



Cover Art:

Elkins Pointe Middle School

8th Grade Collaboration

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**



Kimberly Dove, President Kristin McCabe, Vice President Katie Gregory • Michelle Morancie, Ph.D. Lillie Pozatek • Katha Stuart • Franchesca Warren

Mike Looney, Ed.D., Superintendent

To the Citizens of Fulton County,

The Financial Services Division is pleased to present the Fulton County Schools' first Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for our stakeholders. This report is an opportunity to present the district's operation results and financial information in a more condensed format. It is our hope this document provides an understanding of the basic financial health and operations of our district.

This document highlights key data presented in much more detail than our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR is prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and is audited by our independent external auditors. Although this PAFR presents selected information, it is presented on the same basis of accounting as our ACFR, as well as in an unaudited format. For more detailed financial information, please visit our Accounting Services website, https://www.fultonschools.org/accountingservices for the latest ACFR.

If you have any questions or feedback about this report, please contact our Accounting Services Department (470) 254-0394.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mike Looney Superintendent

Marvin L. Dereef, Jr. Chief Financial Officer









Heritage Elementary School



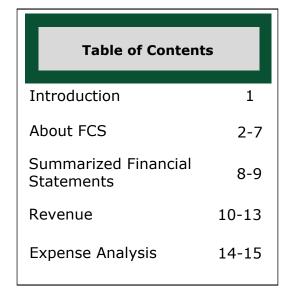


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Student artwork showcased in the FY 2023 Annual

## **About Fulton County Schools**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**



Dr. Mike Looney has served as the Superintendent for the Fulton County School District (FCS) in Georgia since June 2019. As the superintendent of the AAA-rated school district, Looney is passionate about ensuring academic excellence and paving the way to post-graduate success for the district's more than 89,000 students who attend 108 schools. He is deeply committed to the school board's mission to educate every student to be a responsible, productive citizen. Dr. Looney currently serves as a member of the Governor's Advisory Board, Board of Directors for the Development Authority of Fulton County, Board of Directors of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce and a member at North Point Community Church.

