



Georgia Education Budget Primer

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What we do

- Mission: To advance lasting solutions that expand economic opportunity and well-being for all Georgians
- Vision: A fair and inclusive Georgia where all people prosper

A decorative graphic consisting of three overlapping squares: a light blue square at the top left, a light gray square at the bottom left, and a tan square in the middle, partially overlapping the other two.

Where we stand: K-12 education budget (FY23)

Overview:

- K-12 Education funding makes up **35.4 percent** of the state's budget
- Department of Education - **\$10.7 billion**
- Equalization grant - **(\$164 million)**
- Un-obligated surplus - **\$6.6 billion**



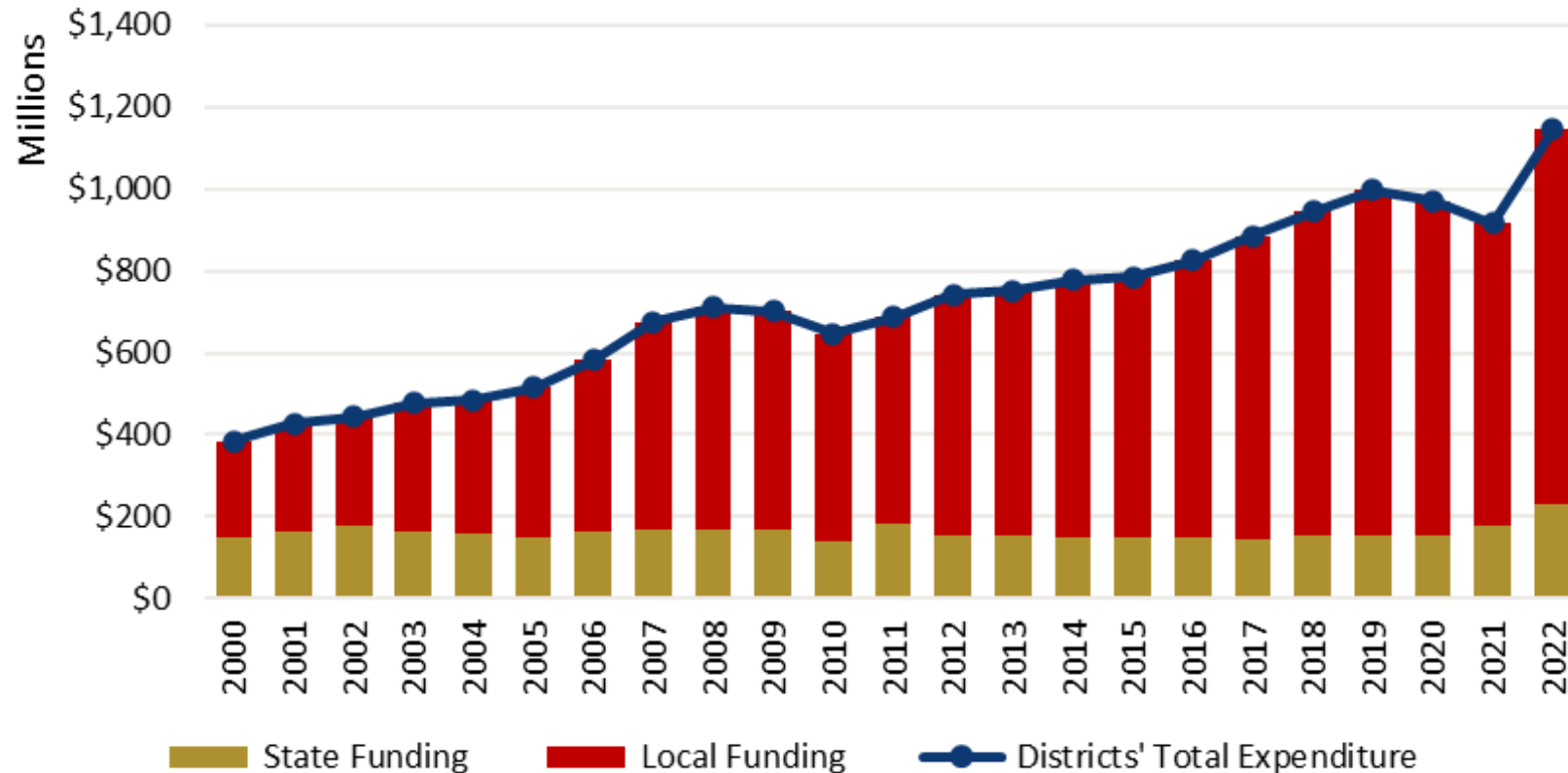
How does Georgia stack up?

