Bulloch County Schools

ANNUAL REPORT

2026-2027









PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS & ENHANCING COMMUNITY VALUE

BULLOCH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



VOTING DISTRICT 1
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 – 12/31/2030



VOTING DISTRICT 3
Jennifer C. Mock
jcmock@bullochschools.org
912.225.6101 (W)
Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/28



VOTING DISTRICT 4
Donna Clifton
dclifton@bullochschools.org
912.536.3466 (H)
1/1/2023 – 12/31/2030



VOTING DISTRICT 5
Glennera Martin
gmartinsugarhill@yahoo.com
912.531.1332 (C)
Term: 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2030



VOTING DISTRICT 6
Jimmy "Jay" Cook, Jr.
jlcook@bullochschools.org
912.512.3796 (H)
Term: 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2026

BOARD MEMBER-ELECT
Sharon Draeger
Term: 1/1/2027 – 12/31/30



VOTING DISTRICT 7
Lisha Nevil
lnevil@bullochschools.org
912.682.4014
Term: 1/1/25 – 12/31/28



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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Visit **bullochschools.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 **bullochschools.org/board**, 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**.



SCAN HERE

TO VIEW OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Welcome, Dr. Torian White!

The Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. White as our school district's superintendent of schools on June 11, 2026, and he officially began his service on July 1.

One District - One Vision - One Bulloch

As Superintendent, it is my honor to serve alongside a dedicated Board of Education, committed employees, supportive families, and community partners who share a common goal: preparing students for success.

Bulloch County is blessed with many strengths, including outstanding community partnerships, thriving businesses and industries, institutions of higher learning, healthcare providers, and a rich tradition of service. Yet our greatest resource remains the nearly 11,000 students who enter our schools each day.

We believe our students are capable of remarkable things, and it is our responsibility to provide the support, opportunities, and learning experiences that help them reach their fullest potential. Our work is rooted in a simple belief:

> "Every student deserves the opportunity to discover their strengths and develop the knowledge and skills needed for the future path they choose."

From Pre-K through graduation, we are committed to preparing students for their postsecondary goals, whether through employment, enlistment in military service, or enrollment in a technical college or university.

Our Board of Education is committed to providing safe, supportive learning environments where students are challenged, encouraged, and known. Through responsible planning and careful stewardship of resources, the Board helps ensure our teachers, support staff, and leaders have the tools they need to serve students well.

The excellence of Bulloch County Schools is built each day by the people who serve children. Together, we will continue building on a strong foundation while creating even greater opportunities for students and families.

Thank you for your support of public education and for the trust you place in our schools.

In Service,

Dr. Torian White
Superintendent of Schools

Georgia Department of Education

Statesboro High School

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STEM & STEM ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL

Georgia Department of Education

Brooklet Elementary & Nevils Elementary

TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

Georgia Department of Education

Mattie Lively Elementary & Julia P. Bryant Elementary

TITLE I REWARD SCHOOLS

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)
- Cedarwood (GNETS – 4-12)

FACULTY & STAFF

- **2,700+** Total full-time, part-time, contracted services, seasonal and substitute employees
- **998** Certified Faculty
- Bulloch County's **2nd** Largest Employer

TRANSPORTATION

- **115** School Bus Routes
- **125** drivers, **33** bus monitors, and **7** mechanics make up our driving force
- **5,700+** student bus riders; Ride 2x daily
- **6,300** miles bus drivers travel each day
- **1.5** million miles bus drivers travel annually
- Drivers conduct daily pre-route and post-route bus inspections
- Every **20** days buses are serviced & inspected by a qualified mechanic







SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

- All students receive free breakfast
- **12** 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.
- **78.48%** of the school district's **10,841** students qualified for free or reduced-price school meals
- Bulloch County ranks **75th** out of Georgia's 159 counties for children with the lack of consistent access to food in order to live an active healthy life
- **1,802,238** total meals were served to students in 2025-2026
- **55,828** total meals were served during the summer of 2025

PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES *(Fiscal Year)*

2021:	$9,673.54
2022:	$10,993.00
2023:	$12,799.68
2024:	$14,082.30
2025:	$14,848.25

2025 SCHOOL MILLAGE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Bulloch:	10.400
Bryan:	14.663
Candler:	13.987
Chatham:	17.331
Effingham:	18.450
Emanuel:	11.735
Evans:	11.919
Jenkins:	12.906

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.