### **BOARD MEMBERS 2022 – 2023**



Katha Stuart Board Vice President District 1



Lillie Pozatek District 2



Katie Gregory District 3



Franchesca Warren District 4



Kristin McCabe District 5

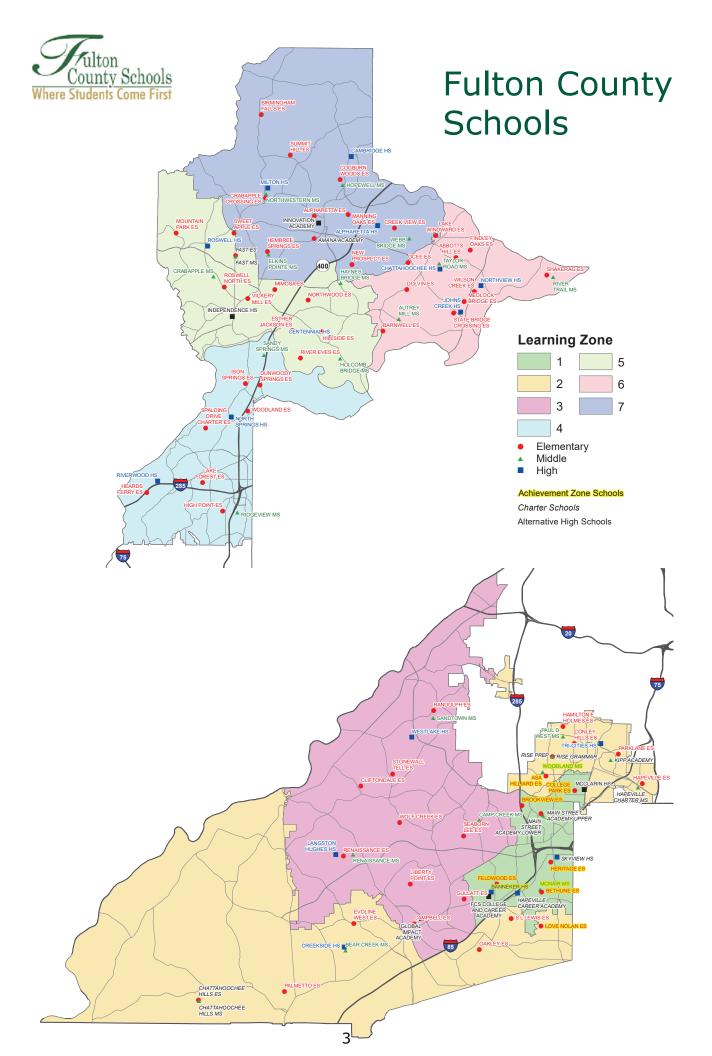


Kimberly Dove Board President District 6



Dr. Michelle Morancie District 7

The Fulton County Board of Education includes seven members elected by the District to serve four year terms. For more information regarding the Board, please visit https://www.fultonschools.org/board



## **Fulton County Schools**

### **EMPLOYEES**



10.900 **FULL-**TIME PERSONNEL

MORE THAN 6,900 CERTIFIED **PERSONNEL** 

(those who hold teaching or administrative certifications)

### NUMBER OF LOCATIONS

**TOTAL** 



- 19 Middle Schools Grades 6-8
- 18 High Schools Grades 9-12 including 2 Open Campus High Schools
- 10 Start-Up Charter Schools





Administrative Buildings & Other Locations



### SYSTEM-WIDE ENROLLMENT











DIVERSE STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

12% **ASIAN** 

MULTI-RACIAL

**PACIFIC ISLANDER** 

**AMERICAN INDIAN** 

### **AMERICAN** STUDENT NEEDS

**BLACK OR** 

**TALENTED** AND GIFTED **LEARNERS** 

**ESOL** (ENGLISH TO **SPEAKERS** OF OTHER LANGUAGES)

11%

**SPECIAL EDUCATION** 

CEODOTA MILECTONICO

**ECONOMICALLY** 

DISADVANTAGED

### **BUDGET**

FY23 General Fund Budget \$1,152,099,216

FY23 Cost Per Student

\$12,880 (estimated)

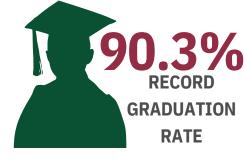
FY23 Tax Levy

Maintenance & Operations **Debt Service** Total

17.24 0.00 17.24



GEORGIA MILESTONES	FULTON	STATE
AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION	53%	42%
ALGEBRA 1	46%	38%
BIOLOGY	52%	46%
UNITED STATES HISTORY	40%	39%



2023 SAT 2023 ACT

**Fulton** 

Fulton

State State

National 1003 National 19.5

Schools Where Students Come First

6201 Powers Ferry Road | Atlanta, Georgia 30339 470-254-3200 | www.fultonschools.org





## By The Numbers

### TRANSPORTATION

over

78,000

students transported daily



4th Largest Bus Fleet in the State

111 Schools Serviced Daily

660+ Routes Traveled Daily

1.000.000+ Route Miles Traveled Monthly



SCHOOL NUTRITION

3.123.368 Breakfasts

6,986,774 Lunches

10,110,142

total meals served

approximately

18,000 & 40,000

Breakfasts Lunches served daily

43.96%

Free and Reduced Lunch Price 31

CEP Qualified Schools serving free meals to **all** students

20

schools awarded the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program grant where all students are served a free Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Snack during the school day 3 times per week, outside of the breakfast and lunch meal



SUMMER LEARNING



8,309

Face-to-Face Students



7,801

**Fulton Virtual Enrollments** 



1,397

Special Ed

Adapted Curriculum Students



57

Pre-K and Kindergarten Summer Transition Students



162.718

Summer Meals for Students



82%

Elementary Courses Completed & Earned a Passing Grade



93.5%

Middle School Courses Completed & Earned a Passing Grade



5,668

Total High School Credits Earned in Summer School



69

Summer Graduates

## Overview of FCS Bridge to Success Funding

In response to the economic outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, Congress passed three bills that provided immediate and direct economic assistance to state and local school districts through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. These funds were provided to support areas with the greatest need and where the academic and non-academic components of school districts had the greatest impact due to COVID-19. The grants are one-time, formula allocations made directly to districts and cover COVID-19-related expenses beginning March 13, 2020, and after.

The Bridge To Success Plan has been the guiding plan for Fulton County Schools to help students recover from learning loss resulting from the pandemic and to ensure student achievement, growth, and success. To that end, district leaders used data from MAPLE (Metro Atlanta Policy Lab for Education) Learning, district financials and public input to develop programs and supports for FCS.

