



## **Governor's Office of Student Achievement**

**Annual AFY16/FY17 Budget Presentation**  
Joint Education Appropriation Committee

*Martha Ann Todd, Executive Director*

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## **Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA)**

### **AFY16 Budget Presentation**

#### **Summary Information**

As the state's P-20 education agency, 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:

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

GOSA is supportive of the Governor's recommendations for AFY 16 and FY17.

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#### **Agency Overview**

- Annual operating budget in FY16: \$19,574,080
- The Governor's recommended annual operating budget in AFY16 does not change.
- GOSA's FY16 staff numbers: 47 employees, including 21 regional field staffers serving as Reading Mentors or professional learning support and 2 part-time interns.
- GOSA employed approximately 100 summer instructors and resident advisors for four weeks to work with the Governor's Honors Program (GHP) in June-July 2015.

## **Professional Learning Grants and the Reading Mentor Program**

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) has:

- Successfully launched the K-3 Literacy Grant in all (16) Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs). The RESA grants allow 26 expert literacy educators to design and implement professional learning that is supported by on-site follow-up and coaching in 61 individual schools to further teacher knowledge of successful interventions for struggling early readers. The mid-year evaluation summary is found on GOSA's website, [2015-2016 RESA Growing Readers Mid-Year Evaluation Report](#). Key mid-year evaluation findings include:
  - All RESAs are implementing all components of the Growing Readers Program (GRP) as of November 2015, including the completion of baseline observations, baseline assessments, and Professional Learning Session One.
  - Professional Learning Session One was interactive, offered valuable networking and collaboration opportunities, and provided teachers with useful strategies that they are excited to start using in the classroom.
  - Teachers need support in aligning instruction to the Georgia Standards of Excellence.
  - Teachers are rarely conferencing with students one-on-one in the classroom, in which they listen to students read, provide immediate feedback, and set goals together.
  - Teachers need help using assessment data meaningfully at the classroom and student level.
  - Teachers need a better balance of engaging whole group instruction, small group instruction, and independent practice during literacy blocks.
  - The RESA partnership is functional, has clear and mutual goals, completes tasks efficiently, and improves relationships and access to resources among RESAs.
  - Reading specialists identified several positive impacts of the GRP, including observable changes in teacher practice, unity among RESAs, networking among teachers, schools, and districts, and increased supports for struggling readers.
  - The Collaboration Self-Assessment Tool results demonstrate that an initiative like the GRP, which aims to provide standardized professional learning for educators in Georgia through a unified RESA effort, is both possible and beneficial to RESAs and the schools they serve.
  - Data are not available yet for student outcomes, so there are no preliminary findings to report. These outcomes will be assessed in the end-of-year report.
- Implemented year 4 of the [Reading Mentor Program: A Language and Literacy Partnership](#), which utilizes varied coaching methods to improve efficacy among K-3 teachers in teaching literacy. GOSA has collaborated with 62 schools within 22 school districts. Sixty-three percent of students served by the Reading Mentor Program (RMP) during the 2012-2015 cycle are reading at or above benchmark, which represents a twelve percent increase from Year 1. The [RMP 2015-2016 Mid-Year Evaluation Report](#) provides a status report for the current year's work with this new cohort of districts and schools.
- Made available a mini-grant for districts to support teacher participation in Code.org training provided at Northeast Georgia RESA and Middle Georgia RESA during the summer of 2016. These grants will provide financially-challenged districts with funds to meet the required stipend

match and pay travel costs for teachers who participate in this computer science and coding professional learning opportunity.



- Partnered with [Project Lead The Way](#) to provide professional learning for teacher preparation in STEM courses in south and southwest Georgia (3 RESA areas – Southwest, Chattahoochee-Flint, and Coastal Plains). These programs support the implementation of rigorous K-12 pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical sciences through in-depth teacher professional development. Fifty-eight schools (36 elementary, 12 middle, and 10 high) schools representing 14 districts in rural areas have applied to participate in the program..
- