

# BULLOCH County Schools

*Preparing students for success & enhancing community value*



*Enrolled*



*Enlisted*



*Employed*

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2024-2025**



Bulloch  
County  
Schools



## VOTING DISTRICT 1

Glenn Womack  
lwomack@bullochschools.org  
Term: 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2024

Board member-elect:

Lannie Lanier  
lalanier@bullochschools.org  
912.531.5231 (H)  
Term: 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2028

## VOTING DISTRICT 2

Elizabeth Williams  
ewilliams@bullochschools.org  
912.682.2615 (H)  
Term: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2026

## VOTING DISTRICT 3

Stuart Tedders, Ph.D.  
stedders@bullochschools.org  
912.478.1922 (W)  
Term: 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2024

Board member-elect:

Jennifer C. Mock  
jcmock@bullochschools.org  
912.225.6101 (W)  
Term: 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2028

## VOTING DISTRICT 4

Donna Clifton  
dclifton@bullochschools.org  
912.536.3466 (H)  
Term: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2026

## VOTING DISTRICT 5

Glennera Martin  
gmartinsugarhill@yahoo.com  
912.531.1332 (C)  
Term: 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2026

## VOTING DISTRICT 6

Jimmy "Jay" Cook, Jr.  
jlcook@bullochschools.org  
912.512.3796 (H)  
Term: 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2026

## VOTING DISTRICT 7

Heather Mims  
hdmims@bullochschools.org  
912.541.3514 (H)  
Term: 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2024

Board member-elect:

Lisha Nevil  
lnevil@bullochschools.org  
912.682.4014  
Term: 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2028

## VOTING DISTRICT 8

Maurice Hill  
hillmaurice@yahoo.com  
912.764.7134 (W & H)  
Term: 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2028

## BOARD SECRETARY

Mandy Motes  
912.212.8500  
mmotes@bullochschools.org  
Board email:  
boe@bullochschools.org

## HOME TO GEORGIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR TOP-10 FINALIST

Ashleigh Wright  
of Southeast Bulloch High School



## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Charles Wilson, Ed.S., MBA, CPA  
cwilson@bullochschools.org  
912.212.8500

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Visit [www.bullochschoools.org/board](http://www.bullochschoools.org/board) for a schedule of meeting dates and times, maps of the areas that each Board member represents, Board agendas and meeting documents, and official minutes of meetings. Board meetings are held in the boardroom of the school district's Central Office located at 150 Williams Road, Suite A, in Statesboro, Georgia.

## WATCH BOARD MEETINGS LIVE OR LATER

Board meetings can be watched live or later. They are live streamed online at [www.bullochschoools.org/boardlive](http://www.bullochschoools.org/boardlive), and an archived video is uploaded to the website within 24 hours of each meeting.

## OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS

The public may direct all open records requests to Mandy Motes, the Board of Education's secretary and custodian of records at 912.212.8508 or [recordscustodian@bullochschools.org](mailto:recordscustodian@bullochschools.org).

## BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

Bruce, Matthews & LaVoie  
102 South Main Street  
Statesboro, GA 30458  
912.764.9889

## KEY ISSUES FORUM

An online source of for answers to frequently asked questions, information, and feedback  
[www.bullochschoools.org/keyissues](http://www.bullochschoools.org/keyissues)

*"Our schools  
are an example of  
Bulloch County  
citizens' commitment  
to its children."*

CHARLES G. WILSON  
Superintendent



## IN BULLOCH COUNTY

**SCHOOLS,** *we believe every child enrolled in our school district can achieve great things.*

Our dedicated teachers wrap support around children to help them succeed. From the first day of school, we encourage students to discover their interests, and we provide them with experiences that prepare them for their future paths.

Whether they choose to enroll in college, enlist in the military, be employed in a skilled career, or any combination of the three, we offer strong academic and career programs and guidance to help them follow a planned path to reach their goals. Our community is enhanced and grows stronger as we see our students step confidently into their futures, knowing they are ready to make a difference. Together, with you, we celebrate their successes, showing that with the right support, each of their dreams can come true.

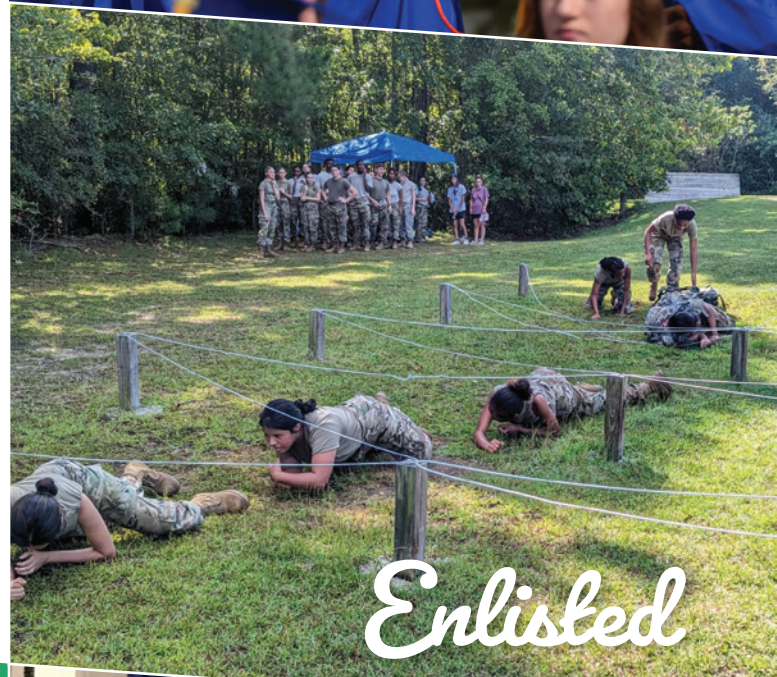


### Vision:

Bulloch County Schools will prepare its students to be contributing members of society, based upon their interests and abilities, to pursue the work and careers of their choice.