## **Bridge to Success Goals were** developed to create success for students:

- FCS Students will recover from the COVID-19 learning disruption
- FCS Students will record the highest growth averages in the Atlanta Metro Area
- FCS Staff will demonstrate fidelity of implementation for all tiers of instruction
- FCS Stakeholders will report satisfication and approval of district performance

### **Bridge to Success Priorities**

- Prioritize safe environments for face-to-face instruction
- Recover from learning disruption
- Transform literacy instruction
- Develop leaders using High Quality Professional Learning
- Improve and expand existing program options for students, staff,
- and parents Ensure continuity of district operations



### **BRIDGE TO SUCCESS PROGRAM INITIATIVES**

Fulton County Schools identified the following program initiatives to support accelerated learning opportunities for students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- FOCUS is a systematic approach to accelerate student learning through an equitable lens, that includes extended time for student learning, high dosage- small group instruction, enhanced assessment, curriculum mapping and learning acceleration, universal supports, and parent engagement.
- Every Child Reads is a transformational, multi-year, five-pronged literacy reformed strategy to reach the FCS literacy goal of 95% of all students reading at or above grade level.
- Expanded Program Options provides all students K-12 with innovative learning opportunities that include: CTAE expansion, enhanced learning experiences, dropout prevention strategies, virtual learning expansion, and mobile learning opportunities.
- Student Safety will help school staff and administrators to build capacity and restoratively improve school climate and culture through positive behavior interventions and supports and fair discipline processes and procedures.
- Leadership Development is high quality professional learning for Principals, aspiring leaders, and other district leaders focused on coaching and developing leadership competencies.
- Textbook Adoption is the process of aligning K-12 reading/ELA instructional resources to GSE standards and the five pillars of reading.
- Business Continuity ensures the successful implementation of the FCS Bridge to Success by supporting programs, services, and resources that prevent, prepare for, and respond to Covid-19 and ensures that FCS is able to continue the work of the organization by offsetting financial losses, and monitoring program expenditures and finding innovative ways to continue business as usual.



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#### **FUNDING**

To fund the Bridge to Success Plan, Fulton County Schools has received financial support from three federal COVID-19 relief funding packages.

- ESSER I CARES Act (Coronavirus, Aid, Relief & Economic Security)
- ESSER II CRRSA Act (Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations)
- ESSER III ARP (American Rescue

### **LEARN MORE!**





### **School Police Officers and Safety Personnel**

Fulton County Schools has one of the largest school police forces in Georgia. As one of only a few school police departments certified by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, our sworn officers are ready to respond to any situation. A segment of specially trained officers are SWAT certified. The District also invests in additional non-sworn personnel called Campus Security Associates (CSAs) to assist in securing schools and buildings throughout the district. CSAs receive annual training from the FCS Safety and Security Team.



### **Safety Training and Emergency Preparedness**

School staff and school leaders receive annual safety training, which includes reviewing active shooter protocols, lockdown procedures and police notifications. District Health Services staff provide AED, CPR, and first aid training, and all clinic staff receive annual training regarding response protocols. Also, each school has a safety plan that is reviewed annually by school leadership and district safety staff and reported to the State of Georgia/Georgia Emergency Management Agency. School Board policy requires all schools to complete specialized safety drills, including those for evacuation, shelter-in-place, soft lockdown, and hard lockdown.

### Front Entry Controls/Visitor Identification Systems

All Fulton County Schools are equipped with front door "buzzer" entry controls. The devices are located at every school entrance and have cameras, intercoms to the front office, and a notification button, allowing front office staff to screen all visitors prior to allowing entry.

### **Exit Door Alarms**

"Exit door stoppers" are installed on all exterior doors at every school. When a door is not closed securely or is propped open, the school's security team is alerted, preventing individuals from entering or leaving the school without authorization.

### Interior/ Exterior Video Surveillance Systems and Bus Camera

Digital camera systems are in every school, allowing FCS Safety & Security and FCS Police teams to monitor activities in and around facilities with laser sharp accuracy. FCS also partners with municipal police agencies so that they have direct access to view school-based cameras and can coordinate a response with FCS Police during potential emergency situations. Also, Flock Safety cameras are installed at all schools and administrative centers to capture images of license plates, allowing law enforcement agencies to compare plate numbers against those of stolen cars or cars driven by people suspected of being involved in criminal activities and receive real time alerts. All school buses in the Fulton County School System have upgraded video surveillance systems. Each bus is equipped with four video cameras.

