

# Bulloch County Schools



# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024



# BULLOCH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



Bulloch County Board of Education 2023-2024 - Pictured Standing (L-R): Stuart Tedders, Ph.D.; Glenn Womack; Jimmy "Jay" Cook; and Maurice Hill. Seated (L-R): Elizabeth Williams, Donna Clifton, Glennera Martin, and Heather Mims.

## Voting District 1

### **Glenn Womack, Chairman**

lwomack@bullochschools.org

Term: 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2024

## Voting District 2

### **Elizabeth Williams, Vice-Chairman**

ewilliams@bullochschools.org

912.682.2615 (H)

Term: 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2026

## Voting District 3

### **Stuart Tedders, Ph.D.**

stedders@bullochschools.org

912.478.1922 (W)

Term 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2024

## Voting District 4

### **Donna Clifton**

dclifton@bullochschools.org

912.536.3466 (C)

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

## Voting District 8

### **Maurice Hill**

hillmaurice@yahoo.com

912.764.7134 (W & H)

Term 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2024

## Board Secretary

### **Mary Henley**

912.212.8500

mhenley@bullochschools.org

Board email: boe@bullochschools.org



Superintendent of Schools

**Charles Wilson,**

**Ed.S., MBA, CPA**

912-212-8500

cwilson@bullochschools.org

*"Public education is foundational to our values as a nation and a community. At Bulloch County Schools, we strive daily to make a positive impact on our students so that they learn to their potential and become contributing members of society."*

- Superintendent  
Charles Wilson

## 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 packets, 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 Mary Henley, the Board of Education 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)



## 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.

## Belief & Core Values

We believe everyone can learn and grow in a continuous improvement culture that incorporates our core values. Our core values signify our expectations of ourselves and each other, from the boardroom to our classrooms.

### Be Relational:

We build relationships with others through integrity, compassion, and respect.

### Be Purposeful:

We pursue what needs to be accomplished through appropriate and intentional effort.

### Be Reflective:

We evaluate our efforts in relation to our purpose.

### Be Resourceful:

We implement resourceful solutions through innovation and collaboration.

### Be Courageous:

We exemplify commitment, determination, and grit in making needed changes happen.

### Be Accountable:

We hold ourselves accountable for the decisions we make and the actions we take.

## Mission

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



Work and Career Readiness

Provide work and career readiness pathways for students

Provide guidance and support, commensurate with our core values, for students

Provide differentiated learning opportunities for our students

Provide foundational skills development for our students

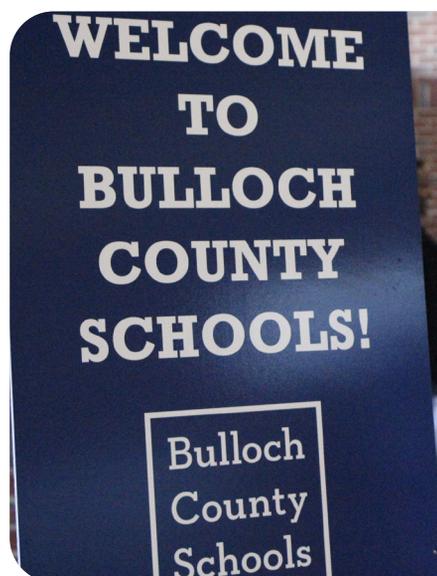
Empower a collaborative team committed to the vision and mission of the district

Collect and utilize appropriate and necessary information resources

Enhance the culture and learning environment of the district

Allocate resources to schools in a manner that empowers them to address their critical priorities

Continue to ensure that the district remains compliant with laws and regulations



Community Resourcefulness



SEE THE COMPLETE BULLOCH COUNTY SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN AT [WWW.BULLOCHSCHOOLS.ORG/STRATEGICPLAN](http://WWW.BULLOCHSCHOOLS.ORG/STRATEGICPLAN)

# NATIONAL & STATE RECOGNITIONS

Georgia Department  
of Education

Southeast Bulloch  
High School

GA Advanced Placement  
Honor School



Georgia Department  
of Education

Brooklet  
Elementary School

GA Title I  
Distinguished School

## BULLOCH COUNTY SCHOOLS AT-A-GLANCE

### SCHOOLS

15 Schools

- 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

### LEARNING PROGRAMS

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

### FACULTY & STAFF

2,434 full-time, part-time, contracted services,  
seasonal and substitutes  
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 rate at which students transfer schools  
for reasons other than promotion. High  
mobility rates can affect student learning  
and disrupt faculty instruction. It was 17.10%  
in 2022, down from 19.10% in 2021.



### AREA SCHOOL SYSTEM

#### MILLAGE RATES

Bulloch: 8.263  
Bryan: 15.075  
Candler: 14.000  
Chatham 17.631  
Effingham: 15.810  
Emanuel: 12.960  
Evans: 14.000  
Jenkins: 14.875

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

62.61% of students qualify for free or  
reduced-price lunch. All students in the  
school district are offered free breakfast.  
1,739,584 meals were served to students  
during the 2022-2023 school year.  
In the first 20 days of Bulloch County  
Schools' 31-day Summer Nutrition  
Program for 2022-2023, the district served  
36,417 meals to children. For four weeks  
during summer 2023, the district provided  
breakfast and lunch to children 18 years of  
age and younger through either a weekly  
box pick up and daily on-site meal service.

### PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES

2016: \$8,383.34 • 2017: \$8,511.00  
2018: \$8,876.00 • 2019: \$9,203.00  
2020: \$9,733.69 • 2021: \$9,673.54  
2022: \$10,993.00

# NATIONAL & STATE RECOGNITIONS

Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Economic Developers Association & Georgia Power  
 Bulloch County Schools  
 Georgia Economic Development Partnership Designation



Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning  
 Bulloch County Schools  
 \$125,000 Community Transformation Grant for Literacy & Early Learning

## BULLOCH COUNTY SCHOOLS AT-A-GLANCE

### SCHOOL DISCIPLINE & SAFETY

- 4,242 Total discipline incidents
- 1,690 Students involved in incidents
- 29.7% led to out-of-school suspension
- 54.1% led to in-school suspension
- 0.2% Expulsion Rate
- 9.5% In-School Suspension Rate
- 6.6% Out-of-School Suspension Rate
- 71.3% of incidents involved males
- 28.7% of incidents involved females

### STUDENT SUPPORT PROVIDERS

- School Social Workers for District: 4
- School Psychologists: 6
- School Counselors (Full-Time): 32
- School Climate Coaches 6
- School Resource Officers: 8
- School Safety Director 1



### STUDENT ENROLLMENT

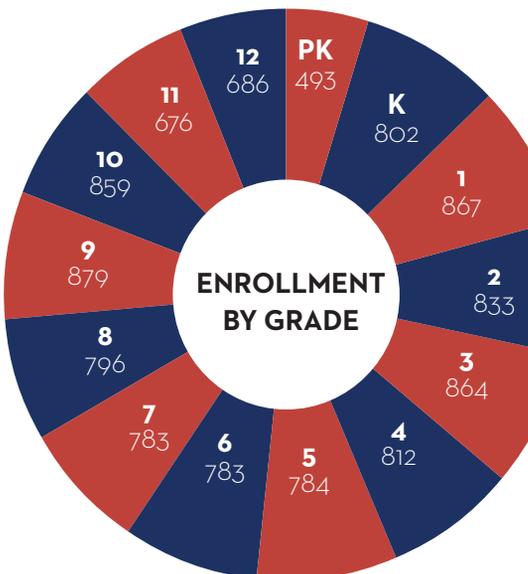
- 10,942 (May 2022)
- 47.2% Economically Disadvantaged Students
- 15.8% Students with Disabilities
- 3.6% Students receiving English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services
- 10.5% Students receiving Gifted Services
- 34.79% of students are directly certified as receiving SNAP or TANF, homeless, an unaccompanied youth, as a foster child, or child of a migrant family.
- 3,656 students are classified as living in poverty

### STUDENT DIVERSITY

- 24 Nationalities
- 18 Languages
- 47.3% Caucasian
- 38.2% Black
- 7.9% Hispanic
- 1.7% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 0.2% American Indian
- 4.8% More than one race

### GA STUDENT HEALTH SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 14.27% of the 4,573 students in grades 6-12 who responded, said that they had been bullied or threatened one or more times
- 83.87% of the 4,573 students in grades 6-12 who responded, somewhat or strongly agreed that they felt safe at school.

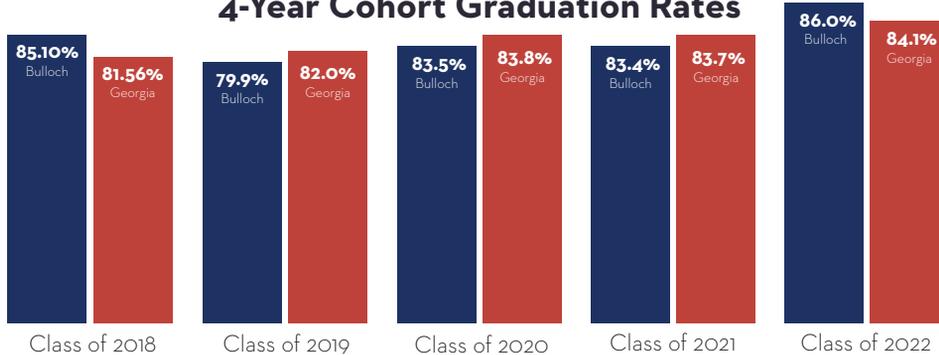


# STRATEGIC PLAN DASHBOARD

# Bulloch County Schools Strategic Plan Dashboard

*Preparing students for success & enhancing community value*  
 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.

## 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates



Note: Updated graduation rate data is released each September. For the most recent data visit [www.bullochschools.org](http://www.bullochschools.org).

## CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION RATES

	Overall 4-Year Cohort	Career (CTAE)
Portal	90.8%	100%
Southeast Bulloch	88.9%	100%
Statesboro	83.5%	100%
Bulloch County	86%	100%
Georgia	84.1%	99.28%

These are the rates for the overall four-year cohort and for students who take career pathways courses in addition to their academic requirements. Students who enroll or complete career pathways are shown to achieve higher four-year graduation rates.

## Achievement



**645**

Class of 2022 graduates of whom 319 (**49.46%**) were eligible for HOPE scholarships.

**39.7%**

Percentage of graduates from the Class of 2022 who enrolled in a four-year college or university; **11.6%** enrolled in a technical college and **28.4%** entered the workforce.

**ACT**

Class of 2022  
**137** School district test takers  
 Composite Score Avg.  
 Bulloch - **20.76**  
 Georgia - **21.6**  
 United States - **19.8**

**SAT**

Class of 2022  
**287** School district test takers  
 Mean Score Avg.  
 Bulloch **1041**  
 Georgia **1060\***  
 United States **1050\***

\*Data from all public and private school test takers.



