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A Look at the
Governor's 2009
Funding Priorities

Know the Issues:
A Quick Look at
How Education is
Funded in Georgia

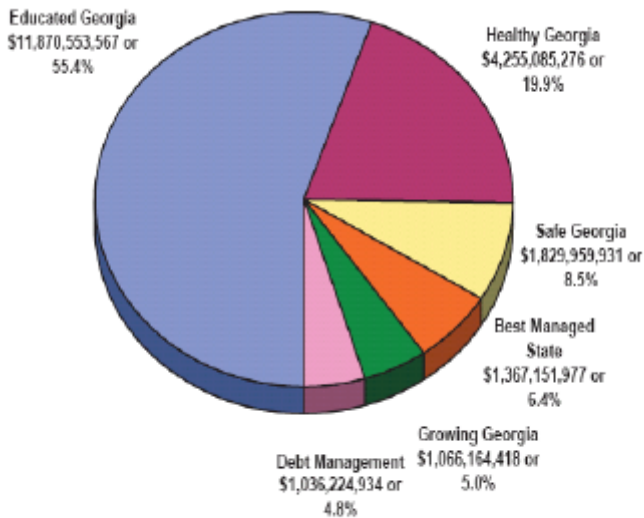
Under the Gold Dome

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2009 Proposed Budget: Breakdown by Policy Area



5 Ways to Use This Resource:

- Educate yourself on issues that impact your family and community
- Talk to your kids about legislation that impacts their schools
- Contact your legislators about a bill that interests you
- Educate others! Share with your neighbors or leave a copy in your office breakroom
- Forward along to a friend who may be affected by one of the bills

SPOTLIGHT:

2009 Proposed Budget

State lawmakers began work on the 2009 budget this week. Hearings held by joint House and Senate Appropriations Committees offered state agencies an opportunity to present budget priorities to lawmakers for consideration. *Governor Sonny Perdue recommended:*

Total budget for 2009 = \$21.4 billion

Total budget in 2008 = \$20.5 billion

Educated Georgia \$11,870,553,567 (55.4%)

Early learning, K-12, University System & Adult Education
An increase of \$666,520,862 from 2008

Healthy Georgia \$4,255,085,276 (19.9%)

Coverage, benefits, research and care programs
An increase of \$184,499,458 from 2008

Safe Georgia \$1,829,959,931 (8.5%)

Public Safety and Department of Corrections
An increase of \$144,963,999 from 2008

State Management \$1,367,151,977 (6.4%)

Government administration
An increase of \$59,104,723 from 2008

Growing Georgia \$1,066,164,418 (5.0%)

Economic development, community affairs, and agriculture
An increase of \$55,840,561 from 2008

Debt Management \$1,036,224,934 (4.8%)

Amount the state invests in issued bonds
Increase from 2008 of \$101,615,943

QUICK LINKS (click to access)

[Find Your Elected Officials](#) • [Visit the Georgia General Assembly Website](#)
[How To Impact Your Legislators](#) • [How Does a Bill Become Law?](#)

Know the Issues: How Education is Funded in Georgia

Special thanks to LWV member and PTA representative, Sally FitzGerald, for her assistance creating this fact sheet on education funding in Georgia.

With a few exceptions, all funding for public education comes from taxes.

Basic Funding Equation:

Federal + State - local fair share + local funds = Total \$ K-12

- Federal = about 8% (from income and excise taxes)
- State = about 51% (from income and sales taxes)
- Local = about 41%
- Community = Extra funding may also come from community sources

State allocations to local school systems are calculated based on:

- Direct and indirect institutional costs
- Categorical grants for specific needs
- Local Five-Mill Share (amount of local district participation)
- Equalization grants (additional state funding to districts where the property wealth per student is below the 75th percentile of all districts)
- Non-QBE grants from the state for things such as transportation or sparsity
- 90% of all state allocation for public schools are for salaries of school personnel

Local tax dollars are used to:

- Make up the difference between the real costs and state appropriations
- Enrich curriculum
- Increase teacher salaries and local supplements
- Cover extra costs for instructional materials
- Provide extra services such as dental insurance for employees, social security contributions, additional testing, etc.

Quality Basic Education Act of 1985: Established a formula for funding based on instructional programs and the number of students enrolled in each. As of 2007, there were 19 approved programs for state funding. The formula has not been updated since 1985.

[The 2009 Proposed State Budget](#)

Your Dollars at Work

- **View proposed 2009 budget - [click here](#)**
- **Overview of budget process - [click here](#)**

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