### **Alert Systems and Electronic Emergency Response Protocols**

All schools and administrative centers have the Centegix Crisis Alert System installed, allowing district staff to activate an emergency alert using a special wearable badge. Depending on the severity, the alert automatically notifies front office staff of a situation, such a medical issue or a minor student altercation, where a school police officer or an administrator can intervene. In critical emergencies, the system directly alerts the FCS School Police Department and local police agencies to deploy officers and respond immediately. Additionally, Fulton County Schools uses a tool called CrisisGo to quickly distribute emergency operations plans to staff, via mobile devices, during emergency situations.

## Improvements and Upgrades on the Horizon

Past capital plans have included hightech video camera system upgrades in schools and school buses, visitor ID management, safety planning and communication tools, patrol vehicles, and specialized equipment for FCS police officers.

Approved again by Fulton voters in November 2021, the one-penny sales tax (ESPLOST) is funding additional safety improvements by replacing or updating safety components nearing the end of their life cycle, such as:

- Automated External Defibrillators
- Door keycard access for school staff
- Integration of door buzzer systems with video surveillance systems
- Replacement IP cameras for existing video systems
- Updated equipment for school police officers, including ballistic vests and communication radios
- Replacement of emergency vehicles
- Safety and security window film







# Summarized Financial Statements (All Funds)

Generally, financials are reviewed in terms of the **General Fund**. To better illustrate the district's overall net position, these reports look at **All Funds**.

The Statement of Net Position is similar to a balance sheet and aims to show the district's available balance at the end of each year so we know what we have for the future. The formula for calculating the Statement of Net Position is:

WHAT WE OWN		WHAT WE OWE	AVAILABLE
(assets & deferred	_	(liabilities & deferred	BALANCE FOR
outflows)		inflows)	THE FUTURE

Overall, the district's net financial position increased from \$1,296,011,000 in fiscal year 2022 to \$1,467,223,000 in FY23, an increase of approximately \$171,212,000, or 13.2%. The details of this increase can be seen in the Statement of Net Position shown below.

Statement Net Position	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Assets					
Current Assets	582,200	627,192	659,734	840,629	1,066,170
Noncurrent Assets					
Lease Receivables				2,461	2,349
Loans Receivables	2,290	1,903	1,568		
Net Pension Asset			32,082		
Capital Assets	2,017,967	2,107,693	2,174,475	2,183,206	2,179,145
Total Assets	2,602,457	2,736,788	2,867,859	3,026,296	3,247,664
Deferred Outflows	253,186	344,675	462,504	484,128	861,664
Total Assets & Deferred Outflows	2,855,643	3,081,463	3,330,363	3,510,424	4,109,328
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities	196,141	203,037	190,339	190,655	204,537
Long-Term Liabilities	1,693,527	1,784,891	1,931,189	1,082,291	2,075,535
Total Liabilities	1,889,668	1,987,928	2,121,528	1,272,946	2,280,072
Deferred Inflows	174,723	213,601	248,679	941,467	362,033
Total Liabilities & Deferred Inflows	2,064,391	2,201,529	2,370,207	2,214,413	2,642,105
Net Position					
Net Investment in Capital Assets	1,968,195	2,066,145	2,145,983	2,164,161	2,146,624
Restricted	213,816	229,665	186,447	300,915	463,794
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(1,383,615)	(1,415,876)	(1,372,274)	(1,169,065)	(1,143,195)
Total Net Position	798,396	879,934	960,156	1,296,011	1,467,223

<sup>\*</sup>amounts expressed in thousands

The long-term items include cell tower lease contracts, capital assets (land, buildings, buses and equipment), cost of sick and vacation leave, intergovernmental agreements, workers' compensation insurance claims, subscriptions payable, net OPEB, pension, and retirement liabilities.