### Mission:

The mission of Bulloch County Schools is to prepare students for success and enhance community value.



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GA Teacher of the  
Year Top 10 Finalist

Ashleigh Wright

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Title I Distinguished  
School

Brooklet Elementary  
School

## GA ATHLETIC COACHES ASSOCIATION

Hudl Award: GA's Most  
Improved Team

Coach Jason McEachin  
& Portal Football

## BULLOCH COUNTY SCHOOLS AT-A-GLANCE

### SCHOOLS

- 15 Schools (total)
- 9 Elementary Schools (PK-5)
- 3 Middle Schools (6-8)
- 2 High Schools (PK, 9-12)
- 1 Middle-High (6-12)
- 13 of the schools are Title I schools (86.70%)

### STUDENT WELLNESS & SUPPORT LEARNING PROGRAMS

- Transitions Learning Center (6-12)
- Graduation Performance Academy (9-12)
- Learners Involved in Flexible Education (9-12)
- Learn Empower Adapt Pride (K-5)
- Cedarwood (GNETS – 4-12)

### FACULTY & STAFF

- 2,406 full-time, part-time, contracted services, seasonal and substitute employees
- Bulloch County's 2nd Largest Employer

### TRANSPORTATION

- 95 School Bus Routes
- 95 drivers, 23 bus monitors, and 6 mechanics make up our driving force
- 5,000+ student bus riders; Ride 2x daily
- 5,891 miles bus drivers travel each day
- 1.3 million miles bus drivers travel annually
- Drivers conduct daily pre-route and post-route inspections
- Every 20 days buses are serviced & inspected by a qualified mechanic

### STUDENT MOBILITY RATE

The percentage rate at which students transfer schools for reasons other than promotion. High mobility affects student learning and disrupts faculty instruction.

Brooklet.....	6.2
Julia P. Bryant.....	1.2
Langston Chapel Elem.....	31.9
Langston Chapel Middle.....	27
Mattie Lively.....	15.8
Mill Creek.....	21.1
Nevils.....	7.5
Portal Elementary.....	12.5
Portal Middle/High.....	13.7
Sallie Zetterower.....	30.8
Southeast Bulloch High.....	8.6
Southeast Bulloch Middle.....	10.3
Statesboro High.....	21
Stilson.....	15.7
William James.....	21.1
Bulloch County Schools.....	17.1



### AREA SCHOOL SYSTEM MILLAGE RATES

Bulloch:.....	8.478
Bryan:.....	15.075
Candler:.....	14.000
Chatham:.....	17.631
Effingham:.....	14.957
Emanuel:.....	12.528
Evans:.....	14.000
Jenkins:.....	14.000

In Bulloch County, the school district is also provided a one-percent local option sales tax. This helps keep property millage rates and taxes lower.

### SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

- All students receive free breakfast
- Six schools qualify for the United States Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Provision which permits all students at those schools to also receive free lunch regardless of family income.
- 69.28% of the school district's 11,024 students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals
- Bulloch County has the 65th highest rate of GA's 159 counties of students with the lack of consistent access to food in order to live an active healthy life
- 1,812,616 total meals were served to students
- 51,021 total meals were served during the summer

### PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES

2018:.....	\$8,876.00	2019:.....	\$9,203.00
2020:.....	\$9,733.69	2021:.....	\$9,673.54
2022:.....	\$10,993.00	2023:.....	\$12,799.68



## IMAGINE ROBOTIFY

National Imagine Award

William James  
Middle School

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Farm to School  
Innovation Grant

Stilson Elementary  
School

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

3 Advanced  
Placement Honors

Statesboro High School

## BULLOCH COUNTY SCHOOLS AT-A-GLANCE

### SCHOOL DISCIPLINE & SAFETY

- **4,224** Total discipline incidents
- 1% of incidents involved weapons; no guns
- 1% involved drugs
- **1,809** Students involved in incidents
- **26.2%** led to out-of-school suspension
- **55.5%** led to in-school suspension
- **0.3%** Expulsion Rate
- **10.6%** In-School Suspension Rate
- **6.0%** Out-of-School Suspension Rate
- **71.9%** of incidents involved males
- **28.1%** of incidents involved females

### STUDENT SUPPORT PROVIDERS

School Social Workers for District.....	4
School Psychologists .....	6
School Counselors (Full-Time) .....	27
School Behavior Intervention Specialists.....	3
School Climate Coaches .....	6
School Resource Officers .....	9
School Safety Director.....	1



### STUDENT ENROLLMENT

- **11,024** (March 7, 2024)
- **65.4%** Economically Disadvantaged Students
- **16.3%** Students with Disabilities
- **3.4%** Students receive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services
- **6.6%** Students receive Gifted Services

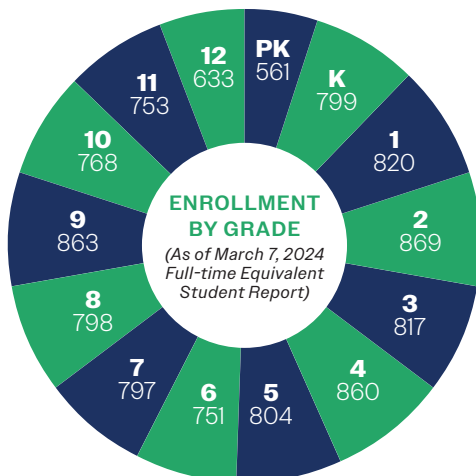
### STUDENT DIVERSITY

- 24 Nationalities
- 18 Languages
- 46.7% Caucasian
- 38.6% Black
- 7.9% Hispanic
- 1.6% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 0.2% American Indian
- 5.0% More than one race

