Joint Budget Hearing
Georgia Department of Education
January 22, 2020
Thank you for a historic session for public education!

QBE fully funded for second year

$3,000 salary increase for certified staff

Dedicated funding for mental health; school safety

“The message sent with the pay raise…was so positive. It made a statement about the importance of teachers to the state.” — teacher, Oconee RESA listening session
Strong Gains for Georgia Public Schools

Ranked 13th for K-12 Achievement (Ed Week Quality Counts)

Outscoring national average on ACT & SAT

Georgia Milestones: scores up or steady on 25 of 26 assessments

Graduation rate of 82%; CTAE graduation rate of 96.54%

Georgia’s public schools continue to make significant improvements on national and state metrics.
Challenges Remaining in Public Education

**Poverty:** One in four Georgia students lives with food insecurity. More than 38,000 students are homeless.

**Rural resource gaps:** Rural schools are dealing with a shrinking tax base and high-need student populations. Areas like transportation present funding challenges.

**Teacher recruitment and retention:** Over 40% of teachers leave the profession by year five.
Challenges Remaining in Public Education

Concerns with high-stakes testing:
Attendees at every listening session raised concerns about the time dedicated to high-stakes assessments and the impact of those tests on students & on instruction.

Student mental health: 11.3% of students said they had seriously contemplated suicide within the last 12 months (Georgia Student Health Survey)
Responsible & Aligned Accountability

- State testing requirements more closely aligned to federal minimum
- Streamline competing accountability systems and eliminate duplication

Strengthening the Teacher Pipeline

- Robust Teacher Pipeline legislation
- Changes to allow districts to utilize retired educators full-time in high-need teaching positions
Expanding Opportunities for Students
• Expand opportunities for fine arts and computer science instruction
• Ensure sustainability and quality of the Dual Enrollment program

Funding Public Education & Renewing Rural Georgia
• Support additional funding for transportation in rural school districts
• Support funding for additional school counselors to support student mental health needs
Thank you for your support of Georgia’s public schools & students.

We look forward to working with you this session.
Ted Beck
Chief Financial Officer
Births in Georgia (1994 - 2018)
FTEs by QBE Category (FY10 to FY20)

- High School General Education (9 - 12)
- Gifted
- Primary Grade (1 - 3) Early Intervention
- ESOL
- SWD Category IV

- Middle School (6 - 8)
- Kindergarten
- Upper Elementary Grade (4 - 5) Early Intervention
- Alternate Education
- SWD Category II

- Primary Grade (1 - 3)
- CTAE (9 - 12)
- Upper Elementary Grade (4 - 5) Early Intervention
- Remedial Education
- SWD Category I

- Upper Elementary Grade (4 - 5)
- SWD Category III
- SWD Category V

- Middle Grade (6 - 8)