# Summarized Financial Statements (All Funds)

The Statement of Activities, similar to an Income Statement, reports how the system's net position changed during the fiscal year. All revenues and expenses are included, regardless of when cash is received or paid. The district's change in net position is represented in the table below:

Statement of Activities - District- Wide	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Resources Received					
Charges for Services	23,853	30,752	11,824	23,674	35,515
Grants & Contributions	472,157	538,210	505,797	622,663	607,887
Property Taxes	650,728	653,789	676,629	710,210	760,080
Sales Taxes	188,494	178,752	189,443	229,712	238,941
Investment & Other Earnings	12,137	8,429	9,415	25,244	32,023
Total Revenues	1,347,369	1,409,932	1,393,108	1,611,503	1,674,446
	Services	Provided			
Instruction	704,490	798,372	789,079	725,446	889,258
School Support	205,454	218,515	223,906	203,172	282,364
District Administration	52,341	48,930	53,641	50,986	57,812
Business Administration	19,154	16,448	16,938	32,616	22,187
M&O of Plant	111,113	129,699	138,574	157,482	133,521
Transportation	64,449	62,593	56,159	58,822	65,853
Food Service	44,091	39,941	32,593	45,438	50,177
Other (including interest)	3,201	2,618	2,002	1,686	2,061
Total Services Provided	1,204,293	1,317,116	1,312,886	1,275,648	1,503,233
	Net P	osition			
Change in Net Position	143,076	92,816	80,222	335,885	171,213
Net Position, Beginning of the Year	648,176	798,396	879,934	960,157	1,296,010
Net Position, End of the Year	791,252	891,212	960,156	1,296,011	1,467,223
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Net Investments in Capital Assets	1,968,195	2,066,145	2,145,988	2,164,160	2,146,625
Restricted	213,816	221,991	186,447	293,748	463,794
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(1,383,615)	(1,408,202)	(1,372,279)	(1,161,898)	(1,143,196)
Total Net Position	798,396	897,934	960,156	1,296,010	1,467,223

RESOURCES RECEIVED (REVENUES)

SERVICES
PROVIDED
(EXPENSES)

CHANGE IN NET POSITION

The district saw a 13.2% gain in the net position in FY23, which can be attributed to reduced business administration, maintenance and operations costs, and increased revenue. The district also saw an increase in cash being retained as we prepare for upcoming capital outlay projects.

<sup>\*</sup>amounts expressed in thousands

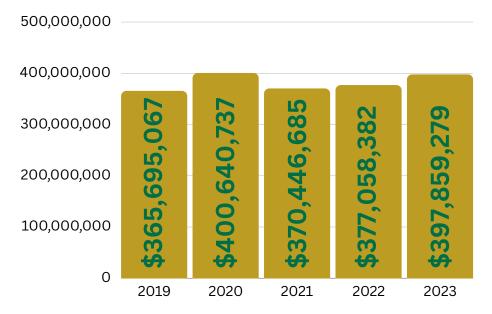
FCS received revenue from three major sources; QBE Allotments, property taxes, and sales taxes.

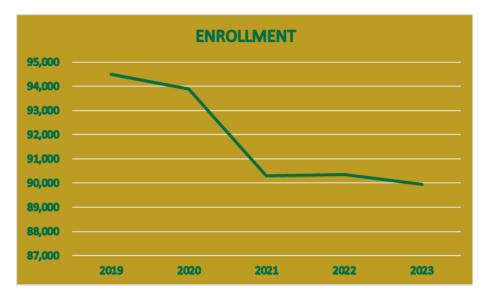
### QBE - Quality Basic Education

This Act describes the programs which the State of Georgia authorizes and supports in an effort to provide a quality basic education to all Georgia children. Periodically, the Georgia General Assembly has amended the original Act. For funding purposes, currently the Act identifies 18 QBE programs.

### **QBE Allotments**

QBE funding is based on student counts and attendance, training and experience of certified staff, and the health insurance eligibility of certified staff.





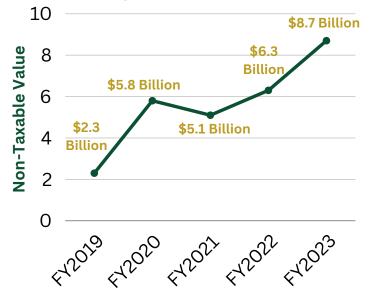
Although FCS has a decreasing enrollment trend, state funding is increasing due to the elimination of austerity reductions and increased funding for salaries, the Teachers Retirement System, and State Health Benefit Plan.