### GEORGIA STUDENT HEALTH SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Of the **4,575 students** in grades 6-12 who participated, these are their responses:

- **83%** strongly or somewhat strongly agreed that they feel successful at school
- **64%** strongly or somewhat strongly agreed that they are treated fairly by other students regardless of race, ethnicity, or culture.
- **4.3%** (196 students) said that they had been bullied either every day or many times.
- **69.9%** strongly or somewhat strongly agreed that they felt safe at school
- **86%** strongly or somewhat strongly agreed that they knew what to do if there was an emergency at their school



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

# 640

Number of Class of 2023 graduates;

**317 of whom (45.74%)** were eligible for Georgia's HOPE Scholarships.

# 62.7%

Percentage of graduates from the Class of 2023 who enrolled in a post-secondary institution within 16 months of graduation.

# ACT

The Class of 2023 had 255 test takers.

**Composite Score Avg.:**

**Bulloch: 20**

**Georgia: 21.3**

**United States: 19.5**

# SAT

The Class of 2023 had 255 test takers.

**Mean Score Avg.:**

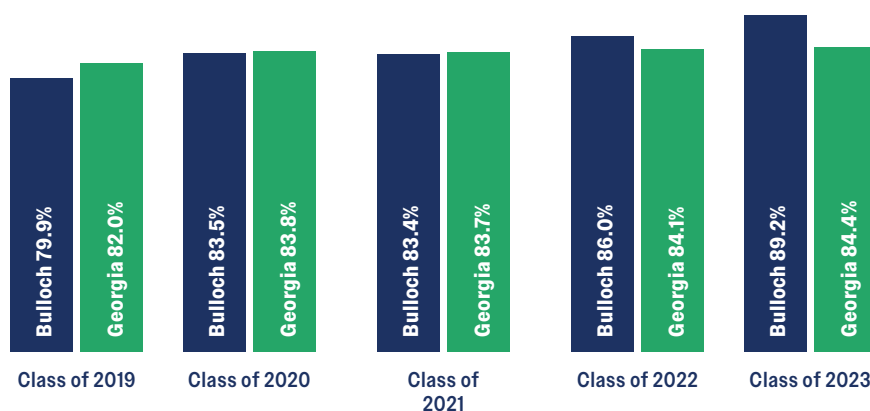
**Bulloch: 1050**

**Georgia 1045**

**United States: 1003**



### FOUR-YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATE



### CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION RATES

	Overall 4-Year Cohort	Advanced Academics	Career Pathways	Fine Arts
Portal	93.3%	100%	97.78%	N/A
Southeast Bulloch	91.6%	100%	99.04%	98.73%
Statesboro	86.9%	100%	98.82%	93.55%
Bulloch	89.2%	100%	98.75%	96.73%
Georgia	84.4%	99.43%	97.75%	97.35

*The rate is also shown for members of the 4-year cohort who participated in either advanced academic, career pathway, or fine arts courses.*

### CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION RATE BY DEMOGRAPHIC SUBGROUPS

Black	White	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	Students w/ Disabilities	Economically Disadvantaged	Homeless
88.15%	90.5%	86.27%	83.33%	71.31%	85.2%	71.43%



## THE GEORGIA MILESTONES ASSESSMENT SYSTEM MONITORS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH.

Third through eighth grades take the end-of-grade tests, and ninth through twelfth grades take the end-of-course Tests. The tests measure how well students have learned the knowledge and skills within Georgia's English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies content standards. Georgia Milestones serves as a key component of the state's accountability system – the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI). The CCRPI features five key indicators: Content mastery, progress, closing learning gaps, readiness and graduation rates. These are the 2023 CCRPI results. New results are released each October.

### 2023 GEORGIA COLLEGE & CAREER READY PERFORMANCE INDEX

School	Content Mastery	Progress	Learning Gaps	Readiness
Brooklet	91.1	99.2	80.6	89.0
Julia P. Bryant	62.7	77.6	53.6	84.4
Langston Chapel (E)	37.1	78.2	79.0	72.5
Langston Chapel (M)	41.8	77.5	78.6	76.3
Mattie Lively	49.1	88.1	89.5	78.6
Mill Creek	47.8	72.2	29.4	81.4
Nevils	77.2	76.6	100	89.4
Portal (E)	71.7	80.4	100	82.4
Portal (M)	58.5	83.2	83.3	83.6
Portal (H)	57.9	69.4	62.5	78.9
Sallie Zetterower	53.5	78.4	22.5	78.9
Southeast Bulloch (M)	71.1	89.5	100	81.9
Southeast Bulloch (H)	71.6	68.9	59.5	76.5
Statesboro	52.9	71.5	65.4	66.8
Stilson	41.7	60.6	7.7	76.8
William James	52.2	74.8	42.3	79.1



## GEORGIA RELEASES LISTS OF SCHOOLS IN NEED OF SUPPORT

*Lists reveal both successes & challenges for Bulloch County*

On Jan. 9, 2024, Georgia released its annual lists of schools in need of support and improvement, and they reveal both successes and challenges for Bulloch County.

Langston Chapel Middle School, which was placed on the Targeted Support and Improvement Schools List (TSI) in 2023, successfully met the requirements to be removed from the list; however, Langston Chapel Elementary and Stilson Elementary are two of 78 schools on the state's Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Schools List (ATSI), a designation they will have for the next three years through 2026, when the schools will be re-evaluated for possible removal.