# STRATEGIC PLAN DASHBOARD

## Workforce & Career Readiness



**15**

Bulloch County Schools has 15 schools and four learning centers.

**10,921**

Enrollment as reported by Georgia's March 2023 full-time-equivalent (FTE) student count.

**559**

Number of K-5 children who were enrolled in the district's three centrally located Summer Learning Academy sites. These were funded by the American Rescue Plan Act's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds.

**778**

In addition to the Summer Learning Academy, an additional 778 children in grades K-12 were enrolled in the Graduation Performance Academy, the English for Speakers of Other Languages Camp, and two 21st Century Communities Learning Center camps.

**2**

The number of new programs the district created to address the needs of students. The LIFE program serves high school students with work and physical hardships who need non-traditional options to complete their high school academic requirements. The LEAP program for elementary students is part of our multi-tiered system of support, and it is for children who need temporary, specialized help to be more successful.

**30**

Number of career pathways within the 13 career clusters that the school district offers students within its Career Technical & Agricultural Education program.

**1,510**

Number of students enrolled in at least one high school career pathway course.

**467**

Number of students who are dual enrolled in a post-secondary institution while in high school.

## Community Resourcefulness



**2,434**

Total number of full-time, part-time, seasonal, and contracted services employees

**\$2,000**

Georgia's increase to the base pay salary scales for teachers and certified employees.

**\$2,500**

Bulloch County Schools' increase to the local salary supplement for teachers and certified employees.

**\$3**

Bulloch County Schools' increase to the per-hour salary for the district's non-certified support staff.

**\$21,017,423**

Total Maintenance & Operations Taxes levied by the school district with a millage rate of 8.263 mills.

**\$25,000**

Funds donated by the Statesboro Kiwanis Club for the Project Eaglet learning experiences collaborative with Georgia Southern University for our K-5 learners

**\$95K+**

The total amount of two Georgia Department of Education Opportunity Grants to increase learning opportunities in our schools for math, social studies, health, physical education and fine arts. The funds are made possible through the federal stimulus funds under the American Rescue Plan Act.

**47,360**

Followers across our social media platforms, up from 41,132 in 2021-2022.

**14,378,415**

Visits to our district and school websites in 2022-2023, up from 6,679,427 in 2021-2022.

# WORK & CAREER READINESS



## Workforce Steering Committee hosts 2nd annual summit

*Community collaborative shares progress of workforce development plan*

The Bulloch County Career Workforce Steering Committee hosted its second annual Career Workforce Summit in December 2022. The committee updated the community about the significant progress that has been made in accomplishing the goals of the Bulloch County Workforce Development Plan that was launched in October 2021. Student leaders from career pathways and their corresponding student organizations were in attendance as well and were recognized for recent honors.

## State honors Bulloch County Schools' economic development work

*School district receives GA's partnership designation for its workforce & career readiness programs*

The Georgia Department of Education, in partnership with the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) and Georgia Power, has awarded Bulloch County Schools with the Economic Development Partnership designation. This designation certifies that Bulloch County Schools' Career, Technical & Agricultural Education program is collaborating with Bulloch County's leading economic development partners, and continues to position itself to best benefit the work and career readiness needs of its students.

"This is a worthwhile recognition of the great work being done by our staff and community partners to prepare our students for success and better address workforce development needs, and this is very timely given the forthcoming demand that will require even greater partnership and preparation across our community," said Charles Wilson, superintendent of schools for Bulloch County.



Superintendent of Schools Charles Wilson (back row, second from right) with local and area leaders and Hyundai representatives. Hyundai EV is constructing a \$5.5 billion manufacturing facility and an adjacent electric vehicle battery factory in neighboring Bryan County on a nearly 3,000-acre tract of land. Hyundai plans to employ 8,100 workers. It is the largest single economic development project in Georgia history. post-secondary leaders to position the school district to best serve students.



## Career Ready Bulloch Website launched

*Workforce collaborative's online tool helps students be enrolled, enlisted or employed*

Launched in December 2022 by the Bulloch County Workforce Steering Committee, the Bulloch Career Ready Website is an online tool to help students lay out a successful education path to a career whether they want to be enrolled in college, enlisted in the military, employed by local business and industry, or have a journey that includes one or more of those options along the way.

The information on the website can help students and their families have more intentional conversations with counselors, teachers, and employers. It can help youth and their families make decisions about registering for high school courses, using the YouthScience tool to learn a student's skills, selecting career pathway electives based on skills and interest, earning

industry certifications in high school, dual enrollment and work-based learning, and how combinations of these can make career journeys more successful.

The website also helps business and industry learn how they can become a work-based learning site, be part of an industry advisory committee for the school district's career pathways, and make connections with our community's future workforce. Bulloch County Schools currently has 234 businesses who have partnered with the district to be a work-based learning site for students to explore careers, build their skills, and earn a wage.

Launched by Bulloch County's Career Workforce Steering Committee at its Career Workforce Summit on December

8, the online resource is a collaborative community effort to further help prepare students for successful careers and build an educated, skilled, and efficient workforce for continued economic growth in Bulloch County.





## Statesboro High Construction wins SkillsUSA Teamworks state championship

Statesboro High School Construction's Teamworks team competed at the National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta in June 2023 after winning the Georgia state championship in the event. Perry Hattaway, Patrick Mock, Evan Smith, and Nathan Wallace made up the four-person team led by Josh Hall, Statesboro's construction teacher and SkillsUSA advisor. In the Teamworks event the team will be demonstrating their skills in specific trades such as electrical wiring, plumbing, carpentry, and masonry to complete a specific building task.



SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel. SkillsUSA provides educational programs, events and competitions that support career and technical education in the nation's classrooms.

These students were enrolled in Construction career pathway courses to help develop job and life skills. Bulloch County Schools has 30 career pathways within its Career Technical & Agricultural Education program.

### WORK-BASED LEARNING

**283**

Total number of students

**\$1,364,178**

Student earnings

**234**

Employer sites

**231**

Business partnerships

**138,341**

Hours worked

### CAREER DISCOVERY EVENTS

**8**

Number of career discovery events

**915**

Number of students

**18**

Event partners

### CAREER PATHWAYS

**1,510**

Students taking at least one career pathway course

**13**

Career Clusters

**467**

Number of students taking college courses while in high school

**30**

Career Pathways Dual Enrollment

# WORK & CAREER READINESS



## Snack on a good book

*Book vending machines increase access to books, especially at home*

Children in Bulloch County Schools' nine elementary schools are snacking on good books after the installation of Inchy Bookworm Vending Machines.

In March 2020, the first machine was placed at Langston Chapel Elementary School with the help of district funds and grants, including an \$850 innovation grant from the Bulloch County Foundation for Public Education. During the 2022-2023 school year, the remaining elementary schools received machines stocked with books.

The project is in keeping with the school district's literacy initiatives which seek to improve preschool literacy, increase the number of reading resources children have at home, encourage reading, and ensure all children read on grade level by third grade. The machines do not replace school libraries, but instead place more books, especially free books, in the hands of children that they can keep at home. The machines also help support the school district's positive behavior initiatives. Students can earn tokens to use at the machines through good attendance, positive behavior, and academic growth.

## District recognizes student growth for i-Ready in reading and math

Seven schools were recognized for the academic growth of their students based on the fall 2022 to winter 2023 administrations of the i-Ready Diagnostic for reading and math. The i-Ready is a test that is used with children in Kindergarten through eighth grade. Given three times



each school year (fall, winter and spring) in reading and math, the results help teachers see learning gaps, plan if a child needs more lessons to reteach certain skills, or if a child needs more challenging lessons to enrich their learning. Thank you to all teachers for their hard work in preparing students for success. These are the schools that were recognized: Stilson Elementary School – highest i-Ready growth in reading and math; Langston Chapel Middle School – highest i-Ready growth in reading; Southeast Bulloch Middle School I – highest i-ready growth in math; William James Middle School – second highest i-ready growth in reading and math; Brooklet Elementary School – second highest i-Ready growth in reading; Portal Elementary School – second highest i-Ready growth in math; Nevils Elementary School – third highest i-Ready growth in reading and math.

## Focus on Recovery

Bulloch County Schools continues to adjust to the impact that the pandemic had on the community and schools. Test data confirms that disruptions to learning did occur district-wide. Educators are focused on continuously helping students get back on track and to fill the gaps in learning. District initiatives have placed an emphasis on multi-tiered systems of support for students to meet their academic and behavior needs, professional learning communities for teachers, literacy, and an emphasis on regular school attendance.

**Georgia's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Students =**  
interventions +  
remediation +  
enrichments

**Teachers' Professional Learning Communities =**  
a layer of support  
+ continuous  
improvement +  
benefits students

**Improve Literacy Instruction =**  
guided reading  
& phonics training  
for teachers +  
community literacy  
collaboratives

**Support Our Schools =**  
instructional  
coaches to help  
improve instructional  
practices + climate  
coaches to help  
improve behavior  
interventions  
and classroom  
management

**LIFE**  
LEARNERS INVOLVED IN FLEXIBLE EDUCATION  
A non-traditional high school choice for students in grades 9 to 12 with medical or employment hardships

Bulloch County Schools

- Ask your counselor if it's right for you. Register online or at your school.
- Flexible virtual or hybrid class hours to complete coursework. Access to Edgenuity 24/7.
- Support from counselors & a team of seven certified teachers to help you succeed.

150 Williams Road, Suite B, Statesboro, GA [www.bullochschools.org/life](http://www.bullochschools.org/life) 912.212.8557

## High school students with hardships have new learning option

Learners Involved in Flexible Education (LIFE) is a new, non-traditional high school choice for students in grades 9 to 12 who have medical or employment hardships which make regular attendance in a traditional school setting an obstacle. Virtual and hybrid learning models can benefit students with hardship situations and help keep them on track to graduate.

LIFE offers both in-person and virtual learning options with flexible class hours to complete coursework. Students are supported by a team of certified teachers who provide instruction and monitor students' progress to help keep them engaged and on track to complete course credits. Interested families or students can register for the LIFE program online at [www.bullochschools.org/life](http://www.bullochschools.org/life)



# COMMUNITY RESOURCEFULNESS

Community resourcefulness is a strategic goal of the school district. It represents our ability to be resilient and focus our school district's and community's strengths, knowledge, skills and relationships and how we can best work together to support each other in positive and practical ways that best prepare students for success and enhance our community's value. The Bulloch County Foundation for Public Education, the Bulloch County Literacy Council, the Bulloch County Workforce Steering Committee, Project Eaglet, the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program, and school councils are just some of the examples of resourceful community collaboratives.