Georgia Department of Education

Nevils & Portal Elementary Schools

Southeast Bulloch Middle School

LITERACY LEADER SCHOOLS

Georgia Department of Education

Mattie Lively Elementary School

Portal, Southeast Bulloch & William James Middle Schools

MATH LEADER SCHOOLS

Georgia Department of Education

Bulloch County Schools School Nutrition Services

GEORGIA FARM TO SCHOOL AWARD

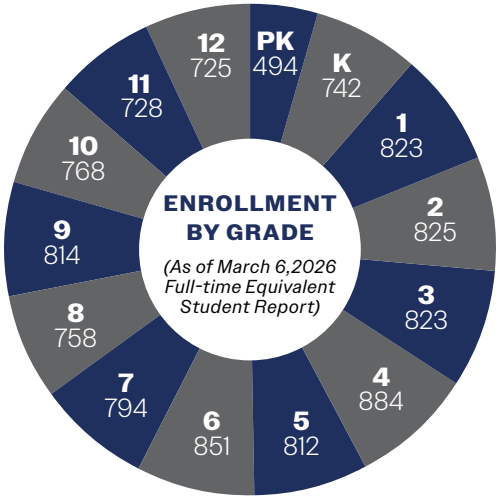
BULLOCH COUNTY SCHOOLS AT-A-GLANCE

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE & SAFETY

- **3,681** Total discipline incidents
- **0%** of incidents involved weapons; No guns
- **1%** of incidents involved drugs/alcohol
- **6%** of incidents involved vapes
- **5%** of incidents were attendance related
- **71%** of incidents involved harm to person
- **1,620** Students involved in incidents
- **29.5%** Led to out-of-school suspension
- **42.9%** Led to in-school suspension
- **1.1%** Led to expulsion
- **0.3%** Expulsion rate
- **8.4%** In-School Suspension Rate
- **6.0%** Out-of-School Suspension Rate
- **72.7%** of incidents involved males
- **27.3%** of incidents involved females

STUDENT SUPPORT PROVIDERS

School Social Workers for District: 4
School Psychologists: 6
School Counselors (Full-Time): 27
School Resource Officers: 12
School Safety Director: 1









TOTAL STUDENTS ENROLLED

- **11,428**
- **85.5%** Economically Disadvantaged Students
- **16.4%** Students with Disabilities
- **4.2%** Students receive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services
- **11.8%** Students receive Gifted Services

STUDENT MOBILITY RATE

- **16.5%** District Average

STUDENT DIVERSITY

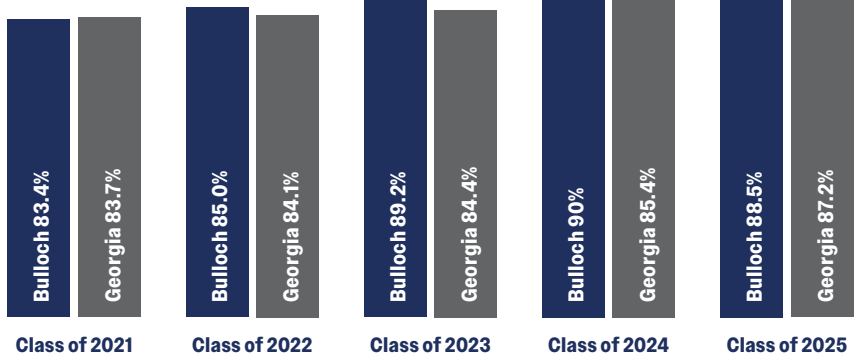
- **24** Nationalities
- **18** Languages
- **45.7%** Caucasian
- **38.6%** Black
- **8.8%** Hispanic
- **1.8%** Asian/Pacific Islander
- **0.2%** American Indian
- **4.9%** More than one race

ACCOUNTABILITY DATA

Bulloch County Schools seeks to provide transparency and access to important information about the performance and progress of the school district and each of its schools. It is our goal to remain compliant with all federal education accountability requirements of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* and with state requirements to report student achievement, school climate, and financial efficiency data. In collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, we provide a data dashboard on our website to help you better engage with the education of our community's children. **Find it at bullochschools.org/data.**



FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE



CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION RATES

	Overall Graduation Rate (4-Year & 5-Year Avg.)	Advanced Academics	Career Pathways	Fine Arts
Portal	92.1%	100%	100%	100%
Southeast Bulloch	92.3%	100%	97.70%	100%
Statesboro	86.6%	99.28%	97.94%	100%
Bulloch	89.1%	99.64%	98.06%	100%
Georgia	87.2%	99.70%	98.45%	98.29%

Graduation rates for students who are enrolled in either advanced academic, career pathway, or fine arts courses.

742

Number of Class of 2025 graduates; **344 of whom (47.12%)** were eligible for Georgia's HOPE Scholarships.

422

Number of graduates from the Class of 2025 who enrolled in a post-secondary institution within 16 months of graduation.

2.6%

Dropout Rate for Grades 9-12 (89 Students)

ACT

The Class of 2025 had 50 test takers.
Composite Score Avg.:
Bulloch: 19.8
Georgia: 21.4
United States: 19.4

SAT

The Class of 2025 had 209 test takers.
Mean Score Avg.:
Bulloch: 1074
Georgia: 1029
United States: 996

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION RATE BY DEMOGRAPHIC SUBGROUPS

Black	White	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	Students w/ Disabilities	Economically Disadvantaged	Homeless
87.7%	90.6%	83.1%	80.7%	76.3%	88.9%	60.6%

