Fiscal year 2019 Budget Briefing

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Agency Summary Information

As the state's Pre-K through Workforce (P20W) education agency, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) aims to increase student achievement, school completion, and life opportunities for all Georgia students.

To achieve our mission, GOSA conducts all business according to high standards of transparency, accessibility, objectivity, strategic collaboration, and innovation.

GOSA provides policy support to the Governor and ultimately to the citizens of Georgia through:

- Communicating meaningful education data to stakeholders;
- Providing research support and data analysis on various education programs in Georgia to inform the Governor's policy, budget, and legislative efforts;
- Auditing education programs to ensure fidelity to performance and accountability requirements at both the district- and school-level; and
- Identifying, supporting, and sustaining educational innovations that align with the Governor's education priorities.
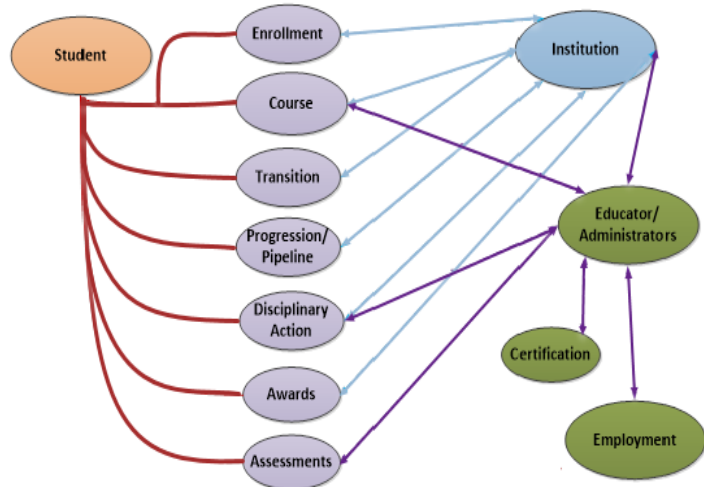
GOSA Quick Facts

- GOSA's annual operating budget in Fiscal Year 2018 was $21,930,685.
- The Governor's recommended annual operating budgets for Amended Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 did not change from previous years, with the exception of any state-required additions for merit system assessment adjustments, merit-based pay, retirement systems, and agency assessment adjustments.
- GOSA has 32 full-time employees. During June and July 2018, GOSA also employed summer instructors and resident advisors to work with the Governor's Honors Program.

2018 Highlights

- 5 Data dashboards developed
- 6 research publications produced
- 45 Principals or Aspiring Principals participated in the inaugural cohorts of the Governor's School Leadership Academy
- 646 students from 68 Georgia counties participated in Governor's Honors Program
- 71 Connections for Classroom grants awarded
- 34 Innovation Fund grants awarded

Georgia's Academic and Workforce Analysis and Research Data System (GA•AWARDS)

GA•AWARDS, Georgia's P-20W longitudinal data system, supports researchers by providing participating agencies with cross-agency, de-identified student, teacher, and workforce data. The participating state agencies and affiliated higher education researchers use these data to inform research and evaluation efforts. Specifically, GA•AWARDS links individual-level data from 2007 to the most current full academic year from the following entities:

- All seven Alliance of Education Agency Heads member agencies,
- Georgia Department of Labor,
- Georgia Independent Colleges Association,
- Georgia Military College,
- National Student Clearinghouse, and
- National assessments from College Board including the ACT and SAT.

GA•AWARDS is housed at GOSA but is managed by a committee of senior-level representatives from each of the participating education agencies.

GA•AWARDS is comprised of education and workforce data from participating state agencies with the goal of linking and providing meaningful and actionable education and workforce data to participating agencies that support research and informed decision-making.
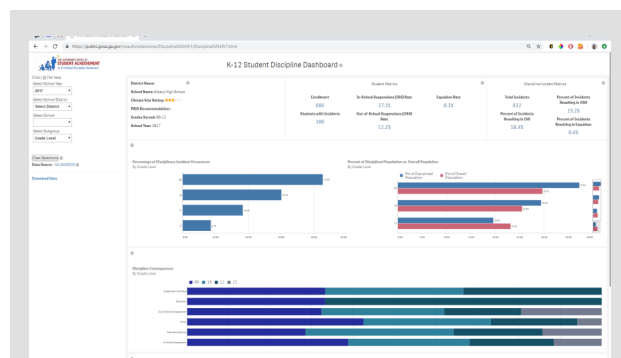
From Data to Dashboards