## Bulloch County Literacy Council - Bulloch READ Initiatives

Encourage reading nooks and a literacy-rich environment, increase access to books and reading resources, and increase early brain development



### Reading Nooks

Local businesses are supporting literacy in our young children by placing reading nooks in their offices. Children can enjoy a book and take a book. There are now 11 nooks around the community. Interested? Contact 912.212.8892



### Literacy-Rich Environment

The Literacy Council and Bulloch Solutions hosted a Literacy Luau on Read Across America Day. Interactive exhibits were fun for children and provided reading tips for parents, childcare professionals, and volunteers to help create a literacy rich community.



### Access to Books & Reading Resources

The Book Bus makes stops around the community to provide free books to children in their neighborhoods, schools, special events, summer camps, and summer nutrition programs. Families are invited to get on board the Book Bus to pick out free books for children to take home and keep.



### Early Brain Development

School leaders from Bulloch County Schools shared local literacy efforts with state legislators in Atlanta during the 2023 legislative session. They addressed the state senate's Education and Higher Education committees' joint hearing on literacy about the importance of early literacy initiatives.



### Chick-fil-A Leader Academies

**Portal & Statesboro students are re-imagining leadership and serving community**

Portal and Statesboro high school students have established Chick-fil-A Leader Academy chapters at their schools. The national leadership program is sponsored by the restaurant chain's owner operators, and it focuses on re-imagining leadership and encouraging students to make an impact through action with school and community service projects. David Boykin, the Statesboro Chick-fil-A's owner operator, has invested in the program's success locally by providing seed capital in the form of two micro-grants to cover the cost of initial start-up fees.

### New Employee Benefits & Wellness Fair

**More than 40 community vendors help serve the needs of school district employees**



Bulloch County Schools hosted its inaugural Benefits & Wellness Fair in March 2023 for the district's more than 2,100 employees.

More than 40 local and area vendors hosted interactive booths to help employees on their individual journeys to better overall health and wellness in the many aspects of their lives - financial, psychological, social, spiritual, physical, occupational, environmental, and intellectual.

**"Our employees are public servants who have dedicated their careers to teaching and supporting our community's children. This is a way that we can give back to help them be the best versions of themselves, which in turn helps them be the best for students."**

- Allie Baxter  
Chief Human Resources Officer

# COMMUNITY RESOURCEFULNESS



## Voters approve E-SPLOST V

Registered voters in Bulloch County approved the continuation of a fifth education special purpose local option sales tax referendum on November 8, 2022. The one-cent tax is estimated to raise a maximum of \$110 million over the next five years (October 2023 - September 2028), and the approved referendum allows for up to \$80 million of general obligation debt. The primary purpose of this E-SPLOST is to fund the first phase of the Board of Education's facilities plan which includes construction of a 2500-student high school to replace the existing Southeast Bulloch campus and the implementation of a district career academy concept that includes all three high schools (Portal, Statesboro and Southeast Bulloch).



Pictured (L-R): 2022-2023 REACH Georgia Scholars Roger Claudio of Langston Chapel Middle School; Ansley Martin and Hilda Reyes of Portal Middle High School; Gabriela Mendez and Aliyah Rawls of William James Middle School; and Cristina Pacheco of Southeast Bulloch Middle School.

## Foundation funds Bulloch's REACH GA Scholars Program

The Bulloch County Foundation for Public Education is the sole sponsor that keeps the REACH Georgia Scholars program active in our community. The Foundation annually donates \$7,500 (\$1,500 per student) to help fund the required seed capital for the \$10,000 base scholarships. The community can help in this effort by contributing to the Foundation, supporting its fundraisers, like the Statesboro 5K Turkey Trot, or by becoming a corporate sponsor of the program. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

## REACH Georgia Scholarship Program

**School district selects its 10th REACH Georgia Scholar cohort  
51 scholars now have more than \$1M in college scholarships**

Bulloch County Schools and the Bulloch County Foundation for Public Education honored the tenth cohort of REACH Georgia scholars in November 2022. The six eighth-grade students and their parents signed their commitment to the program's stringent academic, attendance, behavior, and service standards.

*"When you think of our school district's mission to help prepare students for success and enhance the value of our community, REACH is one resource we have to help do just that. We are changing the future one day and one student at a time."*

- Superintendent  
Charles Wilson

Bulloch County has 51 REACH Georgia scholars who have a combined total of \$510,000 invested in their post-secondary education. This local amount doubles to a combined total of more than \$1 million when the scholars choose to attend one of the state's partnering colleges or universities.

Each receives a base scholarship of \$10,000, which is held for them by the Georgia Student Finance Corporation until their high school graduations. More than 63 colleges and universities in Georgia have agreed to double-match and some triple-match the base scholarship, so graduates may receive \$20,000 to \$30,000 in scholarship funds depending upon where they decide to go to college in Georgia. These funds are over and above any HOPE Scholarship or other private scholarships they may also receive.

The REACH Georgia Scholarship is a needs-based college scholarship program which is designed to ensure that the state's academically promising students have the academic, social, and financial support needed to graduate from high school and complete college.

In May 2022, the first of the district's REACH Georgia scholars, who were selected in 2013, began graduating from college, making graduate school plans and establishing their careers.



## Project Eaglet benefits elementary students Kiwanis Club, GA Southern & Bulloch County Schools partner for learning experiences

Elementary school children in the school district benefit from additional learning experiences due to a community collaboration between the Statesboro Kiwanis Club, Georgia Southern University, and Bulloch County Schools. With an initial investment of \$20,000, Kiwanis helped launch Project Eaglet, which offers children in the school district the opportunity to interact with GA Southern's five outreach centers: Museum, Wildlife Center, Botanical Garden, Planetarium, and That Great Gretsch Sound! through the Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music.