2025 GEORGIA COLLEGE & CAREER READY PERFORMANCE INDEX

Overall CCRPI Score: Georgia 78.6; Bulloch County 73.5

	Content Mastery	Progress	Closing Learning Gaps	Readiness	Overall CCRPI	Climate Star Rating
GA Elementary Schools	68.0	86.1	75.0	84.1	78.6	n/a
Bulloch Elementary Schools	64.2	83.8	59.6	83.0	74.1	n/a
Brooklet	86.8	94.3	23.7	90.6	80.7	4.25
Julia P. Bryant	69.7	81.0	73.3	85.0	77.3	4.25
Langston Chapel	35.4	64.6	21.1	74.2	51.2	3.25
Mattie Lively	58.8	78.4	39.5	80.9	67.2	4
Mill Creek	44.3	61.6	38.2	77.5	56.1	2.50
Nevils	81.2	84.6	71.9	89.0	82.6	4.75
Portal	73.2	93.1	67.9	84.1	81.6	4.0
Sallie Zetterower	54.2	88.3	92.9	80.1	77.1	3.75
Stilson	65.8	91.2	100	83.0	83.3	4.0
GA Middle Schools	65.6	83.1	86.3	83.2	78.4	n/a
Bulloch Middle Schools	61.1	80.4	80.4	80.5	74.9	n/a
Langston Chapel	45.4	79.5	42.9	75.7	63.0	3.0
Portal Middle	60.7	71.4	72.2	80.5	74.4	3.50
Southeast Bulloch	74.7	85.6	51.7	84.4	77.0	4.0
William James	59.1	84.1	97.9	80.2	77.9	3
GA High Schools	69.2	82.2	71.8	75.4	76.9	n/a
Bulloch High Schools	61.4	76.1	53.5	76.7	71.5	n/a
Portal High	61.2	82.5	90.6	76.7	74.4	3.50
Southeast Bulloch	77.1	77.8	21.4	82.6	73.0	3.50
Statesboro	55.2	73.5	83.3	69.3	70.3	2.75

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 most recent 2025 CCRPI results. New results are released each October.

READING PROFICIENCY

- **66.67% of Elementary Students Read on Grade Level or Above**
- **64.70% of Middle School Students Read on Grade Level or Above**
- **63.76% of High School Students Read on Grade Level or Above**

Proficiency is reading on or above grade level and above the Lexile midpoint. Studies show that children who are not reading on grade level by the end of 2nd grade are likely to stay behind grade level through 5th grade. This severely limits their ability to read for content and comprehension across all subjects.

GEORGIA SUPPORT & IMPROVEMENT SCHOOLS

- In 2026, no schools in the Bulloch County School System were added to Georgia's lists of Comprehensive or Targeted Support Schools.
- In 2024, Langston Chapel Elementary School and Stilson Elementary School were placed on the state's Additional Targeted Support and Improvement List (ATSI). This status will continue for three years, until the fall of 2026, when the state will re-evaluate the schools for possible removal. The schools received this designation due to the performance of their students with disabilities in grades 3–5 on the Spring 2023 Georgia Milestones Assessment System. Both schools continue to benefit from targeted, data-driven support provided by the school district and the Georgia Department of Education. These efforts aim to improve academic outcomes and address the needs of the identified student subgroups.



CAREER READY BULLOCH HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL CAREER WORKFORCE SUMMIT

EVENT CONNECTS EDUCATORS WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Bulloch County School's College & Career Program, Career Ready Bulloch, invited local leaders and educators, business owners, and industry partners to connect at the 5th Annual Career Workforce Summit on January 21, 2026, at the Jack Hill Building on the campus of Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro. The annual summit serves as a premier opportunity for community stakeholders to network and collaborate on building a robust local talent pipeline.



GEORGIA LAUNCHES NEW WORK-BASED LEARNING DIPLOMA

OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS WHO PLAN TO ENTER HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

The Georgia Department of Education announced in June 2026, that it is launching a new Work-Based Learning Diploma for students who plan to directly enter high-demand careers right after graduation. The new diploma maintains Georgia's 23-credit graduation requirement while creating a pathway for students to complete focused Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) coursework and extensive work-based learning experiences aligned to high-demand careers. Students pursuing the diploma will complete two High Demand CTAE or Academic Career Pathways and at least four work-based learning courses in a paid position connected to one of the pathways.



FIRST ANNUAL ADMINISTRATOR INDUSTRY BUS TOUR

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT LOCAL EMPLOYERS

Bulloch County School's College & Career Program, Career Ready Bulloch, hosted its inaugural bus tour for school administrators in June 2026. The leaders toured two local manufacturers: Briggs & Stratton and SECO Ecoplastics. It was an opportunity to network with industry partners who employ our graduates and learn more about modern manufacturing practices and skills. The Development Authority of Bulloch County also spoke with the group during a working lunch. "Strong workforce development can't happen in isolation," said Bethany Gilliam, director of Career, Technical & Agricultural Education for Bulloch County Schools. "Collaborating with local employers helps us build a highly educated, skilled, and efficient workforce."