Langston Chapel Elementary and Stilson Elementary were placed on the state's Additional Targeted Support and Improvement School List after their third through fifth-grade students with disabilities' academic performance on the Georgia Milestones Assessment System in April 2023, placed the schools in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state once the scores were reflected in the College and Career Ready Performance Index's measurements of content mastery, progress, closing the gaps and readiness. The two schools will receive additional support from both the local school district and the state to help the schools' faculty and students.



### EAST GEORGIA REGIONAL PROVIDES CAREER EXPERIENCES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

East Georgia Regional Medical Center now partners with Bulloch County Schools' Career Technical & Agricultural Education program to offer certain high school students the opportunity to participate in clinical rotations at the hospital. Beginning during the 2023-2024 school year, 44 students from Southeast Bulloch High School were cleared to participate and take advantage of this valuable experience. Participating students are ones who had successfully completed the series of courses within Georgia's Therapeutic Services - Allied Health career pathway. At the end of the year, all of these students also passed the Therapeutic Services-Allied Health career pathway's national end-of-pathway assessment. This allowed them to receive national certifications for healthcare field employees including OSHA-approved Bloodborne Pathogens for Healthcare Workers Certification and HIPAA Certificates, a key first step as these students begin to pursue further education and careers in the healthcare field.



### CAREER READY BULLOCH

Career Ready Bulloch is a collaborative team of educators, community members, and business and industry leaders who work to accomplish workforce development goals in Bulloch County. Its efforts are led by the Bulloch County Workforce Steering Committee. Learn more about the Workforce Development Plan for 2022 to 2025 and how these partners are training Bulloch's future workforce at [www.careerreadybulloch.org](http://www.careerreadybulloch.org).

8 Annual Report

### THIRD ANNUAL CAREER WORKFORCE SUMMIT

#### *Plan for a career academy program unveiled*

The Bulloch County Career Workforce Steering Committee hosted its Third Annual Career Workforce Summit on January 31, 2024. The purpose of the Summit was to update business, industry and community partners about the continued progress that has been made toward accomplishing the goals of the Bulloch County Career Workforce Development Plan, celebrate successes within Bulloch County Schools' career pathway programs, and provide a time for educators and business and industry leaders to connect. During the Summit leaders unveiled the school district's plan to create a career academy program. Not a stand-alone facility, the plan will strategically be a career academy program that is embedded in each of the district's three high schools. District leaders believe this model will maximize community resources, provide more opportunities for students to complete multiple pathways, provide more flexibility in the programs that are offered, and better align with local and regional workforce development needs.

*"We plan to leverage all three of our high schools in order to maximize our Career Technical & Agricultural Education program's career pathway offerings for students, and this will allow us to maximize our community resources and give more opportunities for students to complete multiple pathways in a certain area that they're interested in."*

**TERESA PHILLIPS**

Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement





## STATESBORO HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION RECEIVES NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

*GA Department of Education and Construction Ready recognize efforts to educate students in skilled trades*

Statesboro High School's Architecture & Construction program has received national industry certification from the Georgia Department of Education and Construction Ready, a not-for-profit organization which seeks to educate young people about the construction industry. The certification recognizes the efforts of Josh Hall, Statesboro's construction teacher and the career pathway program's efforts to educate students in the skilled trades.

As part of the certification process, Hall had to provide evidence that his program has an active local advisory committee, a career and technical student organization (SkillsUSA), and partnerships with local businesses. The certification designates the Statesboro High Construction program's excellence, and it received a grant from the Georgia Legislature to purchase additional tools and equipment. The program will undergo a renewal process every five years.



## CAREER TECHNICAL & AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

*District adds multiple new career pathway programs in high-demand fields*

Bulloch County Schools' Career Technical & Agricultural Education program has added multiple new career pathways for students which teach skills in high-demand fields and expanded work-based learning options at Statesboro and Southeast Bulloch high schools.

- Statesboro High School: Added Graphic Design, Forest Mechanical Systems, and Workforce Ready
- Portal Middle High School: Added Teaching as a Profession
- Southeast Bulloch High School: Expanded Business Accounting and added Heavy Equipment Operations Work-Based Learning at Statesboro High School and Southeast Bulloch High School.

## WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES MASSIVE GROWTH

Bulloch County Schools' Work-Based Learning program is experiencing massive growth due to increased student interest and expanded partnerships with local businesses and industry. On average we have more than 283 work-based learning students, who work more than 138,341 hours during the school year and earn more than \$1,364,341 in wages.

Work-based learning represents the pinnacle of our Career Technical & Agricultural Education programs. It allows qualified students who have mastered skills in career pathway areas the opportunity to work in an approved job placement to gain valuable work experience while receiving course credit. A job placement may be

a placement arranged by the school's work-based learning coordinator, the career pathway teacher, or an approved part-time job arranged by the student. If your business or industry is interested in being a site host for our students, visit [careerreadybulloch.org](http://careerreadybulloch.org) or contact Bethany Gilliam at [bgilliam@bullochschools.org](mailto:bgilliam@bullochschools.org).

Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024
180 students	236 students	283 students	340 students

**43**

Career Pathways

**14**

Career Clusters

**1507**

Students taking at least one career pathway course in high school

**1292**

Student members of career technical student organizations

**98.75%**

Graduation rate for students who also complete at least one career pathway

**CTAE**

**Bulloch County Schools**

**416**

Career pathway completers

**340**

Work-based Learning students served

**\$1,711,263**

wages earned by work-based learning students

**285**

employer sites

**166,301**

hours worked by work-based learning students



**591**

Dual-enrolled students

**9**

Career discovery events for 5th - 12th grade students

**1,634**

students identified to attend events

**23**

event partners



Want to get involved?





