

Amended Budget – Signed by the Governor February 15th

\$109 million for enrollment growth

- \$92 million for school districts
- \$9.2 million for charter system grants
- \$10 million for the state charter supplement
- -\$2 million for the special needs voucher

\$16.8 million for growth in the Move On When Ready dual enrollment program

\$15 million for Forestland Protection Act grants

\$5 million for CTAE equipment grants for local school systems

\$2.5 million for currently available research-based reading and math assessment tools that provide real-time data analysis on progress after consulting districts that have vetted assessments for reliability (the Governor recommended \$3.5 million under Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission for this assessment but it was reduced and moved to the Department of Education)

\$1.8 million for the REACH Georgia scholarship to expand into 30 new school systems and provide additional scholarships in already participating systems

\$500,000 for a "functional specification study for an adaptable, comprehensive, and complete solution for all financial and reporting systems including administration of the special needs scholarship"

-\$500,000 in Audio-Video Technology and Film Grants to school systems based on projected expenditures (the Senate had recommended a \$1.5 million cut)

Savings to the State Benefit Plan from the dependent verification audit was \$17.6 million; \$39 million was saved through Pharmacy Benefit Management strategies.

FY '18 Budget

\$160 million for 2% increase to state base salary schedule effective September 1, 2017 (bus drivers, nutrition workers, nurses, and RESA employees also get a 2% raise)

\$167 million austerity cut to state funding as calculated by QBE formula

\$133 million for enrollment growth and training and experience for districts, \$10 million for charter system grants, and \$9.3 million for state charter supplements

\$85.8 million for equalization

\$21 million for Move on When Ready dual enrollment, but a \$500,000 reduction for transportation grants for the program

\$20.8 million for autism services for children (Department of Community Health budget)

\$4 million for school counselors (implements HB 283 in 2013 which added counselors to funding weights for ESOL students, gifted, special needs, and remedial students)

\$2.7 million for the Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy at the Georgia College & State University

\$2.5 million for behavioral health services for children aged 0-4 (Department of Community Health budget)

\$1.3 million for RESAs to convert part-time PBIS specialists to full-time

\$1 million for implementation of HB 338 to hire Chief Turnaround Officer and assist underperforming schools

\$500,000 for Innovation Grants including the STAR Academy for drop-out prevention and innovative reading and math programs; also directed use of current Innovation Grant funds:

- \$1.25 million for a competitive grant that would provide certified school counselor-graduation specialists for lowest performing high schools in the state
- \$1.2 million plus \$1.5 million transferred from the Department of Education testing budget to pay for one AP STEM exam for every student taking an AP STEM course
- \$600,000 to continue to provide grants to local school systems to increase participation and achievement in AP STEM courses

\$445,145 for counselors to districts with a large concentration of military students

\$300,000 for statewide PBIS trainers

\$250,000 for concordant testing models as prescribed in SB 211

\$241 million in bonds for capital outlay construction (no recommendation for funds for vocational equipment)

\$7.5 million in bonds for school buses

\$2.5 million in bonds for vocational equipment

Districts will face a State Health Benefit Plan employer rate increase for non-certified employees from \$846.20 per member per month to \$945, the same rate as teachers, effective January 1, 2018.