- Equity - \$795 more for high poverty schools (16th)
- Adequacy - \$1,782 per pupil below national average (34th)
- Support for low-income folks
 - High fines and fees, no Medicaid expansion, strict cash assistance, barely any childcare supports, neglect as top reason CPS is called, etc.

Georgia's history of white supremacist policies have cemented a relationship between race and wealth therefore policies that support low-income kids are a tool of racial justice.

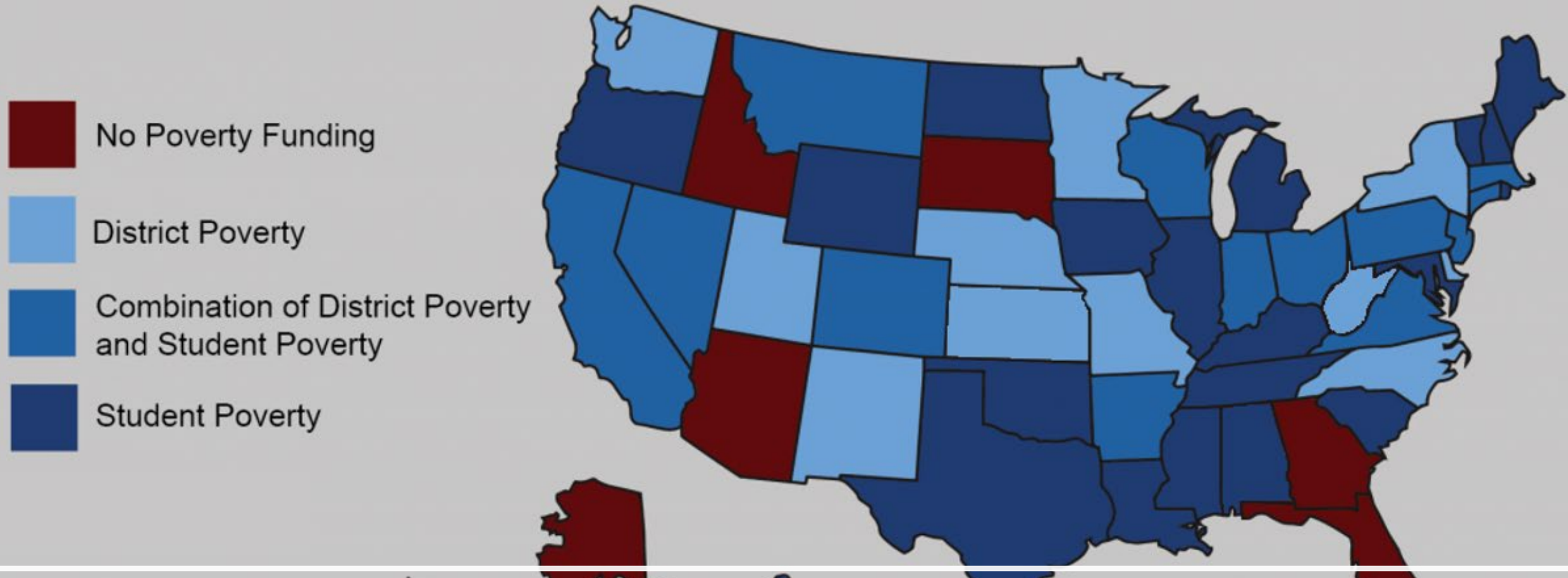
Pupil Transportation takes inflationary hit

Stagnant State Funding Leaves Districts with Student Transportation Bill



State investment has lowered from 54 percent in 1991 to 20 percent in 2022

Poverty Funding Across the United States



The missing piece: An Opportunity Weight for students in poverty

Note: This map indicates if and how states weight poverty when allocating school funds. Some states do so on a per-student basis or on the basis of district concentrations of poverty. Other states provide increased funding both per student from a low-income family and based on district concentrations of poverty