*"We are excited about this collaboration, and the opportunities that it will provide for our elementary school children. This is another great example of community resourcefulness, and how we can partner to provide children with beneficial learning experiences at Georgia Southern."*

- Superintendent  
Charles Wilson

# FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**AA +**

Standard & Poor's Credit Rating.

**10**

The Maintenance & Operations School Millage Rate has been rolled back annually for the past 10 years

**8.263 mills**

Bulloch County Schools Maintenance & Operations School Millage Rate

**\$21,017,423**

Total school taxes levied on property for calendar year 2022 for school district's 2023 Fiscal Year.

**No audit findings**

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

**\$2,000**

A \$2,000 raise for all certified employees

**\$2,500**

The raise in Bulloch County Schools' local supplement for teachers and other certified educators

**\$3**

Increase in the pay per hour for the school district's non-certified school employees.

This follows a \$2 per-hour raise provided in Fiscal Year 2023

**\$10,993.43**

Per pupil expenditure for 2022-2023

**\$38.44 Million**

Total COVID-19 federal relief funds received from CARES Act I & II and the American Rescue Plan funds from the state and federal government. The school district has a four-year plan to use these funds to address the learning loss and behavioral and mental health needs

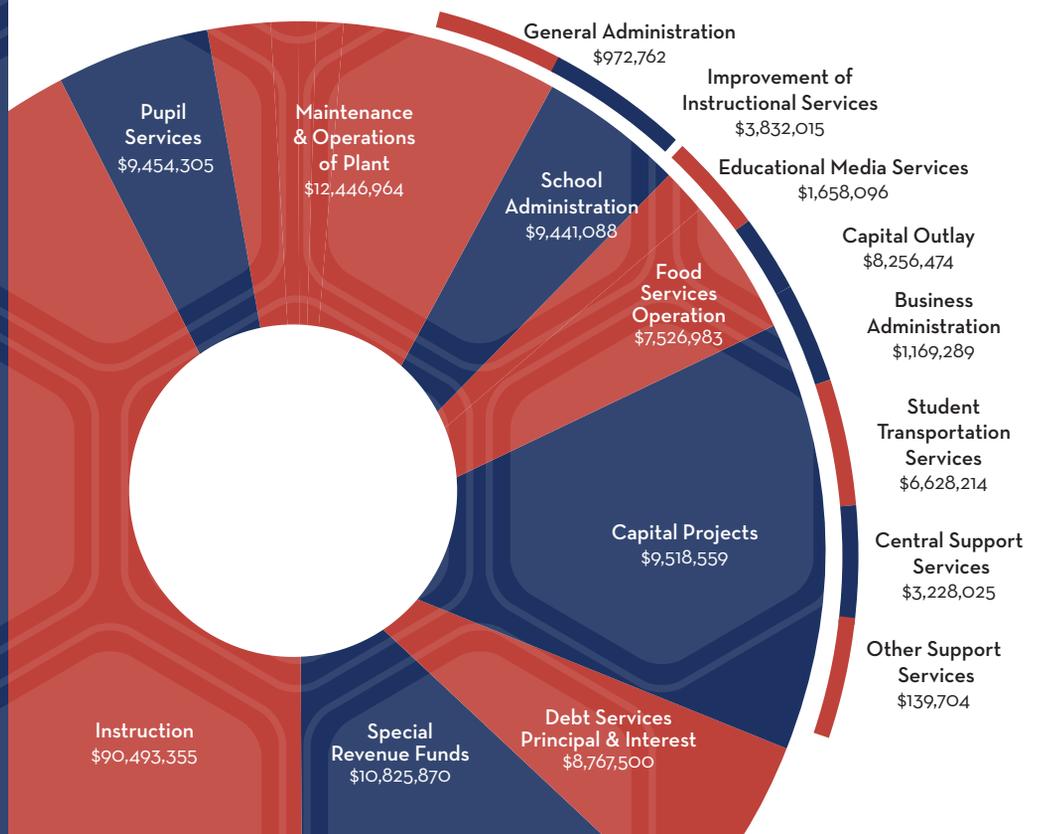
## GENERAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS (\$ MILLIONS)

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 '13	\$39.50	\$16.60	\$9.60	\$69.10	\$69.30	-\$ (0.2)	\$19.90
FY '14	\$38.4	\$16.5	\$9.9	\$68.8	\$71.0	-\$ (2.2)	\$17.70
FY '15	\$44.80	\$17.40	\$10.40	\$78.40	\$75.60	\$2.80	\$20.50
FY '16	\$47.30	\$17.20	\$10.30	\$78.70	\$82.70	-\$ (4.0)	\$16.50
FY '17	\$52.10	\$17.60	\$10.60	\$84.30	\$86.00	-\$ (1.7)	\$14.80
FY '18	\$58.20	\$18.20	\$10.80	\$91.80	\$89.80	\$2.00	\$16.70
FY '19	\$61.16	\$21.35	\$11.38	\$96.38	\$92.81	\$3.57	\$20.31
FY '20	\$66.67	\$22.13	\$12.31	\$103.76	\$101.28	\$2.48	\$22.79
FY '21	\$61.32	\$23.89	\$15.05	\$106.59	\$87.99	\$18.59	\$41.38
FY '22	\$64.67	\$23.27	\$12.69	\$102.50	\$89.40	\$13.10	\$46.50
FY '23 (In progress as budgeted)	\$71.44	\$24.63	\$15.52	\$113.69	\$107.38	\$6.30	\$53.69
FY '24 (Budgeted)	\$83.01	\$26.68	\$18.56	\$131.80	\$139.46	-\$ (7.65)	\$44.16

\*For complete budget information on all Bulloch County Board of Education funds, capital projects, ESPLOST and state audit reports, visit [www.bullochschoools.org/budget](http://www.bullochschoools.org/budget)

## FISCAL YEAR 2024 ALL FUNDS BUDGETED

Total General Fund expenditures \$139,463,817 • All Funds \$176,102,729



# STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

**Ansley Burnham**, Southeast Bulloch Middle School: One of only 60 national winners of AAA's Discovery Crew Travel essay contest. She was awarded an educational river cruise through Belgium and the Netherlands.

