

Connections for Classrooms Grant Program Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program Eligibility Criteria

With approximately \$5 million in remaining Connections for Classrooms grant funds through the OneGeorgia Authority, the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) has announced a new grant program focused on providing needed funds to rural Georgia districts that face significant challenges in having sufficient devices for students to authentically participate in digital learning.

Eligible Applicants

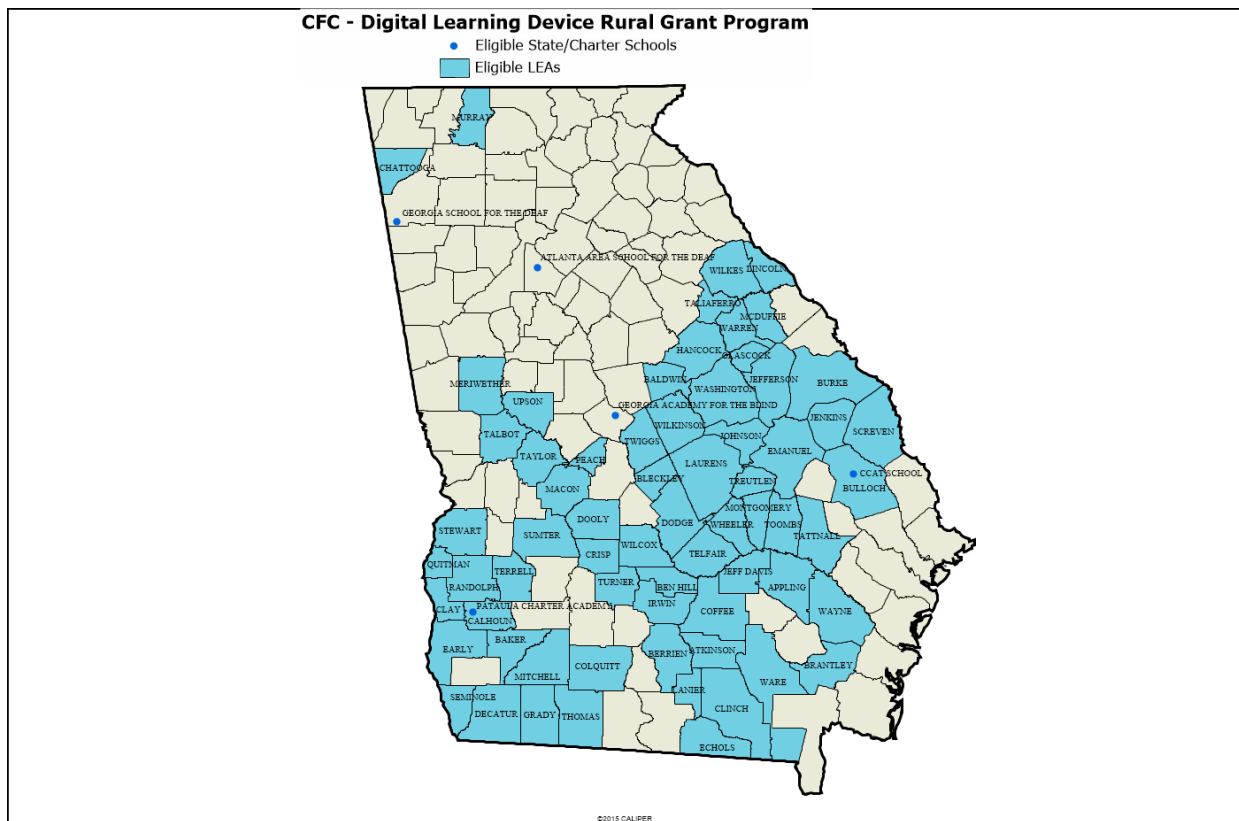
To accomplish this goal, GOSA narrowed the eligible local education authorities (LEAs) program to include only LEAs that meet both of the following criteria:

- **High-Need:** LEAs located in one of 71 Tier 1 counties using the Georgia Department of Community Affairs’ annual job tax credit tiers. These counties represent the counties with the highest unemployment rate, lowest per capita income, and highest percentage of residents whose incomes are below the poverty level in the state. In addition to being districts with high student need, the economic conditions make it less likely that these districts are able to bridge the device gap with BYOD policies and local purchases. [For more information on the tiers, click here.](#)
- **Rural:** LEAs serving less than 25 students per square mile. These LEAs must spend proportionally more funds per pupil since they serve a more dispersed population and do not have the economies of scale of larger districts. In addition, students are more likely to spend more time on buses and have more limited dual enrollment opportunities, making digital learning more important.

The three State Schools are also eligible. In addition, state charter schools that are located in a Tier 1 County and have an attendance zone in which all LEAs are eligible for the grant are also eligible. Using these criteria, the following 72 LEAs are eligible to apply:

Eligible Local Education Agencies			
Appling County	Dodge County	Meriwether County	Tattnall County
Atkinson County	Dooly County	Mitchell County	Taylor County
Baker County	Early County	Montgomery County	Telfair County
Baldwin County	Echols County	Murray County	Terrell County
Ben Hill County	Emanuel County	Peach County	Thomas County
Berrien County	Glascock County	Quitman County	Thomaston-Upson County
Bleckley County	Grady County	Randolph County	Toombs County
Brantley County	Hancock County	Screven County	Treutlen County
Bulloch County	Irwin County	Seminole County	Turner County
Burke County	Jeff Davis County	State Charter School-CCAT School (Bulloch)	Twiggs County

Eligible Local Education Agencies			
Calhoun County	Jefferson County	State Charter School- Pataula Charter Academy	Ware County
Chattooga County	Jenkins County	State Schools- Atlanta Area School for the Deaf	Warren County
Clay County	Johnson County	State Schools- Georgia Academy for the Blind	Washington County
Clinch County	Lanier County	State Schools- Georgia School for the Deaf	Wayne County
Coffee County	Laurens County	Stewart County	Wheeler County
Colquitt County	Lincoln County	Sumter County	Wilcox County
Crisp County	Macon County	Talbot County	Wilkes County
Decatur County	McDuffie County	Taliaferro County	Wilkinson County



Eligible Funds

Each eligible LEA will be able to apply for up to \$75 per student, as counted in the March 2016 FTE Count. These funds are not intended to purchase a \$75 device per student. Rather, as a whole, the total eligible funding amount derived from the \$75/student should be used for devices that will best serve the students. All devices must be compliant with Georgia Milestones minimum standards.