## TWO SCHOOLS RECEIVED \$10K START GRANTS TO EXPAND FINE ARTS EDUCATION

*Mattie Lively & Statesboro High art teachers enhance students' art experiences*

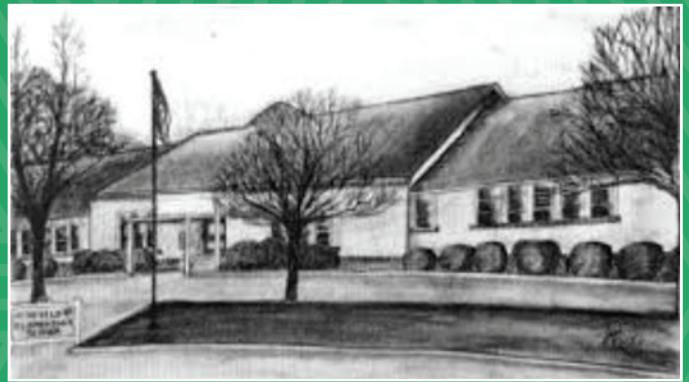
Two of Bulloch County's schools each received a \$10,000 stART Grant from the Georgia Department of Education to expand and sustain fine arts education programs at their schools during the 2023-2024 year.

Visual arts teachers Lindsey Reid, of Mattie Lively Elementary School, and Kimberly Kaiser, of Statesboro High School applied and received two of the 20 competitive grants that were awarded by the state in Fiscal Year 2024. The grants are meant to fund projects in rural Georgia that enhance students' fine arts learning experiences. Funded by Title IV, Part A funds, the grants are meant to create and/or develop arts initiatives that support sustainable arts education programs and significantly increase student access to the arts during the school day.

Reid, who teaches six levels of fine arts courses for her school's Kindergarten through fifth-grade students, used her grant to introduce advanced printmaking techniques, immersive ceramics, 3D design, and more. Ever the student herself, Reid collaborated with Statesboro's Averitt Center for the Arts' visual artist, Madeline Schelor, to advance her own ceramics skills and collaborate with her students. Schelor also returned to the school when Reid and her students hosted a Ceramics Showcase of their work for the community on May 24. The Showcase also helped students see the societal role of art. Set up like an actual art gallery, the showcase featured students' work thrown from the potter's wheel, like hand built pinch pots, slab built frames and test tiles.

Kaiser is one of two visual arts teachers at Statesboro High School. She and her colleague, Hayley Ward, have seen their fine arts courses grow by more than 180 students, and Kaiser wrote the grant to fund the addition of a photography fine arts pathway, plus infuse photography as an art form within the existing introductory and advanced visual arts courses. Students will now be able to experience both digital and analog photography methods and how they are used.

The two schools' expanded programs are not just about access to more two- and three-dimensional visual arts tools and mediums but inclusivity as well. The schools have higher numbers of special education and economically disadvantaged students, so the grants help ensure a wider circle of children can learn to express themselves artistically.



## PORTAL MIDDLE HIGH & NEVILS ELEMENTARY CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

Two of Bulloch County's schools celebrated 100 years of service during the 2023-2024 school year. Portal Middle High School, founded on September 1, 1923, and Nevils Elementary School, founded in 1924, have served the families in the northern and southern ends of Bulloch County throughout many obstacles – fires, poverty, a national depression, world wars, and more thanks to the perseverance of those who valued education.

*"What we are  
really celebrating is a  
community's commitment  
to its children."*

**CHARLES WILSON,**  
Superintendent of Schools



## ROOTED IN NUTRITION

*School Food Services partners  
with local farmers*

Bulloch County's School Nutrition Services is partnering with local farmers to help build a culinary culture in our school cafeterias. Their efforts help children make a connection between the food on their plates and how it's grown and delivered. Also, with the growth and diversity of the school district's students, who represent 18 different nationalities and 24 different languages, some of our local produce items and how they are prepared are being introduced to children for the first time. In 2024, the district partnered with Hunter Cattle Company for beef, Mack Family Farm for potatoes, and Franklin's Farm for their strawberries, plus future orders of their citrus fruit, peaches and other produce as they come in season during the school year. Thank you to our local farmers for helping us fuel Georgia's future.



### 10 YEARS OF REACH GEORGIA

*58 scholars have received more than \$600K in scholarships since 2013*

In 2023, Bulloch County Schools celebrated the selection of its tenth cohort of REACH Georgia scholars. Since 2013, the school district has selected 58 scholars, each of whom is the recipient of a \$10,000 college scholarship, and some received additional funds from participating Georgia colleges and universities.

In ten years, 36 of the scholars have gone on to pursue higher education and 15 have completed their post-secondary journeys. The majority have been honor graduates of their high school graduating classes, and three were the valedictorians of their senior class.

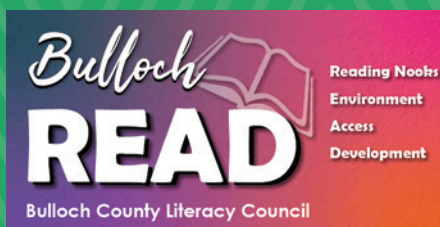
REACH Georgia scholars are selected in their eighth-grade year, and they maintain consistent eligibility by meeting academic, attendance, and behavior requirements throughout their five years in the program. The Bulloch County Foundation for Public Education has invested more than \$80,000 in seed capital to underwrite the students' scholarships with the Georgia Student Finance Corporation.



First cohort of REACH Scholars selected in 2013



2019 REACH Scholars as members of the graduating class of 2024



### 35 LOCAL READING NOOKS BOOST KIDS' ACCESS TO BOOKS

*More than 9.5K books available free to children through community collaboration*

The Bulloch County Literacy Council now has 35 reading nooks in local businesses that have made more than 9,500 books available to children for free. Reading nooks are areas where young children may sit and enjoy looking at or reading a book, or you can read one to them. Children may also pick out a book from any reading nook and take it home to keep.