13
Career Clusters

34
Career Pathways

1,491
students taking at least one CTAE course at one high school

98.06%
CTAE Graduation Rate

1,321
student members of Career Technical Student Organizations

78%
passed End of Pathway Assessment

CAREER READY BULLOCH
COLLEGE & CAREER PROGRAM

461
pathway completers

WORK-BASED LEARNING

392
students served

$2,120,282
student earnings

338
employer sites

199,965
hours worked

345
partnerships

609
participants in Dual Enrollment

DISCOVERY EVENTS

9
events

1,338
students

23
event partners

44
Identified as Accelerated Career Diploma students

Want to get involved?

STUDENT SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS

EIGHT STUDENTS COMPLETE YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

During the 2025-2026 school year, eight students completed the Youth Apprenticeship Program. They each logged a minimum of 720 hours of hands-on work at job sites directly related to their career goals. They also earned an industry-recognized credential. We appreciate these students and our industry partners who mentored them: **Bradley Brown**, H3 Home Services, LLC; **Abbie Cowart**, Serenity Day Spa & Salon; **Aries Dalgo**, Pittman Park Educational Center; **Garrett Hickman**, Cartee Construction & Utilities; **Hayden Harville**, Waters Family Farms; **Collan Hitchcock**, Will Anderson Farms; **Erica Sirmans**, Bulloch County Recreation & Parks Afterschool Program; and **Blaine Akin**, Watts Up.



SALLIE ZETTEROWER ELEMENTARY PRE-K STUDENT WINS MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Jentry Evans, a Pre-Kindergarten student at Sallie Zetterower Elementary School, is one of only four state winners of the 2026 Georgia Path2College 529 Savings Account Sweepstakes. Nominated by her mother, who is a Pre-K teacher at the school, Jentry received $1,529 deposited into a Path2College 529 savings account. Sallie Zetterower's Pre-Kindergarten program also received $1,529.

71 GRADUATES RECEIVE CAREER READY DIPLOMA SEALS

The Class of 2026 had 71 graduates who secured official state credentials by earning Career Ready Diploma Seals for Leadership Skills and Distinguished Career Pathway Skills. These seals bestowed by the State of Georgia are awarded to high school students who engage in activities, courses, and experiences that foster career readiness. And further prove they are ready to be enrolled, enlisted, or employed. Ten students earned Leadership Skills Seals, and 61 earned Distinguished Pathway Skills Seals.

TWO BULLOCH COUNTY STUDENTS SELECTED FOR STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Two Bulloch County high school students were selected to serve on the State Superintendent's Advisory Council during the 2025-2026 school year. Gracie Autry of Portal Middle High School and Ella Faye Rountree of Southeast Bulloch High School are two of just 79 students who were selected from a pool of 1,235 applicants statewide to serve on the prestigious council. Throughout the academic year, the duo traveled to Atlanta to meet with State School Superintendent Richard Woods, acted as ambassadors for their schools and provided direct feedback on how state education policies impact local classrooms.



CHARLIE'ANN ALDRICH
Southeast Bulloch High School
S.E. Region Work-Based Learning Student of the Year
Georgia Association for Career & Technical Education



JAYDON LUKE
Statesboro High School
2026 Emerging Farmer of the Year
Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce



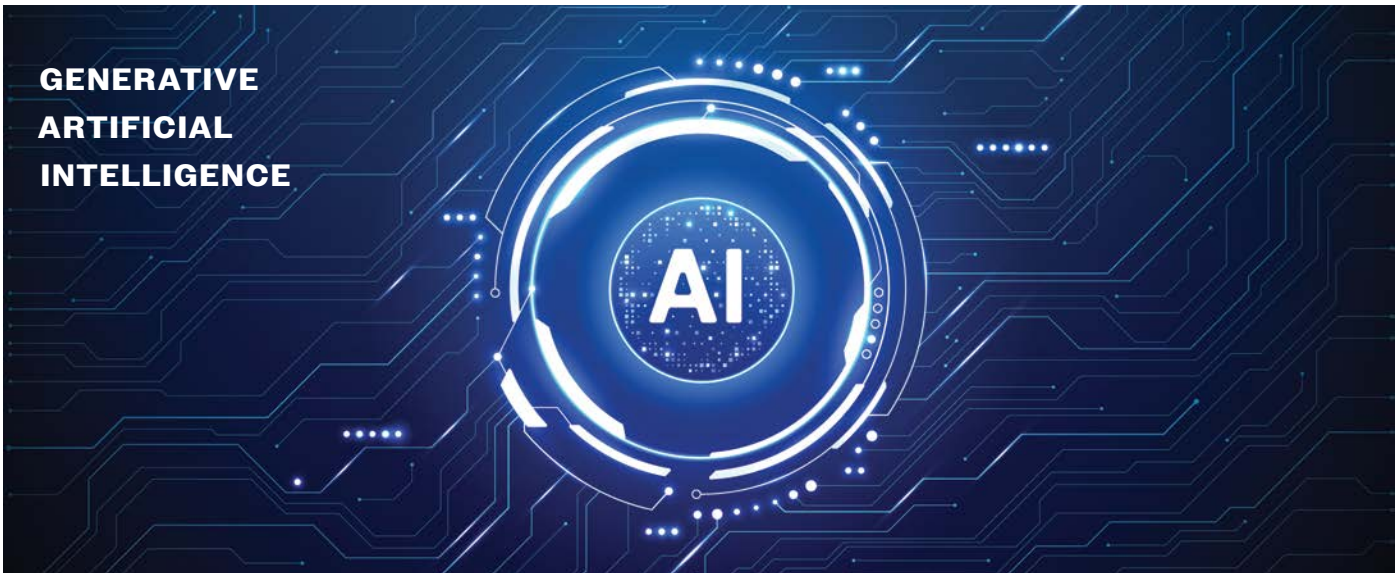
GREYSON HITCHCOCK
Southeast Bulloch High School
Heavy Equipment Operators Dozer School Champion & State Champion Runner-up
Georgia Highway Contractors Association



