

QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION (QBE) ACT

Background Information

- GA Constitution requires that the state provide a “free” and “adequate” public education that is funded through taxation
- QBE signed into law in 1985 – established a formula to calculate a per student cost for each of the identified student categories, including dollar amounts for salaries, benefits, materials, operations, etc.
- This dollar amount is calculated through the use of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) counts that measures how much time a student is served by the identified categories. FTE counts occur twice a year: October (2/3 of funding) and March (1/3 of funding)
- While the state’s QBE calculations will provide funding to school districts, each district is required to include a Local Five Mill Share to the dollar amount awarded, which, in effect, reduces the burden on the state (and places more on the local system)
- The QBE pays for about half of a district’s budget, with local taxes paying for almost the other half and some coming in from the federal government
- Governors have consistently made suggestions that the formula needs to be changed and that it is antiquated – it does not fit the needs of 21st Century education in Georgia – but no new formula has been proposed

Additional QBE Considerations

- School funding is provided through the current funding formula – two major issues: austerity cuts and equalization grant
- Austerity Cuts: From 2002 until 2018, the QBE was not fully funded in order to meet other shortfalls in the state’s budget – the austerity cuts reduce the dollar amount/payment provided to each school district, underfunding QBE close to \$200 million in some recent years and even more during the recession – so the “basic” has not even been met until FY19 – Governor Deal signed a budget in March 2018 that removed austerity cuts – but this is subject to legislative action each session
- Equalization Grant: This is additional aid provided to certain school districts to narrow the gap between districts with property wealth and those without – over 130 systems (out of 180) receive the grant – DCSD is not one of them – there are districts in Georgia that deserve the funding that comes from the property wealth-to-student ratio

DCSD Legislative Priorities:

- continue with full-funding of QBE and do not reinstitute austerity cuts
- reexamine and modify the formula used to calculate equalization grants to reduce the burden on districts with high rates of free and reduced lunch
- support for substantive reforms and revisions to the current QBE funding formula

FY 2019

0% Salary
20.90% Retirement
0% Health

System Size = 3300

WEIGHTS FOR FTE FUNDING FORMULA

FY19 INITIAL

CATEGORY	Kindergarten PGM	Kindergarten Early Intervention PGM	Primary Grades (1-3) PGM	Primary Grades Early Intervention (1-3) PGM	Upper Elementary Grades (4-5) PGM
TEACHER STUDENT RATIO	15	11	17	11	23
WEIGHT	1.6627	2.0527	1.2903	1.8065	1.0375
DIRECT INSTR. COST:					
Teacher	64.0459%	70.7399%	72.8214%	80.3805%	66.9409%
Aides/Parapro	17.7905%	14.4089%			
Subject Specialists			3.5984%	2.5629%	4.4628%
Counselors	2.1272%	1.7290%	2.7411%	1.9578%	3.4091%
Tech. Specialist	0.8702%	0.7049%	1.1214%	0.8009%	1.3947%
OPERATIONS COST	1.7935%	1.4527%	2.5403%	1.8143%	2.5900%
INDIRECT INSTR. COST:					
CENTRAL ADMIN					
Psychologist	0.3867%	0.3132%	0.4983%	0.3559%	0.6197%
Social Worker	0.3867%	0.3132%	0.4983%	0.3559%	0.6197%
Spec Ed Leadership					
Operations	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%
SCHOOL ADMIN					
Asst. Principal	1.0637%	0.8616%	1.3707%	0.9790%	1.7047%
Secretary	0.8734%	0.7075%	1.1255%	0.8039%	1.3998%
Operations	0.1799%	0.1457%	0.2319%	0.1656%	0.2883%
FACILITY M & O	6.8389%	5.5393%	8.8127%	6.2942%	10.9602%
20 Days Addnl. Instr.	0.6442%	0.5218%	0.8301%	0.5929%	1.0324%
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	0.5207%	0.5599%	0.6261%	0.6550%	0.6054%
MEDIA					
Personnel	2.1272%	1.7230%	2.7411%	1.9578%	3.4091%
Materials	0.3614%	0.2846%	0.4528%	0.3234%	0.5631%
TOTAL PER FTE COST	100.0000%	100.0000%	100.0000%	100.0000%	100.0000%

