

March 24, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dublin City Schools
Ms. Marcee Pool, Interim Superintendent
207 Shamrock Dr.
Dublin, GA 31021
marcee.pool@dcsirish.com

Dear Interim Superintendent Pool,

This letter serves as notification that the Georgia Department of Education is pulling all dedicated staff assigned to serve Dublin City Schools (specifically, the Special Advisor and Financial Review Consultant currently serving the district full-time) from those assignments, effective April 3.

The Department has gone above and beyond its statutory responsibilities to support Dublin City Schools, exhausting all options to restore financial stability and ensure the impact of past financial mismanagement did not fall disproportionately on students, teachers, or taxpayers. However, it has become clear that there is a misalignment of priorities between Dublin City Schools' board and district leadership and the Department of Education.

This was made especially evident last night, when the local board of education voted to maintain tens of thousands of dollars in supplements to athletic coaches and prioritized protecting leadership compensation while continuing to furlough classroom teachers.

It has become a pattern for Dublin City Schools to disregard advice provided by the Department of Education regarding program and budget reductions, even when those recommendations are made to protect classroom instruction and minimize the impact on teachers while balancing the district's budget. That is the district's prerogative given Georgia's constitutional structure of local control but, at this point, we are concerned the district is unwilling to make the changes needed to balance its FY27 budget.

It has always been the Department's goal to provide stability for the teachers and students of Dublin City Schools and avoid harsh transitions mid-school year. When the Department began providing full-time support to Dublin City, the situation was dire, and substantial reductions were necessary – along with advanced QBE funds – to stabilize the district's finances. At this point, the



goal of continuing district operations through the 2025-26 school year has been accomplished, and I appreciate your assistance in making that possible.

Our staff has also made recommendations to ensure balanced budgets for FY27 and FY28. However, recent local board actions have added hundreds of thousands of dollars to the FY27 projected budget, in direct conflict with the Department's recommendations.

I must be completely frank with you: we no longer have confidence that the current leadership of Dublin City Schools is willing to make the decisions necessary to balance the district's FY27 and FY28 budgets. We are raising these issues now because we believe the district has done extensive work to regain its financial footing – but we are also concerned that a return to past patterns has begun.

While we will no longer place dedicated staff in Dublin City Schools full-time, the Department of Education will continue to provide service and support as we do for all school districts. This includes training and guidance for the district's permanent Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, once they are hired. If and when we see evidence of the local board of education's willingness to make the decisions necessary to balance the district's budget, we are amenable to restoring the presence of full-time staff support.

The Department will continue to follow all current and future laws to support district finances and operations and, as I have stated throughout this letter, the students, educators, and families of Dublin City Schools remain our top priority. We remain committed to ensuring they are supported, recognizing the difficult reality that our ability to do so is directly impacted – and in some cases, impeded – by decisions made at the local level.

Our staff will be in touch within the week to develop a transition plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Woods". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Richard Woods
State School Superintendent