KAMRYN WILLIAMS
Southeast Bulloch High School
Elected 2026-2027 State FCCLA President
Georgia Family, Career and Community Leaders of America



KATIELYN YATES
Portal Middle High School
Elected Central Region Area 4 FFA Vice President
Georgia FFA Association



BULLOCH LAUNCHES GENERATIVE AI FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

TEACHER-GUIDED AI LEARNING ADDED FOR GRADES 9 TO 12; GOAL IS TO EXTEND TO MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Bulloch County Schools has expanded its use of digital resources by adding access to Generative Artificial Intelligence, known as Gen AI, for high school students. The goal is to extend it to middle grades in Fiscal Year 2027.

The implementation is limited to two Gen AI tools: Google Gemini and Notebook Language Model (LM). Each is housed within the protected online space, like a "walled garden," of the school district's Google App Suite of learning tools with which students are already safe and familiar.

"Gen AI is a specific kind of AI technology that focuses only on creating new, original things such as text, images, video, audio and software code," said Teresa Phillips, the school district's assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, who put together an extensive district-wide team of teachers, principals, technology administrators, and support staff who worked toward this launch goal for two years. "Gen AI will always work best when partnered with human skills, so we prioritized AI-readiness for both staff and students to guide its safe and effective use," Phillips added.

The district acknowledges that the technology is new, so it's important teachers, parents, and students work together to become good digital citizens of its use. Just as previous generations learned to use computers, the internet and email to help them be more successful, we now must responsibly teach Gen AI to students as this era's resource tool.

"This means we are all learning how to use Gen AI as a helpful tool while always staying in charge of and accountable for what we create and use," said Phillips. "By teaching these skills, we will help students be better prepared for future jobs where knowing how to use technology wisely and ethically will be a superpower."

Student safety is Bulloch County Schools' top priority. The school district's use of a "walled garden" approach with the digital learning tools it uses helps ensure employees and students remain in compliance with federal and state laws, school board policies and the student code of conduct.

"Keeping personal information safe and private is our most important job," said Phillips. "The time we've taken to plan this launch and train our teachers first, will help us better model for students how to protect personal privacy and spot any unfair biases a Gen AI program may generate."

The school district teaches students to question what they see and learn on other digital platforms like the internet and social media, so it wants to teach them to question what Gen AI tells them as well, so that they become smarter researchers and better problem-solvers who double-check everything to make sure it is true and fair.

Students are being taught to view Gen AI as a "thought partner" and "brainstorming buddy" rather than a replacement for thinking. Teachers are communicating clear academic expectations which helps students understand when and how it's appropriate to use Gen AI for an assignment.

"Our students are being taught to use Gen AI to expand their ideas while learning the essential habit of citing their sources accurately," Phillips added.

High school students have access to Gemini and NotebookLM at school, as well as at home through their student Google accounts. The school district flags any misuse at either location. Parents are encouraged to engage with these tools at home with their child.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

If families have any further questions or concerns about the launch of Gen AI in Bulloch County Schools, please email them to **webster@bullochschools.org**. Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at **bullochschools.org/GenAI** or scan the QR code.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION HELPS LAUNCH PROJECT SEARCH

NATIONAL PROGRAM EMPOWERS YOUNG ADULT STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Project SEARCH, a national program empowering young adult students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve competitive employment in our community, launched in Bulloch County Schools in the 2025 to 2026 school year.

Thanks to a partnership between Bulloch County Schools, Georgia Southern University, and Statesboro High School the program successfully served its first six students. The school district plans to expand the program to Portal and Southeast Bulloch high schools and increase the number of available intern spaces and work sites.

Project SEARCH is designed as a one-year program that serves special education students, known as interns, who are ages 19 to 22 and in their final year of high school. It equips interns with the essential skills needed for community employment. The program is housed in classroom space provided by Georgia Southern's College of Education and is led by Jessica Elmore, a well-respected and passionate special education teacher in the school district, with assistance from Bernice Joiner, a paraprofessional and skills trainer.

"This is the most fulfilled that I have ever been in my career," shared Elmore, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in special education and has served for 22 years as an educator.

Program interns must have an individualized education plan and parent permission to participate. The Project SEARCH school year is structured into three 10-week sessions. During these sessions, interns rotate through various work sites, which were initially established on the Georgia Southern campus. Interns work from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, followed by an additional hour with Mrs. Elmore to discuss job skills and challenges.