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CATEGORY	Upper Elementary EI Grades (4-5) PGM	Middle Grades (6-8) PGM	Middle School PGM (6-8)	***Base*** Grade 9-12	CTAE(9-12) PGM
TEACHER STUDENT RATIO	11	23	20	23	20
WEIGHT	1,8006	1,0298	1,1347	1,0000	1,1868
DIRECT INSTR. COST:					
Teacher	80.6442%	67.4382%	70.3821%	69.4479%	67.2934%
Ades/Parapro					
Subject Specialist	2.5713%	4.4960%	4.0802%	3.5367%	2.9800%
Counselors	1.9642%	3.4344%	3.1188%	1.4469%	1.2191%
Tech. Specialist	0.8036%	1.4050%	1.2751%	1.4469%	1.2191%
OPERATIONS COST	1.4923%	2.6092%	2.3690%	4.3346%	10.5518%
INDIRECT INSTR. COST:					
CENTRAL ADMIN					
Psychologist	0.3571%	0.6243%	0.5666%	0.6429%	0.5417%
Social Worker	0.3571%	0.6243%	0.5666%	0.6429%	0.5417%
Spec Ed Leadership					
Operations	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%
SCHOOL ADMIN					
Asst. Principal	0.9822%	2.4770%	2.2479%	3.2815%	2.7649%
Secretary	0.8065%	1.0171%	0.9230%	1.2351%	1.0407%
Operations	0.1661%	0.2245%	0.2038%	0.2802%	0.2193%
FACILITY M & O	6.3149%	11.0417%	10.0206%	11.3707%	9.5808%
20 Days Addnl. Instr.	0.5948%	1.0401%	0.9439%	1.0711%	0.9025%
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	0.6571%	0.6084%	0.6194%	0.5914%	0.5628%
MEDIA					
Personnel	1.9642%	2.4770%	2.2479%	1.6407%	1.3825%
Materials	0.3244%	0.4828%	0.4361%	0.4972%	0.4189%
TOTAL PER FTE COST	100.0000%	100.0000%	100.0000%	100.0000%	100.0000%

WEIGHTS FOR FTE FUNDING FORMULA

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CATEGORY	Spec. Ed I		Spec. Ed II		Spec. Ed III		Spec. Ed IV		Spec. Ed V	
	WGT	AMOUNT	WGT	AMOUNT	WGT	AMOUNT	WGT	AMOUNT	WGT	AMOUNT
TEACHER STUDENT RATIO			6.50							
WEIGHT		2.3985	2.8161			3.5865			5.8151	2.4630
DIRECT INSTR. COST:										
Teacher	83.3036%	\$5,232.70	87.2631%	\$6,440.24	89.0734%	\$8,372.31	91.5606%	\$13,953.85	81.0650%	\$5,232.70
Aides/Parapro										
Subject Specialists										
Counselors										
Tech. Specialist	0.6037%	\$37.92	0.5138%	\$37.92	0.4034%	\$37.92	0.2488%	\$37.92	0.5875%	\$37.92
OPERATIONS COST	3.9634%	\$248.96	1.7797%	\$131.35	2.1725%	\$204.20	2.7718%	\$422.42	6.5441%	\$422.42
INDIRECT INSTR. COST:										
CENTRAL ADMIN										
Psychologist	0.2682%	\$16.85	0.2283%	\$16.85	0.1793%	\$16.85	0.1106%	\$16.85	0.2610%	\$16.85
Social Worker	0.2682%	\$16.85	0.2283%	\$16.85	0.1793%	\$16.85	0.1106%	\$16.85	0.2610%	\$16.85
Spec Ed Leadership	3.3202%	\$208.56	2.8259%	\$208.56	2.2189%	\$208.56	1.3685%	\$208.56	3.2310%	\$208.56
Operations	0.0000%	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00
SCHOOL ADMIN										
Asst. Principal	1.0642%	\$66.85	0.9059%	\$66.85	0.7112%	\$66.85	0.4386%	\$66.85	1.0356%	\$66.85
Secretary	0.4370%	\$27.45	0.3719%	\$27.45	0.2920%	\$27.45	0.1801%	\$27.45	0.4253%	\$27.45
Operations	0.0965%	\$6.06	0.0821%	\$6.06	0.0645%	\$6.06	0.0398%	\$6.06	0.0939%	\$6.06
FACILITY M & O	4.7441%	\$298.00	4.0378%	\$298.00	3.1704%	\$298.00	1.9554%	\$298.00	4.8166%	\$298.00
20 Days Additl. Instr.										
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	0.6591%	\$41.40	0.6609%	\$50.25	0.6853%	\$64.41	0.6911%	\$105.32	0.6414%	\$41.40
MEDIA										
Personnel	1.0642%	\$66.85	0.9059%	\$66.85	0.7112%	\$66.85	0.4386%	\$66.85	1.0356%	\$66.85
Materials	0.2074%	\$13.03	0.1766%	\$13.03	0.1386%	\$13.03	0.0855%	\$13.03	0.2019%	\$13.03
TOTAL PER FTE COST	100.0000%	\$6,281.45	100.0000%	\$7,380.26	100.0000%	\$9,399.34	100.0000%	\$15,240.01	100.0000%	\$6,454.94

