and has a minimum of 7 books per student and an annual expenditure of \$2.00 per year per student for ...non-print media. (Georgia Accrediting Commission, Inc., 2019)

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To learn how to access your school's information, follow these steps:

Access GaDOE Budget Services at

- <https://www.gadoe.org/Finance-and-Business-Operations/Budget-Services/Pages/default.aspx> and select QBE reports

Budget Services

The mission of the Budget Services division is to provide high-quality, service-oriented, policy-driven support for Georgia students and to parents, educators and other constituents in a timely fashion in the areas of QBE and grant allocations.

Budget Services develops the Department's annual budget requests and tracks the status of the budget request through the legislative cycle. When funds are appropriated we prepare the Annual Operating Budget for use in the Department as well as Local School system allotments for the appropriate time period.

The Budget Services division works with Georgia Department of Education staff by providing training and technical assistance to assist with budgeting and planning for expenditures. Budget Services prepares allocations for funding of the Quality Basic Education Formula based on data collected from local school systems regarding student and staffing, as well for many of the state funded grant

Contact Information

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Helpful Links

- QBE Reports
- School System Financial Reports
- Governor's Office of Planning &

- Find the weights for FTE funding for each level and program as well as what the individual districts receive in media center staffing and materials allotments.

Georgia Department of Education

Quality Basic Education - Reports

Report Category	QBE Reports	Report Name	Allotment Sheet
Fiscal Year	2021		
Allotment Term	Initial		
System	Colquitt County - 635		
<input type="button" value="View Report"/>			

Many thanks to Dr. Cheryl Youse and Dr. Diane Dess at Valdosta State University for compiling this valuable information.