Within the weight: Counselor funding

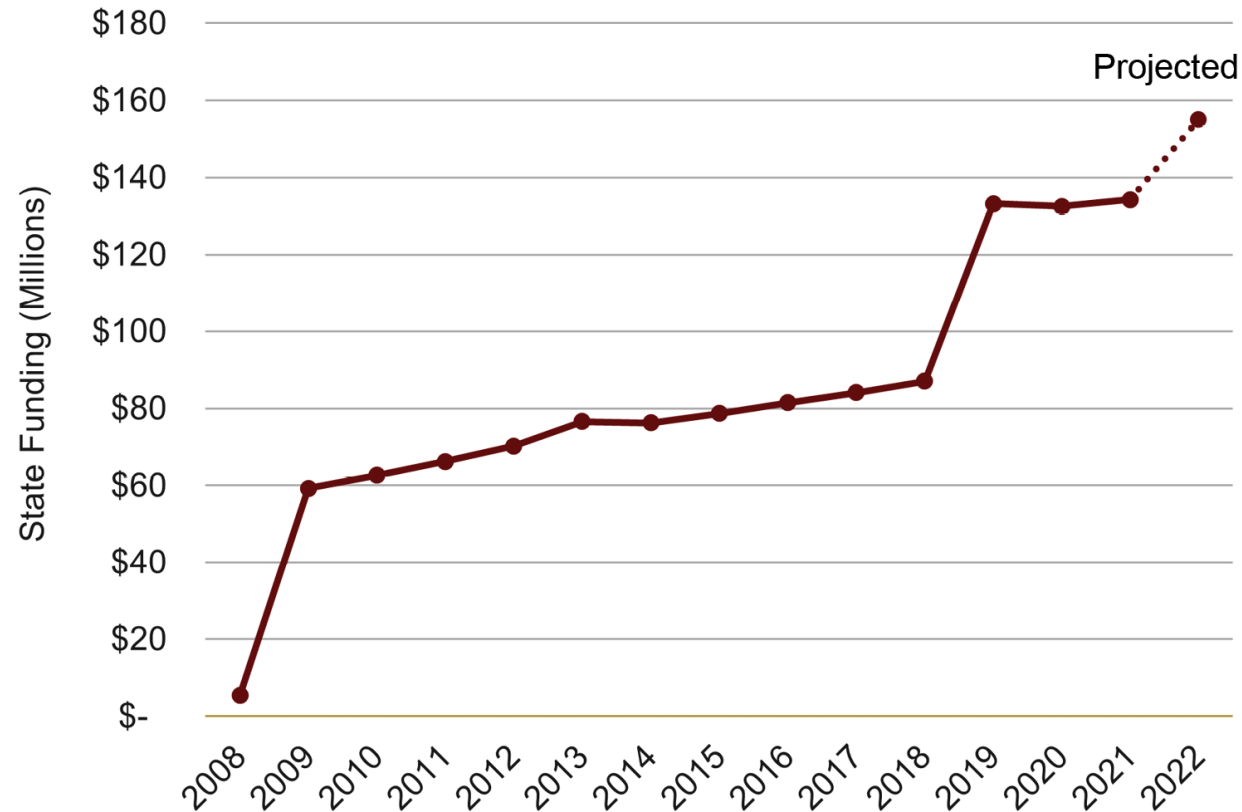


AMERICAN
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

Student-to-School-Counselor Ratio 2020–2021

State		Total number of students	School counselors
National Avg.	415	49,356,945	118,902
Alabama	415	734,559	1,769
Alaska	419	129,872	310
Arizona	716	1,111,500	1,552
Arkansas	361	486,305	1,346
California	572	6,064,504	10,602
Colorado	278	883,199	3,177
Connecticut	349	509,058	1,458
Delaware	381	138,092	362
District of Columbia	460	89,883	195
Florida	434	2,791,707	6,428
Georgia	419	1,730,015	4,130
Hawaii	268	176,441	659
Idaho	493	307,581	623
Illinois	665	1,886,137	2,838
Indiana	475	1,033,964	2,176
Iowa	370	506,656	1,369
Kansas	296	481,750	1,217

State funding for private school education enjoys strong growth, little to no accountability



Source: Georgia's 2023 Fiscal Year Budget (HB 911), signed by the governor.

Since 2008

- Public funds funneled to private schools: \$1.3 billion
- Georgia's budget cuts to public schools: \$8.2 billion



Continued Healthy Investment in TRS

- Georgia lawmakers have **always paid ADC**
 - Even as employer contribution increased steadily from FY 2006 to FY 2019
- Relatively generous benefit for vested members
 - One of the highest in the Southeast, but with a longer vesting period
- Pension hovers around **73 percent funded**
- Significantly lower investment expense – 0.06 percent
 - National average – 0.44 percent



2023 At-A-Glance

- Senate Resolution 650 recommendations
 - Opportunity weight
 - Mental health support
- School counselor investment (fulfillment of HB 283 [2013])
- Attempts to reform TRS
- Vouchers (again)

Three overlapping squares in light blue, light grey, and tan colors are positioned to the left of the text.

Questions?





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