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**Georgia Department of
Education**

1-800-311-3627
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With a few exceptions, all funding for public education comes from taxes.
In the 2005-06 school year, \$12.6 billion was available for education of K-12 students, excluding capital projects and lottery funds.

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%

Local funds come mostly from ad valorem (property) taxes. Sales taxes are used to fund capital projects such as building and improving schools and facilities.

• Community = Extra funding may also come from community sources
These sources include PTAs, booster clubs, business partnerships and grants.

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 are 19 approved programs for state funding.