GOSA uses GA•AWARDS and other education data to produce dashboards that provide stakeholders with concise, easy-to-understand information about Georgia students' education. These dashboards include:
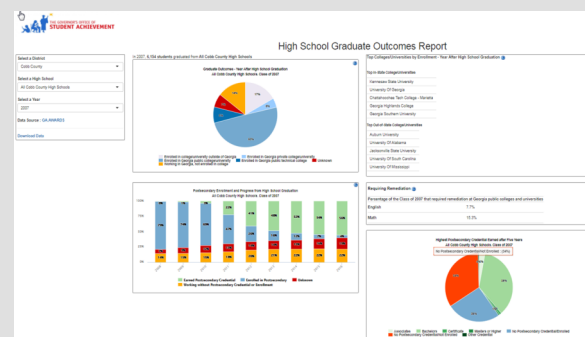
- Georgia School Grades Reports: Comprehensive view of school performance using an A-F rating system.
- High School Graduate Outcomes: Information on student advancement after high school graduation.
- Georgia Higher Learning and Earnings: Earnings information for Georgia technical college and college/university graduates who work in Georgia after earning their degrees.
- K-12 Discipline Dashboard: Summarizes discipline data at the school- and district-levels for all public schools in Georgia, including suspension rates and numbers of disciplinary incidents and actions.
- Schools Like Mine: Allows parents, educators, and community members to find schools with similar student population characteristics for comparison to their local schools.

Recent Accomplishments

- Incorporated data from Georgia Military College into GA•AWARDS.
- Added new reporting requirements from Every Student Succeeds Act into the Annual Report Card.
- Mapped data on career pathways completion into GA•AWARDS to increase research and analysis on Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education.
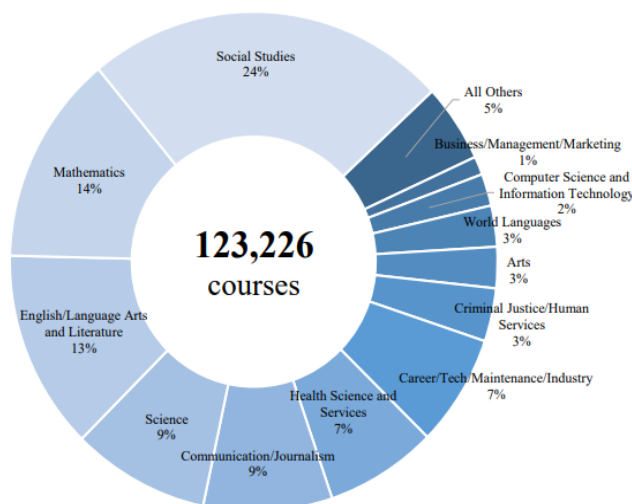

K-12 Discipline Dashboard

High School Graduate Outcomes Dashboard

Figure 10: Dual Enrollment Courses Taken in Academic Year 2016-2017

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

GOSA's Research and Evaluation Program conducts research, analysis, and program evaluation on Georgia's education programs by prioritizing accountability for schools and school systems; encouraging collaboration and exchange of ideas around research and evaluation of education programs; and producing rigorous, actionable research and evaluation of education programs.

Recent Accomplishments

- Published first annual Dual Enrollment report.
- Conducted four evaluations of GOSA's Innovative Programs and other educational initiatives in Georgia.
- Produced a research report on the relationship between kindergarten through third grade suspensions and future academic achievement.

Upcoming Work

- Continue to evaluate and provide recommendations for the Governor's Honors Program, the Growing Readers Program, Innovation Fund grantees, and other GOSA Innovative Programs.
- Establish new targets for Strategic Waiver School System contracts between the State Board of Education and school districts.

"In 2016-2017, the total count of postsecondary credentials earned by dual-enrolled high school students before graduation nearly doubled from the previous year to 1,438 credentials."

— 2016-2017 Analysis of Dual Enrollment Outcomes
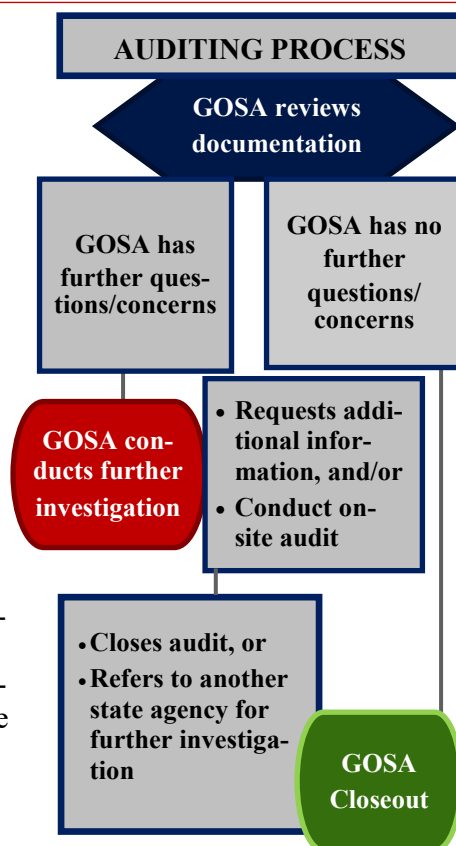
ACADEMIC AUDITING

GOSA conducts Georgia Milestones assessment and data verification audits to maximize the integrity of student achievement data and ensure that local education agencies implement assessment policies and procedures with fidelity. Data verification audits ensure school records reported to the Georgia Department of Education are accurate.