Part of the Literacy Council's Bulloch READ initiative, the nooks increase children's access to books, increase the number of books in homes, especially for families who are economically disadvantaged, and they help create a literacy-rich community which values reading. See a list of reading nooks in Bulloch County at [www.bullochschoools.org/bullochread](http://www.bullochschoools.org/bullochread). If you would like to place a reading nook in your business, contact Crystal Simpkins by email at [csimpkins@bullochschoools.org](mailto:csimpkins@bullochschoools.org) or 912.212.8500.

### LITERACY COUNCIL PROVIDES 57 HOME READING NOOKS TO FAMILIES

*Families win with books during annual Literacy Luau and Reading Nook Photo Contest*

The Bulloch County Literacy Council has now placed 57 reading nooks in Bulloch County homes through annual events like the Kids' Reading Nook Photo Contest in February and the Literacy Luau during Read Across America Week. These events provide not only a fun way for families to learn more about literacy but also chances to win supplies to create reading nooks and the books to stock them.



*These literacy projects are part of the Bulloch County Literacy Council's Bulloch READ initiatives, and are made possible in part by a \$125,000 Community Transformation Grant from the Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning.*



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### AA +

Standard & Poor's Credit Rating.

### No audit findings

Based on the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts annual audit of the school district

### E-SPLOST IV

#### Expenditure Report Schedule of approved local option sales tax projects for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Bulloch County Schools' annual audit report of how the school district has used funds from its fourth education special purpose local option sales tax revenues (E-SPLOST). The funds were used in compliance with the E-SPLOST IV referendum approved by Bulloch County voters on Nov. 7, 2017. Find the full report at [www.bullochschools.org/budget](http://www.bullochschools.org/budget)

### Board makes difficult decision to raise millage rate

In a called session on Sept. 8, the Bulloch County Board of Education voted 7-1 in favor of raising its 2023 Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Millage Rate by 1.174 mills in order to continue qualifying for the equalization grant received through the state's Quality Basic Education formula.

This millage rate increase is not an effort designed to increase revenue or make up a budget shortfall. Instead, it is an intentional effort to avoid losing \$7.4 million in annual state equalization grant funding that also inadvertently generates \$3.4 million in additional property tax revenues that were not budgeted for the current fiscal year.

State law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-165) requires that school boards maintain a minimum M&O Millage Rate of 14 mills in order to qualify for state equalization grant funding. Simply put, the purpose of the board's action was to protect the sustainability of district programs and personnel that serve the students of Bulloch County Schools, and not a desire to harm the citizens of Bulloch County as some advocates have expressed.

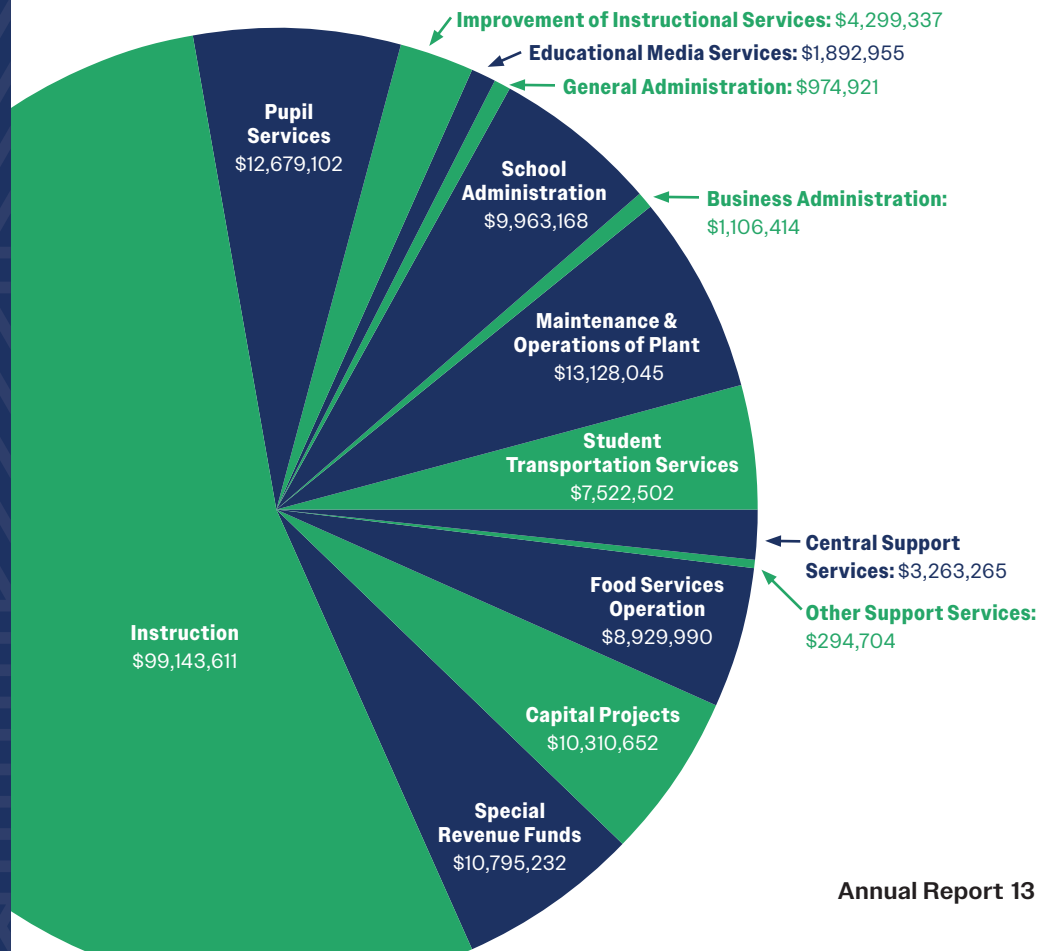
## GENERAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS (\$ MILLIONS)