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CATEGORY	Gifted		Remedial Education PGM		Alternative Education PGM		Eng. For Speakers of Other Lang.(ESOL) PGM	
	WEIGHT	STUDENT RATIO	WEIGHT	STUDENT RATIO	WEIGHT	STUDENT RATIO	WEIGHT	STUDENT RATIO
TEACHER STUDENT RATIO		12		15		15		7
WEIGHT		1.6689		1.3511		1.4802		2.5662
DIRECT INSTR. COST:								
Teacher	79.7109%	\$3,488.46	78.8175%	\$2,790.77	71.9413%	\$2,790.77	88.9179%	\$5,980.22
Aides/Parapro								
Subject Specialists								
Counselors			2.6178%	\$92.69	2.3894%	\$92.69	1.3782%	\$92.69
Tech. Specialist	0.8665%	\$37.92	1.0709%	\$37.92	0.9775%	\$37.92	0.5638%	\$37.92
OPERATIONS COST	2.3056%	\$100.90	1.6222%	\$57.44	1.8153%	\$70.42	0.8541%	\$57.44
INDIRECT INSTR. COST:								
CENTRAL ADMIN								
Psychologist	0.3850%	\$16.85	0.4759%	\$16.85	0.4344%	\$16.85	0.2505%	\$16.85
Social Worker	0.3850%	\$16.85	0.4759%	\$16.85	0.4344%	\$16.85	0.2505%	\$16.85
Spec Ed Leadership	4.7656%	\$208.56						
Operations	0.0000%	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00
SCHOOL ADMIN								
Asst. Principal	1.5275%	\$66.85	1.8980%	\$66.85	10.7526%	\$417.12	0.9940%	\$66.85
Secretary	0.6272%	\$27.45	0.7752%	\$27.45	0.7076%	\$27.45	0.4081%	\$27.45
Operations	0.1385%	\$6.06	0.1711%	\$6.06	0.1562%	\$6.06	0.0901%	\$6.06
FACILITY M & O	6.8093%	\$298.00	8.4162%	\$298.00	7.6819%	\$298.00	4.4309%	\$298.00
20 Days Additl. Instr.			0.7928%	\$28.07				
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	0.6537%	\$28.61	0.6205%	\$21.97	0.6501%	\$25.22	0.6741%	\$45.34
MEDIA								
Personnel	1.5275%	\$66.85	1.8980%	\$66.85	1.7233%	\$66.85	0.9940%	\$66.85
Materials	0.2977%	\$13.03	0.3680%	\$13.03	0.3359%	\$13.03	0.1937%	\$13.03
TOTAL PER FTE COST	100.0000%	\$4,376.39	100.0000%	\$3,540.80	100.0000%	\$3,879.23	100.0000%	\$6,725.55