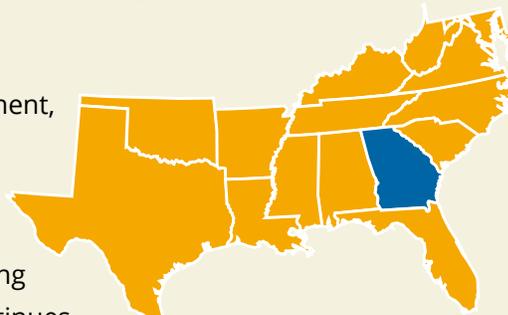




# Georgia STATE BUDGET ANALYSIS

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP'S PROPOSED EDUCATION BUDGET

Governor Brian Kemp was elected by a narrow margin against his opponent, Stacey Abrams, in Georgia's gubernatorial race last November. He recently developed the state's budget, which stands to impact 1.9 million of Georgia's students, but especially the 1.2 million low-income students that reside in the state. Overall, his budget includes \$10.9 billion for Georgia's K-12 funding formula, a \$67 million increase over FY2019. Governor Kemp's proposal continues to fully fund the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula; however, it has not been updated for nearly 30 years and needs to be aligned with the costs necessary to educate the children of today. The governor also provided additional funding for teacher pay raises (an increase of \$3,000 per year) and charter school expansion. Charter Schools can expect to see a significant bump in funding primarily due to enrollment growth from last year.



## GEORGIA'S EDUCATION BUDGET PRIORITIES (General Fund)

Core Georgia Education Programs	FY 2020 Proposed Budget	FY 2019 (Amended)	FY 2018
Pre-K	\$440,200,000	\$428,800,000	\$426,300,000
State K-12 Funding Formula	\$10,970,000,000	\$10,900,000,000	\$10,430,000,000
Charter Schools	\$2,180,000	\$2,170,000	\$2,170,000
Teacher Pay Raises	\$480,000,000	\$0	\$0
Community Schools or Wraparound Services	\$1,230,000	\$1,230,000	\$1,230,000
Virtual Schools	\$10,540,000	\$10,500,000	\$10,180,000
School Safety	\$0	\$68,820.00	\$0
Higher Education	\$2,580,000,000	\$2,440,000,000	\$2,320,000,000
Other – Chief Turnaround Officer	\$2,200,000	\$2,190,000	\$0

1. The education programs listed in the chart were selected based on the priorities of the Southern Education Foundation. We believe these programs are most closely associated with student success or the most significant impediments in the education system.
2. The budget summary and chart figures may slightly differ due to rounding.
3. The state education program charts may differ from state to state due to different budget development processes and a respective governor's education priorities.

## AREAS OF PROMISE

### Governor Kemp Recommended:

- A 3% increase to early childhood education with funding provided by the state lottery.
- To fully fund the QBE funding formula.
- \$480 million to increase teacher pay.
- A 6% increase to Georgia's higher education system.



**3%** ↑

**INCREASE FOR  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION**



**\$480M** ↑

**INCREASE TO  
TEACHER PAY**



**6%** ↑

**INCREASE FOR  
HIGHER EDUCATION**

## AREAS OF CONCERN

### Governor Kemp:

- Inherits a state where 60% of its students fail to meet grade-level standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics
- Fails to update or suggest updates to Georgia's Quality Basic Education funding formula.
- Increased funding to charter schools and virtual schools, despite the fact that such schools create a redundant system of accountability. They also do not illustrate evidence of any known effectiveness for all students, particularly students of color.
- Avidly supports Tax Credit Scholarships even though they are not reflected in the budget. SEF fundamentally opposes the shifting of public funds or benefits to private schools and away from public institutions that are obligated to educate all students and are fully accountable to the local citizenry.



**NO UPDATES TO  
QBE FUNDING  
FORMULA**



**MORE FUNDING TO  
CHARTER & VIRTUAL  
SCHOOLS WITHOUT  
ACCOUNTABILITY**



**SUPPORTS TAX CREDIT  
SCHOLARSHIPS TO  
INCREASE ACCESS TO  
PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

## EQUITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Governor and the Georgia state legislature should: (1) Update and fully fund the state K-12 funding formula to meet the needs of every child in Georgia's public school system; (2) Defund all inequitable and ineffective charter schools and virtual schools; (3) Defund or rescind authorization of all programs or public benefits that allow public funds to be used in private schools; (4) Increase investments for Community Schools so students can receive more comprehensive wraparound supports; and (5) Increase pay for highly effective teachers.