### **School Tax Levies**

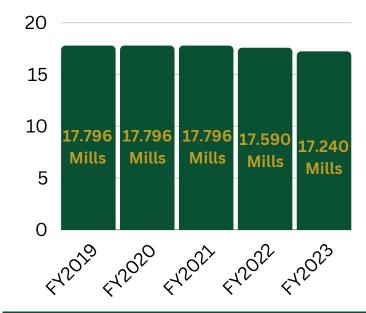


Property taxes provided 45% of the total governmental revenues in FY2023, making it one of our largest sources of revenue. The 1.78% increase in revenue is attributable to assessment growth, which resulted in increases without raising the tax rate.

### **Floating Homestead Exemptions**



Floating homestead exemptions are designed to insulate homeowners from rapid increases in value, and cap the annual increase in taxable value at around 3% per year. Approximately \$12.8 billion in exemptions are projected for FY24.



The millage rate is a determining factor in the calculation of taxes. A mill is \$1 per \$1000 of assessed value. In FY23, FCS lowered the millage rate for the 3rd year in a row to ease the tax burden brought on by increasing tax assesment values.

Top 10 Principal Employers in Fulton County

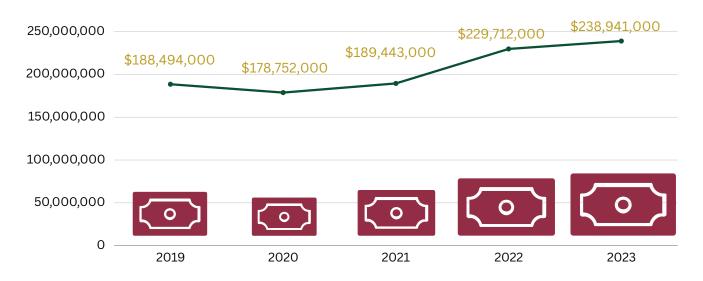
Employer	Number of Employees	Percentage of County Employment
Walmart	65,665	2.41%
Publix Super Markets, Inc.	38,769	1.42%
Amazon.com Services, Inc.	37,000	1.36%
The Home Depot	34,000	1.25%
The Kroger Company	30,342	1.11%
Northside Hospital, Inc.	30,000	1.10%
Delta Air Lines, Inc.	30,000	1.10%
Wellstar Health System, Inc.	25,000	0.92%
Gwinnett County Public Schools	23,000	0.84%
Department of Defense	15,259	0.56%
Total Principal Employers' Employees	329,035	12.07%
Other Employers' Employees	2,397,165	87.93%
Total Estimated Employees	2,726,200	100.00%

**Top 10 Taxpayers in Fulton County** 

Principal Taxpayer	Taxable Assessed Value (in thousands)		Percentage of Total Taxable Assessed Value	
Development Authority of Fulton County	\$	2,623,906	2.75%	
Georgia Power	\$	634,079	0.66%	
Atlanta Development Authority	\$	505,297	0.53%	
Google Inc.	\$	399,643	0.42%	
Coca Cola Company	\$	384,349	0.40%	
AT&T	\$	233,550	0.24%	
Post Apartment Homes	\$	217,117	0.23%	
Delta Air Lines, Inc.	\$	169,020	0.18%	
Twitter Inc.	\$	168,075	0.18%	
Suntrust Plaza Associates LLC	\$	164,799	0.17%	
Total Principal Taxpayers	\$	5,499,835	5.76%	
All Other Taxpayers	\$	90,033,391	94.24%	
Total	\$	95,533,226	100.00%	

Even during volatile economic periods, Fulton County maintains a stable economy that supports its students. Detailed above are the **Top Ten School Taxpayers and Principal Employers** for Fulton County in fiscal year 2023.

### Sales Tax Revenue



Sales tax revenue is used primarily for capital outlay. "Bricks and Clicks" is a phrase used to illustrate the way Capital Plan 2027 investments will ensure school buildings are safe and well-maintained ("bricks") while supporting students and staff with the resources needed to learn or teach in an increasingly technology-driven world ("clicks"). Additional information on the capital outlay plan can be found using the link https://www.fultonschools.org/CapitalPlan2027.