Georgia Southern has established a range of work-based learning sites that provide opportunities in clerical, food service, customer service, document scanning, custodial, event set-up and scheduling, library services, and inventory control. Elmore strategically places interns, coordinating closely with site supervisors to help develop specific skills for each individual. Beyond technical skills, the program



heavily focuses on critical "soft skills" for employment, such as communication, physical stamina, time management, and even navigating the university's campus bus system and mobile app.

Bulloch County Schools plans to expand the program to serve 10 internship spaces and partner with 10 to 15 work sites in the community and on Georgia Southern's campus, providing more young adults with a path toward competitive employment and community integration.



COMMUNITY VOTES TO EXTEND E-SPLOST

E-SPLOST VI CONTINUES FUNDING FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Registered voters in Bulloch County cast their votes in the General Election on November 4, 2025, and approved to extend the one-penny education sales tax for five more years. Bulloch County Schools is currently in its fifth E-SPLOST cycle, which ends on December 31, 2027. At its August 14, 2025 regular session, the Board of Education voted to place the E-SPLOST VI referendum on the ballot early to be active January 1, 2028 through December 31, 2032. The Board of Education has used E-SPLOSTs since 2003, to fund capital improvement needs for local public schools such as constructing new schools, facility renovations, athletic facilities, playground equipment, safety and technology infrastructure, school buses, and other equipment. For more information about how these funds will be used visit **bullochschools.org/ESPLOST**.

Top 10 Reasons to Eat Meals at School

"WHERE WE SERVE MEALS AT SCHOOL, NOT SCHOOL MEALS."

1. Breakfast is free for all students, and lunch is free for all students at 12 of 15 schools by using the U.S.D.A's Community Eligibility Program.



3. Our Farm-to-School program is adding more locally-sourced produce and proteins, grown by farmers we know, to our school meals.



5. Our School Nutrition Services uses the Food Guide for Better School Purchasing to ensure that we only purchase food products with safe ingredients.

7. Our School Nutrition Services director is a member of the Healthy Kids Collaborative, an invitation-only program of the Culinary Institute of America that seeks to accelerate innovation and deepen technical and professional expertise in K-12 school food. She is one of only two school nutrition directors in Georgia who are members.



9. **Each of our school kitchens is inspected regularly by the Department of Public Health, and we consistently score 98-100.**

2. Our digital menus and mobile meal application allow families to see the ingredients in our foods and set up alerts to be notified when menus include known allergens.



4. We host taste testing events with student focus groups to gather input from our customers.

6. Our School Nutrition Services is one of only three programs in Georgia to be selected to pursue an Eat Real Certification. The two-year certification process for K-12 food service leaders consists of 10 evidence-based standards that measure 34 key performance indicators in a school district's menu plans and procurement practices to make sure that their menus are more delicious, nutritious, and responsibly sourced.



8. We are one of the largest restaurants in Bulloch County with 85 employees who prepare and serve more than 1.8 million meals annually across 16 school cafeterias.

10. We use an offer-versus-serve method. This means our food service staff will encourage and offer students to try food items, but students are allowed to refuse any food items they do not want. The offer-versus-serve method reduces our food costs by decreasing waste.

TOTAL MEALS SERVED IN 2025-2026:
1,802,238

BREAKFAST:
656,419

LUNCH:
1,145,819

TOTAL SUMMER MEALS JUNE 2025:
55,828

AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED PER DAY:
10,307

Average Daily Breakfast Participation:
36.7%

Average Daily Lunch Participation:
64.2%

Food Expenditures with Local Farmers:
$85,379.04

Number of School Nutrition Employees:
85

FISCAL YEAR 2027 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

AA +

Standard & Poor's Credit Rating

★★½★★

State Financial Efficiency Rating

It's important to note that Bulloch County Schools made a decision more than 20 years ago to maintain its community schools in Portal, Stilson, Nevils, and Brooklet rather than make facilities plans which favored consolidation. The strong community engagement enjoyed by these schools was determined to be a local value to be preserved; however, this does keep a higher number of schools, which are each cost centers. This is one factor which makes our school district's financial efficiency rating lower and our per-pupil expenditures higher.

Annual Audit Results in No Findings & State Award

The Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts completed its annual independent audit of the Bulloch County Board of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, and again it resulted in no findings and an award of excellence.

We received an unmodified audit opinion on both our financial statements, our major federal programs, and the special purpose local option sales tax. An unmodified audit opinion is the best audit opinion that can be received. In addition, we received no financial statement findings and no federal award findings. We once again received the state's Award of Distinction for Excellent Financial Reporting.