**Mill Creek Elementary Student Artists:** T.J. Melton, Adrian Griffin, Zaya Grant, and Emily Roberts each received the Georgia Fire Commissioner's Fire Prevention Art Award. T.J.'s and Adrian's artwork will be featured in the 2023 Georgia Fire Prevention Calendar. The students' art teacher is Judy Ware.

**Positive Athletes:** Emma Yates (Flag Football) of Portal Middle High School and Kaylee Haas (Soccer) of Southeast Bulloch High School were two of 26 southeast Georgia athletes (boys and girls) who were honored by Positive Athlete for the positive sportsmanship they bring to their respective sports.

**Hunter Cribbs**, Southeast Bulloch High School: Selected as a Hagan Scholarship recipient. He will receive more than \$60,000 to help fund his undergraduate degree and school supplies, plus the program pays separately for a study abroad experience. Hunter will be attending the University of Georgia where he plans to major in Chemistry.

Georgia Department of Education  
Julia Basquin  
Statesboro High School  
2023 Georgia Scholar

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America  
Reagan Padgett  
Southeast Bulloch High School  
1st Place at FCCLA Nationals in Instructional Video Design

NCAA College Football  
Amir Jackson  
Portal Middle High School  
10 Division I & Power-5 offers.  
Signed with the University of Florida

Georgia SkillsUSA  
Perry Hattaway, Patrick Mock, Evan Smith, & Nathan Wallace  
of Statesboro High School  
Teamworks State Champions

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America  
Claire Pagliarullo  
Southeast Bulloch High School  
National Technical Honor Society Scholarship

Georgia Junior Science and Humanities Symposium  
Xavier Deckard  
Statesboro High School  
Selected as a presenter & finalist for his research

The Georgia Institute of Technology  
Nathan Wallace  
Statesboro High School  
College of Engineering Dean's Scholar Program Scholarship Recipient

**The Bulloch Blues Marching Band** performed at Disney World on March 18. The musicians were treated as honorary Disney cast members for the day and performed during Disney World's prestigious Marching Down Magic Kingdom Parade. The Bulloch Blues Marching Band is a musical collaboration of 128 student musicians and band directors from our three high schools: Portal, Southeast Bulloch and Statesboro.



**Portal, Southeast Bulloch & Statesboro High Flag Football Teams:** Introduced in 2020, our three high schools have embraced flag football as a new sport, and they have consistently made the state playoffs. Southeast Bulloch has won two state championships and Portal has won two state runner-up titles. Five Portal and SEB athletes (Emma Yates, Riley Lamb, Abigail Morgan, Kaylee Haas, and Ainsleigh Littles) were selected for the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association's inaugural All-Star Flag Football game. At the game, Portal's Emma Yates was selected as the GACA Player of the Game. These All-Stars also exhibited the sport during an Atlanta Falcons game.

**Hunter Martin** of Portal Middle High School, won back-to-back Georgia High School Association State Track & Field Championships in the 200 and 800 meter adapted division sprints in 2022 and 2023.



## GA Music Educators showcases Whitaker's choral program

The Georgia Music Educators Association showcased Brent Whitaker's Southeast Bulloch High School Choral Program during its annual In-Service Conference at the Classic Center in Athens, on January 26-28. Touted as one of the premiere professional development events for music educators, each year the association selects up to four choirs to perform in mini concerts during the event to showcase the best of what Georgia schools have to offer in choral music. More than 4,000 music directors from elementary to college levels, fine arts supervisors, college students, school administrators, students, and professional musicians were in attendance at the event. The SEBHS Advanced Chorus has received national and international recognition. Most recently they were named Top Choir at Festival Disney at Disney World amongst all participating choirs of all sizes.

# FACULTY & STAFF RECOGNITIONS

Office of the President  
of the United States

Penny Lott

National Call to  
Service Lifetime  
Achievement Award

Georgia Association  
of Teachers of Family  
& Consumer Sciences

Kristin Rogers

Elected president  
of GATFCS

Georgia Association  
for Career & Technical  
Education

Katherine Wellman

Counseling & Career  
Development Professional  
of the Year Award

Georgia FFA Organization

Thomas Marshall, Ed.D  
(Retired in 2020 - Ag Teacher)

Inducted into the Georgia  
Educators Hall of Fame

Atlanta  
Falcons

Coach  
Marci Cochran

State  
Champion  
Award

Georgia Athletic  
Directors Association  
Members

Justin Chester, Portal  
Mark Oliver, Southeast Bulloch

Region 3-A, Div. I and Region  
3-AAAA High School Athletic  
Directors of  
the Year