Fiscal Year	Quality Basic Education State Revenues	Property Tax Revenues	Local Option Sales Tax Revenues	Total Revenues	Total Expenditures	Revenues over/(under) Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance
FY '16	\$47.30	\$17.20	\$10.30	\$78.70	\$82.70	-\$ (4.0)	\$16.44
FY '17	\$52.10	\$17.60	\$10.60	\$84.30	\$86.00	-\$ (1.7)	\$14.74
FY '18	\$58.22	\$19.84	\$10.84	\$91.82	\$89.82	\$2.00	\$16.74
FY '19	\$61.16	\$20.39	\$11.38	\$96.39	\$92.82	\$3.57	\$20.31
FY '20	\$66.67	\$21.52	\$12.31	\$103.77	\$101.29	\$2.48	\$22.79
FY '21	\$64.33	\$22.84	\$15.06	\$106.59	\$87.99	\$18.60	\$41.39
FY '22	\$70.44	\$22.94	\$15.61	\$114.32	\$100.89	\$13.43	\$54.82
FY '23	\$75.06	\$25.30	\$17.39	\$125.00	\$121.31	\$3.69	\$58.51
FY '24 (In Progress as Budgeted)	\$82.11	\$29.05	\$18.86	\$137.60	\$147.00	-\$ (9.40)	\$49.11
FY '25 (Budgeted)	\$91.30	\$32.83	\$20.74	\$149.10	\$154.26	-\$ (5.16)	\$38.67

For complete budget information on all Bulloch County Board of Education funds, capital projects, E-SPLOST and state audit reports, visit [www.bullochschools.org/budget](http://www.bullochschools.org/budget).

The overall Fiscal Year 2025 Budget consists of five funds with total expenditures of \$184,303,898: General, Special Revenue, School Nutrition, Capital Projects, and Debt Service funds.

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 ALL FUNDS BUDGETED



## STUDENT ATHLETES 2023-2024 School Year

### Southeast Bulloch High School

Flag Football Team  
Won 3rd GHSA Div. I State Championship;  
Undefeated in program history;  
62 consecutive wins

### Katlyn Sullivan (Statesboro)

GHSA Riflery State Champion

### Hailey Scott (Portal)

400-M State Champion  
GHSA 1-A Div. 2 Track & Field

### Amir Jackson (Portal)

Long Jump State Champion  
GHSA 1-A Div. 2 Track & Field

### Kasen Evans, Amir Jackson, Marcus Smith, Charles McNeal

Portal Middle High School Boys 4x200 Track Team  
GHSA 1-A Div. 2 Track & Field State Champions

### Mo Shareef (Statesboro)

Triple Jump State Champion (2X)  
GHSA 5A/7A Track & Field

### Region Championships

Portal Middle High School Varsity Football  
Portal Middle High School Varsity Cross Country  
Portal Middle High School Varsity  
Boys Basketball (4x)  
Portal Middle High School Varsity Girls Soccer  
Portal Middle High School Varsity Girls Track  
Southeast Bulloch High Girls Tennis (3x)  
Southeast Bulloch High Girls Golf Area 2 4-A  
Statesboro High School Girls Volleyball  
Statesboro High School Boys Basketball  
Statesboro High School Girls JROTC Raider Team  
Langston Chapel Middle School Boys Basketball  
William James Middle School Girls Track & Field  
William James Middle School Girls Tennis

### Top GHSA State Playoff Appearances

Portal Middle High School Boys Basketball - Elite 8  
Portal Middle High School Girls Soccer - Elite 8  
Southeast Bulloch High School Girls Tennis - Final 4  
Southeast Bulloch High School  
Girls Soccer - Sweet 16  
Statesboro High School Girls Volleyball - Elite 8  
Statesboro High School Boys Basketball - Sweet 16  
Statesboro High School Girls Basketball - Sweet 16  
Statesboro High School Boys & Girls Tennis - Elite 8

## REGION 8 STUDENT TEACHER ACADEMIC RECOGNITION (STAR)

Eli Compton  
Co-Region 8 STAR Student

## AAAA GHSA STATE LITERARY

Catherine Martin  
First Place Girls Solo

## RICHARD WOODS, STATE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Katelyn Moore  
State Superintendent's Student  
Advisory Committee

## GOOGLE

Davine Chen  
Doodle for Google  
Winner for State of Georgia

## NATIONAL SKILLSUSA

Nicholes Cortes  
Second Place in nation for  
Related Technical Math

## NATIONAL FCCLA STAR EVENT

Kalen McNeil  
First Place - Chapter In  
Review Portfolio

## GEORGIA FCCLA STAR EVENT

Branden Howard & Erin Shen  
First Place in Public Policy Advocate

## GEORGIA ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

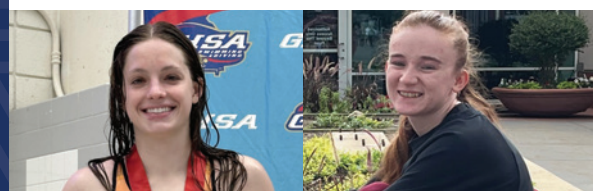
Ava Rooker, Emma Martinez, Chelsea  
Powell, & Rylee Martindale-Rushing  
GA Capitol Art Exhibition  
selected student artists

## GHSA LITERARY

Southeast Bulloch High School  
Literary Team  
AAAA State Literary First Runner-up

## SOUTHEAST BULLOCH HIGH WINS GA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD CHAMPIONSHIP

Southeast Bulloch High School's STEM Club won the Georgia Science Olympiad's 2024 Class A State Championship. Held on the campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology on March 30, 2024, the club's members medaled in 14 of the 24 individual events, including eight first-place finishes, two second-place medals, and four third-place. The club is coached by Danielle Hibbs-Heiser, a science teacher at the school.



