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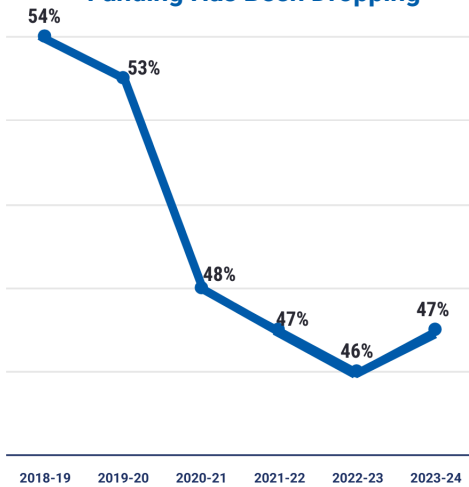
Steps to Fully Fund Georgia Schools

In 2024, Georgia ranked 36th in the country for school system quality and spending. If we want to provide high-quality education to all students, we must adequately fund education and provide the resources that our public schools need.

In 1985, the *Quality Basic Education (QBE)* Act took a modern approach to education by creating a statewide funding formula, but it has not been updated since. Georgia has not conducted a comprehensive cost study since 2015 to understand what it takes to meet the needs of our students.

In the 10 years since the last cost study, the state has increasingly shifted the cost of educating our students onto local school districts, translating to higher taxes and lower outcomes.

The State Share of Public Education Funding Has Been Dropping



With COVID-19 funds running out soon, Georgians worry that the gap will increase if the state continues to pass the buck.



44 states provide additional funding for students in families with limited economic resources.

Georgia does not.

Georgia is ranked in the **bottom 10** for rural student achievement and has one of the lowest rates of per-pupil spending in rural districts in the nation.

The median number of rural students in Georgia is **4.8x** than in the whole United States.

Georgia spends only **89%** in rural per pupil funds compared to the national level.

Georgia has been underfunding sparsity grants and equalization by **\$961 mil.** since 2011.

1 Protect the state budget from continuous cuts and identify additional sources of revenue to create new funding streams and to alleviate property tax pressures and disparities.

2 Commission a comprehensive study of education to understand the needs of the diverse Georgia student population.

3 Require local districts to solicit public participation in the education budget planning process and codify that approach.

4 Update the funding formula to provide additional funding for educating students in families with limited economic resources.

5 Fully fund categorical and other non-QBE grants, such as sparsity grants that support rural districts and communities with limited wealth.

6 Repeal current voucher programs and reinvest those funds into public schools to ensure that the needs of all students can be met.