Bulloch County Schools 2027 Fiscal Year began July 1, 2026. The Board of Education works with the superintendent and district leadership to annually adopt an operating budget by June 30. The school district's budgets and audit reports are available online at **bullochschools.org/budget.**

GENERAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS ($ MILLIONS)

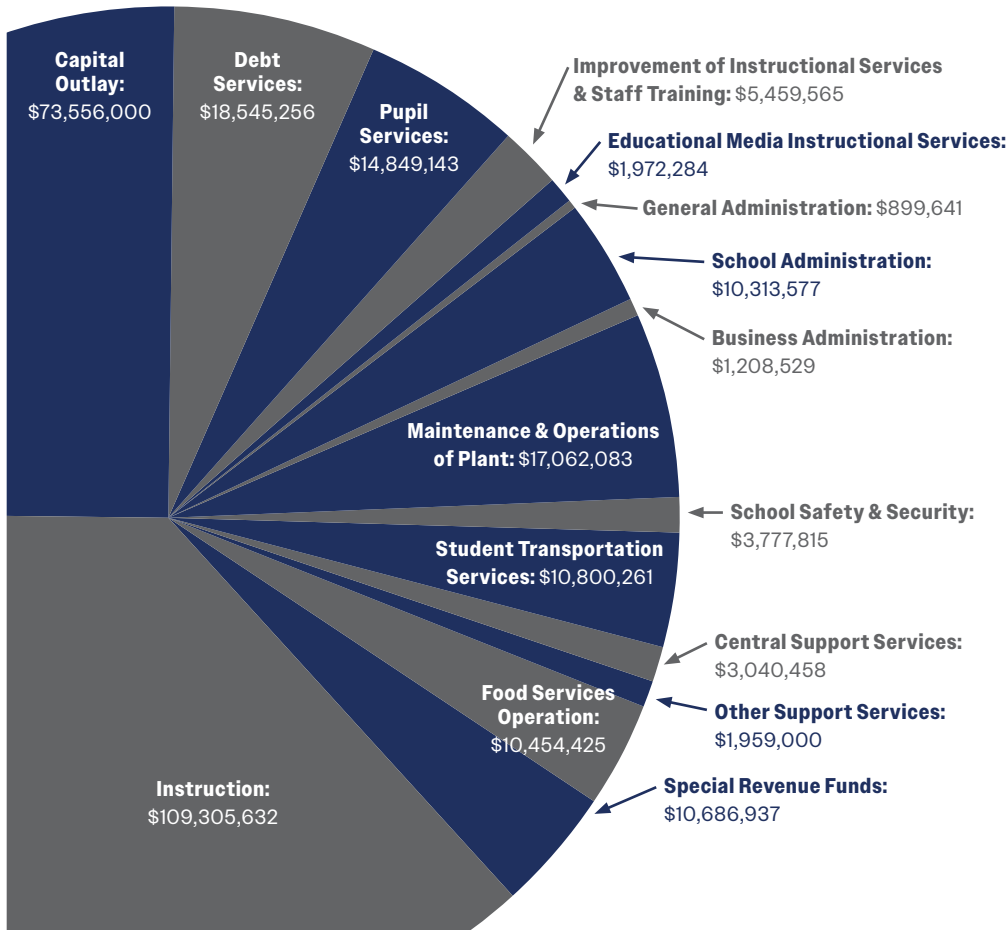
Fiscal Year	Quality Basic Education & State Revenues	Property Tax Revenues	Local Option Sales Tax Revenues	Total Revenues	Total Expenditures	Revenues over/(under) Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance
FY '18	$58.22	$19.84	$10.84	$91.82	$89.82	$2.00	$16.74
FY '19	$61.16	$20.39	$11.38	$96.39	$92.82	$3.57	$20.31
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	$82.11	$29.05	$18.86	$137.60	$147.00	(-9.40)	$49.11
FY '25	$91.30	$32.83	$20.74	$149.10	$154.26	(-5.16)	$38.67
FY '26 (In Progress as Budgeted)	$86.46	$36.23	$20.93	$147.10	$159.69	(-12.59)	$29.99
FY '27 (Budgeted)	$98.65	$46.37	$20.88	$169.55	$168.67	$304,260	$44.92

For complete budget information on all Bulloch County Board of Education funds, capital projects, E-SPLOST and state audit reports, visit bullochschools.org/budget.

The overall Fiscal Year 2027 Budget consists of five funds with total revenues of $211,786.383: General, Special Revenue, School Nutrition, Capital Projects, and Debt Service funds.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 ALL FUNDS BUDGETED

TOTAL ALL FUND EXPENDITURES – $283,203,669





JOHN HENDRIX
Portal Middle High School
Georgia STEM Teacher of the Year
Georgia Air & Space Forces Association



KACIE CRAIG
Southeast Bulloch High School
Georgia's New FBLA Advisor of the Year
Georgia Future Business Leaders of America



ALISON HARDIN
Brooklet Elementary School
2025-2026 Bulloch County Teacher of the Year
Bulloch County Schools



RENEE ROGERS
Southeast Bulloch High School
Teacher Hero Award
Grace Ed Technologies



JESSICA AUTRY
Portal Elementary School
Georgia Mentor Teacher Award for the Southeast P-20 Regional Education Collaborative
Georgia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education



CHARITY MASTERS
Southeast Bulloch High School
Elected to the Georgia FCCLA Board of Directors
Georgia Family, Career and Community Leaders of America



