

**Local School
Governance
Team Training**
2025 - 2026



FCS

FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOLS

Floyd County Schools has launched a new strategic plan, focusing on key areas such as student achievement, engagement, communication, culture, operations, and workforce. The strategic plan is a testament to the district's commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in education while creating a positive impact on society by building strong relationships within the community, ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment, and providing diverse pathways to graduation.



Our Mission:

It is the mission of FCS to foster productive citizens through the cornerstones of shared success: Community, Integrity, Trust, & Accountability.

- **Floyd County Schools**

A Georgia Charter System since 2011

grants flexibility, i.e., a broad waiver of most of the mandates in Title 20 (not including accountability and transparency),

adds a layer of accountability by setting performance goals and requiring annual reporting,

requires the establishment of school-level governance teams



Broad Flexibility

- The freedom granted to Charter Systems that allows them to waive most of OCGA Title 20 and State Board of Education Rules/Guidelines
- Broad flexibility is intended to be used in designing and implementing innovations that will advance student achievement and support the school improvement plan and the district strategic plan.

WHY

Charter ?



Laws NOT Included in Broad Flexibility

- ❑ All Federal Laws
- ❑ Federal, state and local laws/rules/guidelines related to:
 - *Civil Rights*
 - *Insurance*
 - *Protection of the physical health and safety of school students, staff and visitors*
 - *Conflicts of interest*
 - *Prevention of unlawful conduct in or near a public school*
 - *Reporting Requirement*
 - *Accountability*



What is Governance?

From the Greek word “kebernon” which means to steer and influence from a position of authority.

As an LSGT member you may influence decisions regarding:

- *Personnel*
- *Finance*
- *Curriculum and Instruction*
- *School Improvement Goals*
- *School Operations*

Schools within a charter system remain under the control and management of the Local Board of Education.

The superintendent and the Local Board of Education may give consideration to the recommendations and input of LSGT’S. The Local Board of Education retains its constitutional authority.

Elections

School elections should take place by September 1 of each year.

- Parent members are elected by parents and guardians.
- Teacher/staff members are elected by colleagues.
- Business/Community members are recommended to the council by the principal. The LSGT votes on these recommendations.
- Terms are for 2 years.

LSGT Responsibilities:

- Focus on Governance, not management
- Recommend innovations and provide input on various school level decisions
- Participate in the hiring process of the principal in the event of a vacancy.

Team Member Expectations:

- Be punctual
- Be prepared
- Respectful
- Remain focused on student success
- Act as an ambassador for your school and community

Important Information for LSGT Members

Obligations

- ❑ *Follow Bylaws*
- ❑ *Complete Training Requirements*
- ❑ *Abide by state open meetings requirements*
- ❑ *Maintain confidentiality*
 - *Information regarding economic status, program or service participation, achievement or behavior of individual students is federally protected and not accessible to any LSGT member.*
 - *Any information regarding individual employee performance or personnel action is considered confidential and is not accessible to any LSGT member.*
- ❑ *Avoid Conflicts of Interest*
 - *No favors to self or family, represent all students, recuse from vote or discussion if in conflict.*

LSGT Code of Ethics...

- Respect the chain of command
- Do not provide direction to staff or influence staffing decisions unless officially designated to be part of the process
- Represent all students
- Be informed about matters before the LSGT
- Focus on facts
- Communicate community issues to the principal
- Participate in training and attend meetings
- Work collaboratively with others
- Speak with one voice
- Remember individual LSGT members have no authority
- Act as a mandated reporter
- Follow the Code of Ethics as an LSGT member

LSGT Scope

- Consider matters that:
 - Align with the school improvement plan
 - Align with budget and resource allocation priorities
 - Focus on and positively affect the overall student population, staff and the school – be an ambassador
 - Consider matters that promote a positive school climate, strong communication and the involvement of stakeholders
 - Recognize and celebrate successes
 - Provide input to the superintendent on principal selection when needed
 - Don't relate to evaluation, termination or promotion of individual school personnel
 - Don't provide direction to staff members
 - Participate in staff selection interviews when needed

Mandated Reporter at a glance...



Georgia Mandated Reporter Law

- All school district employees are mandated reporters.
- Employees may make a direct referral to DFCS, however according to state law, a staff member who makes a report to the "person in charge of the facility" (i.e. principal or assistant principal) or their delegate has complied with the reporting requirement.
- DFCS must always be immediately notified, and by Georgia law no later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused.

Local School Coordinating Council (LSCC)

- An additional level in the Floyd County School's Governance model is the Local School Coordinating Council (LSCC).
- Five times during the school year, representatives from each school LSGT are invited to attend meetings either in person or virtually with the Superintendent and Directors at the central level.
- Updates regarding instruction and student achievement, safety, maintenance and operations and other topics are provided.
- Questions and discussions are encouraged!