## OLYMPIC DREAMS

*Two Statesboro High School athletes strive to make Olympic teams*

Katlyn Sullivan, a rising junior at Statesboro High School, won the 2024 GHSA Riflery State Championship. This young marksman is gaining stature in Olympic and national competitions. Sullivan has qualified and been invited by USA Shooting to the National Rifle Junior Olympic Championships for the past three years, competing well and rising in the national ranks with each competition.

Olivia Stewart, a member of Statesboro High School's Class of 2024, made the cut in USA Swimming's Olympic Trials for the 100-meter Breaststroke. Stewart, who was the state runner-up in both the 100-meter Breaststroke and 200-meter Individual Medley in the 2023 Georgia High School Association's Swimming & Diving Championships, has committed to swim for Auburn University.



## GA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Lindsey Reid  
Kimberly Kaiser  
Each selected to receive \$10K  
stART Grants for fine arts

## GA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

Fay Blythe  
GA's School Nurse  
Administrator of the Year

## GA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Lee Collins  
District 1 Music Educator of the Year

## STATESBORO HERALD

Brad Boykin  
20 Under 40 Leaders

## GA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & CONSTRUCTION READY

Josh Hall & Statesboro High Construction  
National Construction Ready  
Industry Certification

## STATESBORO VFW POST 10825

Ashleigh Wright  
Local & District Winner of Smart/  
Maher National Citizenship  
Education Teacher Award

## 2024-2025 SCHOOL-LEVEL

### Teachers of the Year

These teachers will be eligible to compete for the Bulloch County Schools Teacher of the Year title and possibly advance to the Georgia Teacher of the Year and the 2026 National Teacher of the Year competitions.

**Nikki Messer**.....Brooklet Elementary  
**Brittany Gay**.....Julia P. Bryant Elementary  
**Desiree Penton**.....Langston Chapel Elementary  
**Kenyatta Washington**.....Langston Chapel Middle  
**Plysheltia Drayton**.....Mattie Lively Elementary  
**Angie Monaham**.....Mill Creek Elementary  
**Michelle Mock**.....Nevils Elementary  
**Nancy Page**.....Portal Elementary  
**Shannon Hattaway**.....Portal Middle High  
**David Brown**.....Sallie Zetterower Elementary  
**Heather Gonzales**.....Southeast Bulloch Middle  
**Charity Masters**.....Southeast Bulloch High  
**Ty Jilles**.....Statesboro High  
**Kristy Starling**.....Stilson Elementary  
**Stephanie Mackiewicz**.....William James Middle



## 15 LOCAL EDUCATORS TRAVEL TO SOUTH KOREA

### Ajin Georgia sponsors trip to foster cultural connections

Educators from public schools in Bulloch, Evans, and Candler counties were invited on a 12-day trip to South Korea. The trip was sponsored by Ajin Georgia, a new manufacturer and Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant supplier in Bulloch County, and coordinated through Auburn University's Korea Corner program. The 15 educators were in South Korea June 3 -12 for a Global Studies in Education program to learn about Korean schools and students. The trip was also a cultural immersion and information exchange opportunity meant to further foster friendships, understanding and cross-cultural connections between leaders from the school systems, Ajin Georgia, and other South Korean manufacturers ahead of more families from the East Asian country moving into the region.

For Bulloch County's delegation, nine principals, assistant principals, and school counselors from Southeast Bulloch's middle and high schools and Nevils Elementary School, plus the district's Career Technical & Agricultural Education program director were identified as the initial key group who would benefit most from the experience.

## 2023-2024 BULLOCH COUNTY SCHOOLS RETIREES

*These 40 retirees devoted a combined total of 790 years of service to the children of Bulloch County.*

Michael Yawn	Deborah Conner
Jennifer Cooper	Carolyn Vasilatos
Pamela Lamb	Susie Brown
Connie Morgan	Jeffery Brannen
Janda Nelson	Darlene Huggins
Mary Henley	Gwendolyn Ford
Tammy Olliff	Jo Burroughs
Amanda Cartee	Sydna Davidson
Kimberly Pierce	Stephanie Burke
Angie Williams	Deborah Vanotteren
Gloria Jennings	Mamie Jenkins
David Nesmith	Janet Tillman
Elaine Burns	Mattie Brinson
Sherry Scott	Willie Ivey
Margaret Blanchard	Alice Iwinski
Julie Brown	Tiffany Todd
Lavette Calles	Catherine Sutcliff
Faith Koch	Diana Hendricks
Lynn Rozelle	Jo Nesmith
Lourie Owens	Russell Groover

# BULLOCH COUNTY FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

*A charitable foundation that supports these worthwhile education program*

REACH GA Scholarships | STAR Student/Teacher | Innovation Grants | Teacher of the Year



150 Williams Road, Suite A  
Statesboro, GA 30458  
[www.bullochschoools.org/foundations](http://www.bullochschoools.org/foundations)

Since 2006, the Bulloch County Foundation for Public Education has funded nearly 290 innovative teacher grants totaling more than \$357,560 to fund learning experiences for Bulloch County children.

The Foundation provides a way for individuals, businesses, industries, and local civic organizations to invest in local education programs that benefit public, charter, private, and home schooled students.



## Grants



## Scholarships



## Awards



Donate to the Foundation  
or register for our annual  
Statesboro 5k Turkey Trot

**Bulloch  
County  
Schools**

150 Williams Road, Suite A | Statesboro, GA 30458  
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[www.bullochschoools.org](http://www.bullochschoools.org) | [boe@bullochschoools.org](mailto:boe@bullochschoools.org)

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025**