Recent Accomplishments

- Contracted with the state testing vendor to conduct answer change and unusual response pattern analyses of all Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) test administrations during Fiscal Year 2018.
- Audited 100% of paper and pencil EOG and EOC tests from the 2018 spring administration and provided a report to the State Board of Education with findings and recommendations.
- Submitted requests for additional information from 46 schools in 39 districts with high numbers of enrollment discrepancies or student withdrawals.

Upcoming Work

- Provide recommendations to the State Board of Education in February 2019 regarding next steps for schools identified for further inquiry through Milestones and data audits (e.g., inquiry forms, investigations, and monitoring).
- Continue to monitor Milestones testing and develop new evaluation procedures for the Georgia Alternative Assessment, ACCESS for English Learners, and for schools participating in the Innovative Assessment Pilot.
- Conduct enrollment verification and withdrawal code audits of 2018-2019 school year data.

AUDITING PROCESS

To access all Academic Auditing resources, procedures, and final reports, visit gosa.ga.gov/academic-auditing.

Governor's School Leadership Academy

The Governor's School Leadership Academy (GSLA) is a selective, statewide leadership preparation and support program designed to develop high-capacity school leaders. In partnership with Gwinnett County Public Schools and the Chief Turnaround Office, GSLA will help ensure that every Georgia school has a transformational leader capable of maximizing student achievement. Through its two independent programs, GSLA serves two groups of leaders – current principals in Turnaround Eligible Schools and aspiring principals from targeted districts throughout the state.

GSLA Principals collaborating at the first cohort session, hosted by Gwinnett County Public Schools.
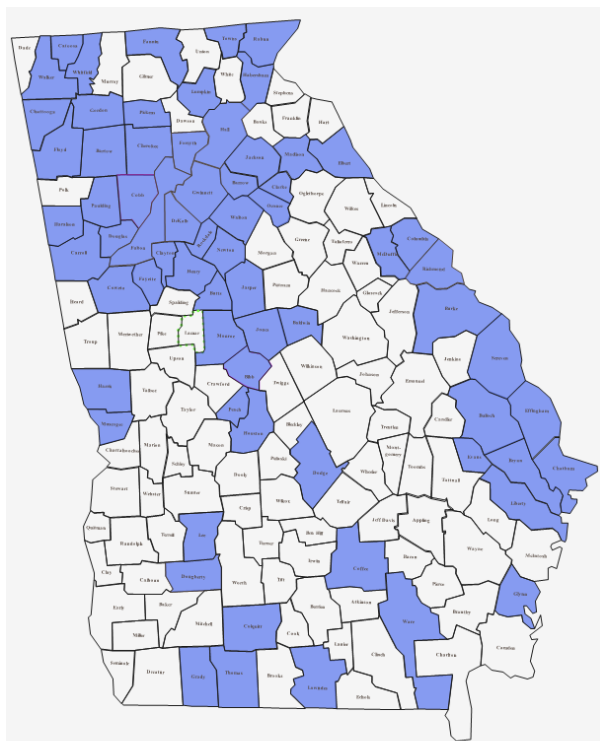
GSLA employs a three-tiered structure that incorporates face-to-face cohort meetings, job-embedded assignments, and onsite and virtual coaching opportunities. These components reinforce the need for an instruction-focused, collaborative model of school leadership and establish a network of support for school leaders across the state.

Governor's Honors Program

The Governor's Honors Program (GHP) is a residential summer program for gifted and talented high school students who will be rising juniors or seniors during the program. The program offers instruction that differs significantly from the typical high school classroom and is designed to provide students with the academic, cultural, and social enrichment necessary to become the next generation of global critical thinkers, innovators, and leaders.

Home counties of 2018 GHP Participants

Recent Accomplishments
- The 2018 GHP session enrolled 646 finalists from across Georgia.
- 46% of the 2018 cohort was from outside of metro Atlanta.
- In coordination with Georgia Public Broadcasting, GOSA developed a promotional video to increase awareness and participation in GHP.