Personnel at a glance...

- As an LSGT member, you may be asked to be part of the interview process for potential staff members. Please always follow the Principal's instructions.
- As an LSGT member, in the event of a vacancy, our Superintendent may ask for your input regarding characteristics and/or qualities for potential candidates to fill the position.

Finance at a glance...

Georgia public schools are primarily funded by local property taxes and state funds distributed through the Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act. Local governments provide around 43% of funds, with the state contributing about 40% through the QBE formula, which uses a per-student, weighted-funding model to account for different programs and student needs. The remaining funding comes from federal sources for specific programs, such as special education or child nutrition. The goal is to level the playing field.

Federal Funding

*State Grant
Programs*

Charter

QBE Funding

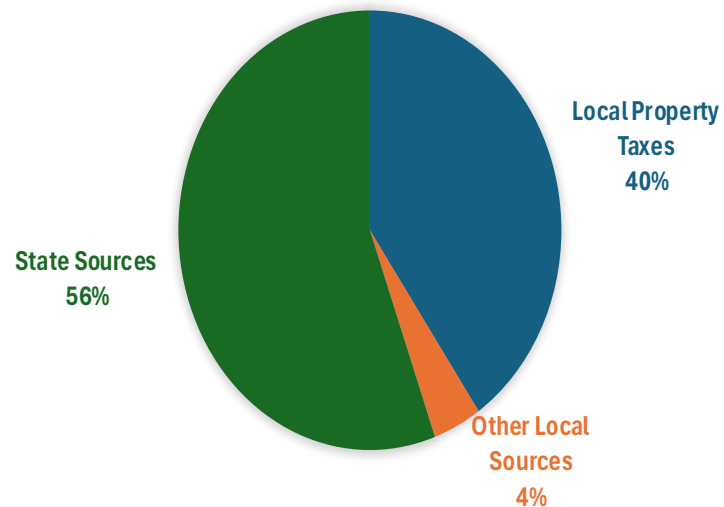
Community Based

School Based

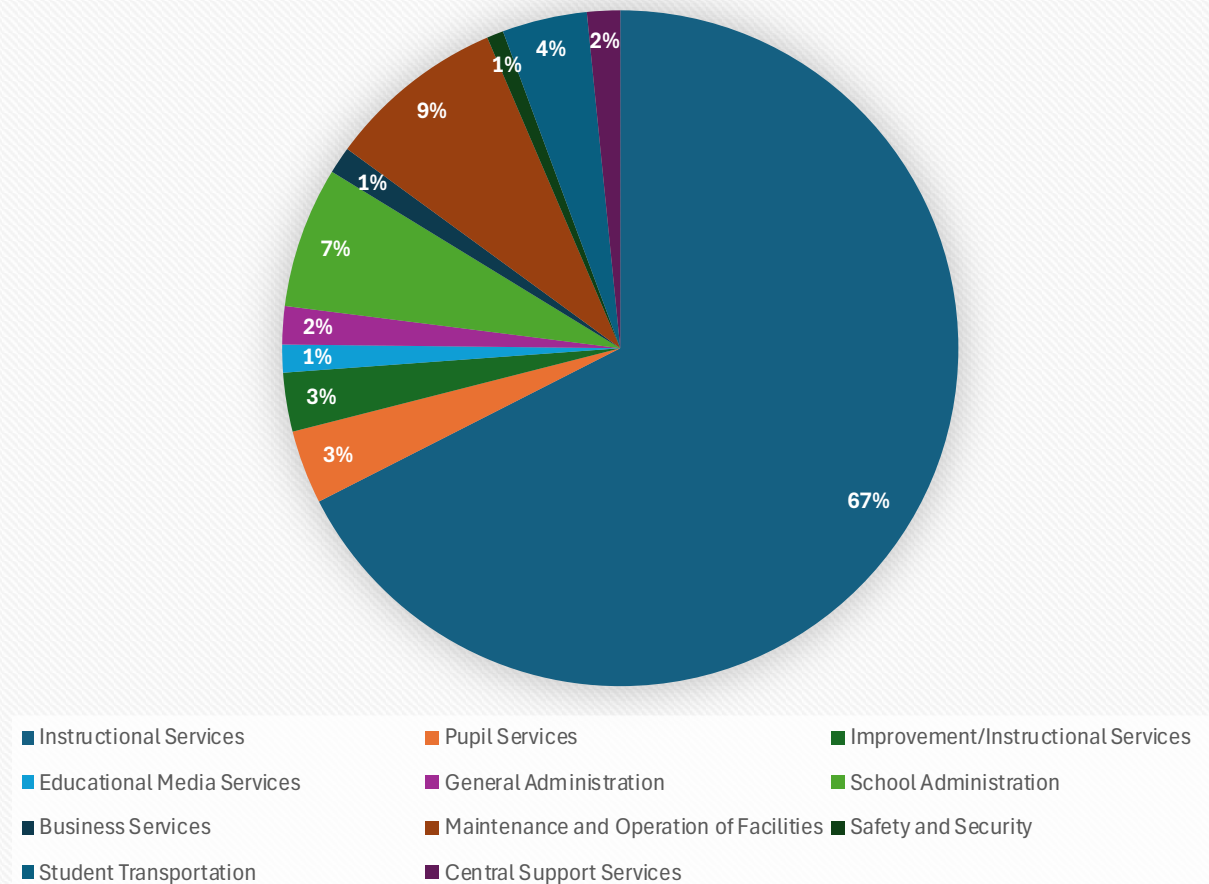
Floyd County Schools ...