### Capital Plan 2027 Funding Priorities

**Facilities** 



Technology



Safety & Security



Buses & Transportation



Furniture & Equipment



Fiscal Responsibility

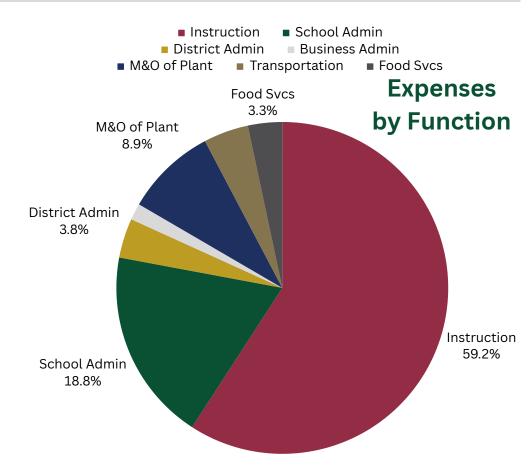


A capital plan outlines the improvements needed to support the day-to-day operations of a school system not directly related to instruction or personnel. It identifies the facility improvements needed throughout the district (including new schools, additions and reconfigurations) as well as the technology, transportation, classroom equipment, and safety upgrades that support learning. The capital plan also sets projected budgets, priorities, and ways those improvements can be funded.

## **Expense Analysis**

Fulton County School's Financial Services goal is to support district operations and our students through the efficient management and further development of financial resources through the accounting of all financial/ treasury transactions. The chart below shows what we purchased with our revenues.





**INSTRUCTION**: Activities dealing directly with interaction and teaching of students. Students are directly impacted by this category, which relates to direct and virtual classroom instruction.

**SCHOOL ADMIN**: Costs associated with administration of schools, as well as, counseling services, nurses, speech, hearing, physical therapy, psychological services, media services, and professional learning support to facilitate and enhance instruction.

**DISTRICT ADMIN**: Costs associated with the management of the school system operations.

BUSINESS ADMIN: Costs associated with the financial management of FCS.

**M&O OF PLANT**: Infrastructure maintenance, custodial services, grounds maintenance, safety and security, and Fulton County Schools Police Department.

**TRANSPORTATION**: Costs associated with transporting students to and from school activities, either between home and school, from school to school or on trips for curricular activities.

**FOOD SVC**: Costs of preparing and serving food to students.

## **Expense Analysis**

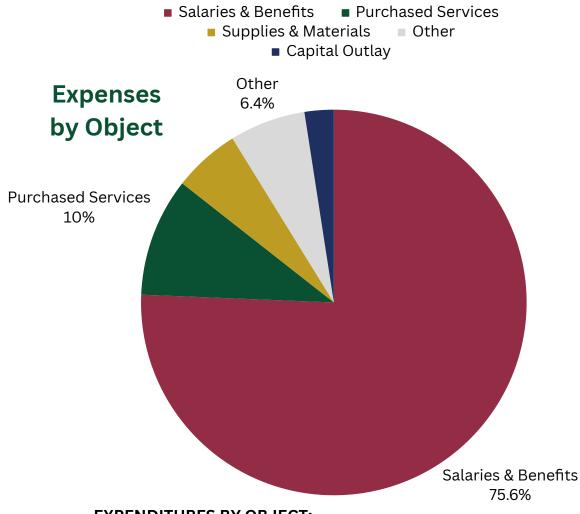
Salaries & Benefits: \$1,084,306,248

Purchased Services: \$142,692,262

Supplies & Materials: \$80,156,612

**Capital Outlay:** \$35,037,918

**Other:** \$91,244,713



### **EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT:**

Governmental accounting principles require reporting by function in the financial statements; however, it is important we are transparent about what types of goods and services we receive. These expenditures are reported for all governmental fund types, general fund, special revenue funds, and capital programs.

### **Supplies & Materials**

Costs associated with expendable and consumable purchases, such as, supplies, repairs, tires, oil, and equipment.

### **Capital Outlay**

Expenditures for acquisition and improvements to capital assets, including buildings, land, equipment and vehicles.

### **Salaries and Benefits**

In fiscal year 2023, employee compensation made up 75.6% of all expenditures.

### **Purchased Services**

Payments to individuals and companies for services provided and payments to charter schools for per pupil funding from state revenue sources.

### Other

Expenditures not previously classified, including but not limited to, utilities, subscriptions, travel, textbooks, dues and fees, interest expense, food, and redemption of bond principal.