



2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PRIORITIZE EDUCATION FUNDING and STRENGTHEN TEACHER PIPELINE

- Support local legislation that would stabilize the tax digest growth for homeowners in Cherokee County by establishing a cap to annual residential property value growth derived from the historical/30-year tax digest data that has been essential to delivering a quality education to students in Cherokee.
- Establish comparable academic and financial accountability and reporting transparency for schools accepting public funds through vouchers
- Consider making safety/security grants and funding for strengthening cybersecurity a permanent, formula-based categorical grant in QBE
- Continue and expand the new investments in lowering counselor and school psychologist ratios
- Continue and expand the new investments in transportation to close the gap between state and local expenditures
- Support expansion of existing and emerging statewide teacher pipeline initiatives and preserve continued investment in TRS to attract and retain high quality teachers in Georgia
- Increase teacher compensation, allowing local revenue to offset State-required employer health premium increases
- Maintain local School Board responsibility and authority as denoted in the State Constitution (e.g., establishing appropriate millage rates)
- Maintain existing requirements relative to Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) expenditures

ENHANCE ACADEMICS & ACCOUNTABILITY, EDUCATIONAL & WORK-FORCE OPPORTUNITIES, and FORTIFY LOCAL CONTROL & GOVERNANCE

- Maintain strong accountability systems for effective schools and refrain from requiring additional unfunded academic investments at the local level
- Provide high school students with diploma choices and allow completion special schools to admit students under the age of 18
- Support legislation which promotes local School Board control of local district decisions
- Eliminate schools as polling places
- Maintain sovereign immunity provisions for School Boards/school districts



Cherokee County
School District

Summary of categorical gaps in State funding vs. cost to deliver services FY2025

CATEGORY	STATE FUNDS	LOCAL FUNDS	TOTAL
Student Transportation	\$10,996,881	\$21,326,613	\$32,323,494
School Nurses	\$997,440*	\$2,556,980*	\$3,554,420*
Safety and Security	\$2,398,861	\$3,811,989	\$6,210,850
Teacher Compensation	\$142,503,230*	\$77,761,626*	\$220,264,856*
Pre-K	\$2,143,561	\$4,994,005	\$7,158,676
Benefits	\$100,493,480	\$76,826,877	\$177,341,467
Special Education	\$53,053,923	\$29,811,963	\$82,865,886
Technology/Hardware/Software	\$2,746,557	\$20,273,639	\$23,020,196
TOTALS	\$315,333,933	\$237,363,692	\$552,739,845

* Does not include benefits, training or materials. Salary figures only are represented.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Janet Read Welch, Chair
 Patsy Jordan, Vice Chair/District 2
 Kelly Poole, District 1
 Chance Beam, District 3
 Robert Rechsteiner, District 4
 Erin Ragsdale, District 5
 Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, District 6

Mary Elizabeth Davis,
 Superintendent



Cherokee
 County
 School
 District

CHEROKEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

SENATE

DISTRICT 21 Jason Dickerson
 DISTRICT 32 Kay Kirkpatrick
 DISTRICT 56 John Albers

HOUSE

DISTRICT 11 Rick Jasperse
 DISTRICT 14 Mitchell Scoggins
 DISTRICT 20 Charlice Byrd
 DISTRICT 21 Brad Thomas
 DISTRICT 22 Jordan Ridley
 DISTRICT 23 vacant
 DISTRICT 44 Don Parsons
 DISTRICT 46 John Carson
 DISTRICT 47 Jan Jones