State and local funding...

FY2025 ACTUAL REVENUE



FY2025 Actual Expenditures



School Taxes at a glance

How Are School Taxes Calculated in Georgia?

School taxes are calculated using this formula:

Property Value × Assessment Rate – Exemptions × Millage Rate = School Tax

Step-by-Step:

1. Property Assessment

- Fair market value is determined by the county tax assessor.
- Georgia's assessment rate is 40% of the market value.
- Example: \$100,000 market value × 40% = \$40,000 assessed value.

2. Apply Exemptions

- Exemptions, like the Homestead Exemption, reduce taxable value.
- Example: \$40,000 assessed value – \$2,000 exemption = \$38,000 taxable value.

3. Apply Millage Rate

- Millage rate is set by the Board of Education (1 mill = \$1 per \$1,000 taxable value).
- Floyd County Schools' proposed millage rate is 16.835.
- Example: \$38,000 taxable value × 0.016835 = \$639.73 school tax.

Key Points:

- Millage rates can't exceed 20 mills without voter approval.

- Wealthier areas generate more revenue; Georgia provides grants to support less affluent districts.
- Floyd County Schools is lowering the millage rate from 17.141 to 16.835 to reduce taxpayer burden. (2025)

Thanks to Brooke Brumblelow!

Federal Funding at a glance...

Federal funding provides approximately 16% of the total revenue for public schools in Georgia, with the rest coming from state and local taxes. This federal money is funneled through the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to local school districts in the form of targeted grants for specific student populations and needs, as mandated by federal education laws.

Federal Funding continued...

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA funds are distributed to help states and school districts provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for children with disabilities. This includes funding for special education services, early intervention for infants and toddlers, and other supports

McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth. This program provides support and services to address the barriers that homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

Child Nutrition Programs. Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, these programs include the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, which provide meals to students.

Title I, Part A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged. This is the largest source of federal funding for K–12 schools. It provides financial assistance to schools with high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure all students meet state academic standards

Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction. Funding from Title II is used to improve the quality of teachers and school leaders. Grants support professional development, recruitment, and retention initiatives for school staff.

Title III, Part A: Language Instruction for English Learners. This program provides supplementary services and activities for English Learner (EL) and immigrant students and their teachers. It supports programs that help students gain proficiency in English

Governance Structure

LSGT

- Provide input into and may approve school budget
- Provide input and may approve personnel recommendations
- Provide assistance in principal selection

FCBOE

- Determines system budget
- Approves personnel
- Approves policies

Superintendent

- Develops system budget
- Selects and directs system personnel

Principal

- Develops School Budget
- Recommends, manages and evaluates school personnel

School Staff

- Instructs and supports students



School Governance Team Quality Standards

School Governance Team composition represents the diversity of the community

Meets regularly and complies with Open Records and Open Meetings Laws

LSGT adheres to governance and not management

LSGT exercises its school level governance responsibilities

Receives regular updates on academic, operational and financial progress of the school and system.

Participates in LSGT training annually

Source: GA Dept. of Ed.



**School is a building which has
four walls with tomorrow inside.**
– Lon Watters

...the idea that schools are not just physical structures but places where the future is shaped. Within these walls, students learn, grow, and prepare to become the leaders and innovators of tomorrow, highlighting the transformative power of education.

Questions? Comments?

Thank you for dedicating your time to our children!

Sherry Childs –Fine Arts/ Charter Liaison

schilds@floydboe.net

Brooke Brumblelow - Public Relations

brookbrumblelow@floydboe.net