BETHANY GILLIAM
Central Office
2026 Graduate
Leadership Southeast Georgia



ASHLEY B. WRIGHT
Southeast Bulloch High School
Teacher of Excellence Award
Georgia Southern University College of Education



CHRIS CLARK
Central Office; Langston Chapel Elementary
Teacher of Excellence Award
Georgia Southern University College of Education



PLYSHELTIA DRAYTON
Mattie Lively Elementary School
Teacher of Excellence Award
Georgia Southern University College of Education

2026-2027 SCHOOL-LEVEL TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

These teachers will be honored during the 2026-2027 school year, and those eligible will compete for the Bulloch County Schools Teacher of the Year title and possibly advance to the Georgia Teacher of the Year and the 2028 National Teacher of the Year competitions.

Ciara Sims ..... Brooklet Elementary
Melissa Bazemore ..... Julia P. Bryant Elementary
Grayson Ray ..... Langston Chapel Elementary
Taylor Elkins ..... Langston Chapel Middle
Colleen Winslette ..... Mattie Lively Elementary
Katina Archie ..... Mill Creek Elementary
Haven Ackerman ..... Nevils Elementary
Sarah Earls ..... Portal Elementary
John Hendrix ..... Portal Middle High
Elise Golieb ..... Sallie Zetterower Elementary
Anna Swint ..... Southeast Bulloch Middle
Diana Johnson ..... Southeast Bulloch High
Raymond Mendoza ..... Statesboro High
Joanna Mosely ..... Stilson Elementary
Zach Barrow ..... William James Middle

2026 BULLOCH COUNTY SCHOOLS RETIREES

THESE 53 RETIREES DEVOTED A COMBINED TOTAL OF 1,148 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF BULLOCH COUNTY.

Karla Anderson
Jennifer Bailey
Denise Bearden
Alison Boatright
Denise Borck
Thomas Borck
LaSonya Brunson
Scott Chapman
Larry Childers
Paul Driggers
Cathy Futch
Jeff Giddens
Priscilla Gordon-McClain
Patricia Hagins
Melvin Hamilton
Christy Inman
Steven Jarrell
Sandy Johnson
Marilyn Jones
Sandra Kirby
Sharmane Lee
Runnette Lewis
Vicki Lewis
Pete Marshall
Anne McCord
Debra Mitchell
Julie Mizell
Valerie Morton
Enola Mosley
Tony Natson
Lori NeSmith
Lawana Pennington
Farrah Reddick
Delenah Rogers
Paige Rountree
Monica Skaarup
Ginny Smith
Serena Smith
Lisa Southwell
Vernetta Staten
Suzette Stills
Tammy Sutton
Dee Dee Thompson
Jack Thornton
Phillip Tremble
Marianna Voiselle
Judy Ware
Cyndi Williams
Julie Williams
Michael Williams
Charles Wilson
Bobby Woods
Celentria Young

The Bulloch County Foundation for Public Education (Foundation) is a 501 (c)3 charitable organization which provides college scholarships for students and competitive grants and teacher of the year monetary awards for faculty in Bulloch County Schools. 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.

The Foundation's major fundraising campaigns are the **Statesboro 5K Turkey Trot** and Bulloch County Schools' payroll deduction option for its employees. Make a tax deductible contribution by contacting the Foundation by telephone or mail or use the online donation button on the Statesboro 5K Turkey Trot's race website at **bullochschools.org/Foundation** or the QR code below.

BULLOCH COUNTY FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

A charitable foundation that supports these worthwhile education programs

REACH GA SCHOLARSHIPS | STAR STUDENT/TEACHER
INNOVATION GRANTS | TEACHER OF THE YEAR

- **Since 2006**, the Foundation has funded nearly **320** innovative teacher grants totaling more than **$406,087** to fund learning experiences for Bulloch County children.
- **Since 2013**, the Foundation has been the underwriting sponsor for Bulloch County Schools' REACH Georgia Scholars program, providing annual seed capital to ensure that the district's selected scholars, now totaling **67**, receive a **$10,000** college scholarship upon graduation and successful completion of the program. To date the Foundation has invested **$90,000** in this endeavor, which has helped make college possible for graduates, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college.
- **Since 2009**, the Foundation has provided **$26,500** in monetary awards to Bulloch County Schools' district-level and school-level teachers of the year.
- The Foundation is also the underwriting **sponsor** for the STAR Student/STAR Teacher program for Bulloch County's five participating public and private schools.



GRANTS



SCHOLARSHIPS



AWARDS

BULLOCH COUNTY
Foundation *for* Public School Education

150 Williams Road, Suite A
Statesboro, GA 30458
www.bullochschools.org/foundation

TURKEY TROT 5K STATESBORO

Donate to the Foundation or register for the 19th Annual Statesboro 5K Turkey Trot.

Bulloch County Schools

150 Williams Road, Suite A | Statesboro, GA 30458
T: 912.212.8500 | F: 912.212.8529
www.bullochschools.org | boe@bullochschools.org

ANNUAL REPORT
2026-2027