Upcoming Work
- Complete the state-level selection process/competition for the 2019 cohort, which began on November 16, 2018, and will conclude on March 29, 2019.
- Hold the 2019 GHP session from June 16 through July 13, 2019, at Berry College in Rome, Georgia.
- Pilot the Governor's Honors Program Educator Fellowship with the goal of increasing nominations from all areas of the state by targeting educators from districts that did not nominate students in the last GHP application cycle.

GOSA Grant Programs

GOSA operates several grant programs to foster innovative educational programs and to increase academic achievement in Georgia schools, including:

The Innovation Fund invests funding and human capital in teachers, public schools, and school districts to transform education for Georgia's students.
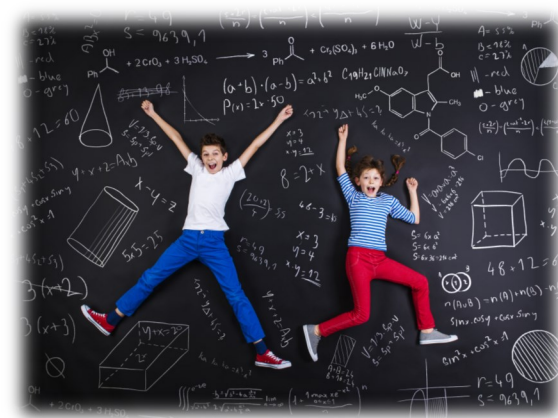
Community Partnership Grants – funded by the Innovation Fund Foundation with donations from the Qualified Education Donation Tax Credit – provide schools, districts, and community organizations funding to leverage and strengthen community partnerships that support students' academic and nonacademic needs.

Connections for Classrooms joins multiple state agencies around the common goal of ensuring Georgia schools and classrooms have the high-speed broadband access required for digital and blended learning. The program combines more than $77 million from bond funds appropriated to the Georgia Department of Education and state general funds appropriated to the OneGeorgia Authority at the Department of Community Affairs.

Technology Tools for Teachers (T3) advances student achievement by providing personalized learning and instructional technology to teachers in turnaround eligible schools.

The Graduates Ready to Attain Success in Postsecondary (GRASP) Program supports selected Georgia high schools in increasing student success in achieving high school graduation, completing postsecondary programs, and productively participating in the workforce.

Recent Accomplishments

- In Fiscal Year 2018 the Innovation Fund awarded over $2 million in grant funding through its competitive grant programs, including the Innovation Fund Accelerator, Tiny Grants, the Innovation in Teaching Competition and Implementation and Scaling Grants. In addition, it supported additional programs, including the Berrien STAR Academy, the Georgia Rural Advanced Placement (AP) STEM Initiative, New Leaders, Project Lead The Way, and Words2Reading.

- The Innovation Fund Foundation awarded $750,213 through Community Partnership Grants and Innovation Summit Pilot Grants. $437,375 of these dollars will directly support schools on Georgia's Turnaround Eligible List.

- Twelve Turnaround Eligible schools are implementing personalized learning in their classrooms, utilizing iPads and training provided by the T3 grant.

Upcoming Work

- Convene current and former grantees at the 2019 Innovation Summit in Atlanta on June 11 and 12, 2019.

- Award additional grants through the Innovation Fund's competitive grant programs.

- Continue to fuel innovation in education by supporting, coaching, and monitoring current Innovation Fund grantees.

- Continue to support innovation in Georgia's lowest performing schools by partnering with the Innovation Fund Foundation to award grants funded by donations from the Qualified Education Donation Tax Credit.

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

2018 Snapshots

YEAR OF GOVERNOR'S HONORS PROGRAM GHP

55th

More than **$66 million** reimbursed to school districts through the Connections for Classrooms Program.

26 Principals
19 Aspiring Principals
11 School Districts

Participated in the Governor's School Leadership Academy GSLA inaugural cohort

GA•AWARDS research requests approved **7**

14 state and national organizations contribute to the data integrated into GA•AWARDS

5 Data dashboards developed by GOSA to effectively communicate education data

53 schools
380 teachers
7,600 students

impacted by Growing Readers Program in 2017-18

91% of GHP students believe they learned new skills that will further personal development beyond high school

More than **$2m** Awarded to schools from the Innovation Fund

number of counties with student delegates at GHP **68**

High Schools receiving graduation coaching and funding through the Graduates Ready to Attain Success in Postsecondary GRASP Program Grant **9**

46 On-site coaching visits from GSLA regional coaches

Research publications produced by GOSA, including two research reports and four program evaluations **6**

100% GSLA participants from non-metro school systems

Districts receiving requests for further inquiry during annual data verification auditing **39**