GA Future Business  
Leaders of America

Brent Osborne

Region 4 Faculty Advisor  
of the Year

## 2023-2024 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 2025 National Teacher of the Year competitions.

Stephanie Harrelson  
Alecia Wiggins  
Suzanne Wubbena  
Joni Chavers  
Christina Grant  
Naketris Hall  
Deborah Conner  
Jennifer Bailey  
DeeDee Thompson  
Kyle Rehm  
Jessica Elmore  
Ashleigh Wright  
Josh Hall  
Nikki Simmons  
Vernetta Staten

Brooklet Elementary  
Julia P. Bryant Elementary  
Langston Chapel Elementary  
Langston Chapel Middle  
Mattie Lively Elementary  
Mill Creek Elementary  
Nevils Elementary  
Portal Elementary  
Portal Middle High  
Sallie Zetterower Elementary  
Southeast Bulloch Middle  
Southeast Bulloch High  
Statesboro High  
Stilson Elementary  
William James Middle

## 2022-2023 Bulloch County Schools Retirees

These 48 retirees devoted a combined total of 1,062 years of service to the children of Bulloch County.

Ann Anderson  
Dianne Anderson  
Terri Beasley  
Joe Bettinger  
Barbara Black  
Carol Brown  
Troy Brown  
Gwendolyn Butler  
Susan Cassedy  
Donna Crosby  
Georgianna Darsey  
Annie Davis  
Dwight Deal  
Regina Days-Bryan  
Michelle Fields  
Ronald Flott

Lynda Harris  
Cynthia Higgins  
Donna Holmes  
Lois Hylow  
Mittie Huff  
Tracey Jackson  
Donna Jarrett  
Angela Jones  
Julia Jones  
Craig Liggett  
Larry Littles  
Pamela Mallard  
Jacqueline Merrill  
Gail Mizelle  
Melissa Murphy  
Cynthia Oliver

Frankie Owens  
Frances Parker  
Debra Phillips  
Lisa Ponder  
Larry Roberts  
Shannon Robertson  
April Rushing  
Donna Samples  
Leslie Schlierf  
Lori Spence  
Sylvia Tremble  
Merri Waters  
Patricia Webb  
Carolyn Wilson  
Willie Whitlock  
Allison Woodard

## Bulloch County Schools Aspiring Leaders Program

Bulloch County Schools' Aspiring Leaders program has selected 21 teachers for its third cohort of leadership development training. Launched in 2016, the program gives teachers the privilege and opportunity to advance their leadership potential. While completion of the program is not a guarantee of being hired for future leadership positions, 23 participants from the previous two cohorts' 39 members have been promoted to serve in school or district administrator positions. Facilitated by Mark Wilson, the lessons focus on the district's core values, developing leadership skills to improve school culture, and fostering communication. All of the school district's more than 800 teachers were given the opportunity to apply for the program.



# BULLOCH COUNTY FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

*A charitable foundation that supports these worthwhile education programs*

REACH GA Scholarships • STAR Student/Teacher • Innovation Grants to Teachers • Teacher of the Year Program



[WWW.BULLOCHSCHOOLS.ORG/FOUNDATION](http://WWW.BULLOCHSCHOOLS.ORG/FOUNDATION)



Each fall the Foundation selects a new cohort of five eighth-grade students to enter Bulloch County's REACH Georgia Scholarship program. As each cohort graduates from high school the Foundation celebrates their success and the REACH scholarships they have earned by successfully maintaining the program's requirements.



As the local underwriting sponsor for the STAR Student/STAR Teacher program in Bulloch County, the Foundation partners with the Statesboro Rotary Club each February to host a luncheon to celebrate the community's STARs from the five participating public and private high schools. The Foundation also sponsors the winning STAR pair's participation in the Region 8 STAR competition and in the state event should they advance.

## Innovation Grants

Since 2006, the Bulloch County Foundation for Public Education (Foundation) has funded nearly 270 innovative teacher grants totaling more than \$340,000 to fund learning experiences for Bulloch County children.

## Charitable Giving

The Foundation provides a way for individuals, businesses, industries and civic organizations to invest in local education programs that benefit public, charter, private and home-schooled students. In addition, the Foundation's two major fundraising campaigns are the Statesboro 5K Turkey Trot and Bulloch County Schools' employee payroll deduction option.

## REACH Georgia Scholarship Program

The Foundation funds Bulloch County School's participation in the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program. It annually provides the required \$5,000 to \$7,500 in seed capital to the state's REACH Georgia Foundation to fund the scholarships for local scholars. As a result, Bulloch County's graduating REACH scholars each receive a \$20K - \$30K scholarship for college in addition to any HOPE scholarship funds for which they are eligible. Since 2013, the Foundation has invested in college scholarships for 51 of the school district's scholars. The first cohorts of these scholars began graduating from college and pursuing their chosen careers in 2022.

## STAR Student / STAR Teacher

The Foundation is the local underwriting sponsor for the Professional Association of Georgia Educators' STAR program. The Foundation's financial support makes this program possible locally for Bulloch County's public, private and charter schools.

## Teacher of the Year Program

The Foundation is one of the main corporate sponsors for Bulloch County Schools' Teacher of the Year program. The Foundation annually provides a \$1,000 grant to the district's teacher of the year.



Members of the Foundation's Board of Trustees visit schools where they have funded innovation grants to see how the programs benefit children. The Foundation funds up to 20 grant requests from teachers each school year.



The Statesboro 5K Turkey Trot is one of the Foundation's major fundraisers. Held annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, it draws more than 300 participants of all ages.



Bulloch County Schools' teacher of the year, finalists, and school-level nominees each receive grants thanks to the Foundation, NFP Insurance Company, and Parker's Fueling the Community Program.



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ANNUAL REPORT  
2023-2024

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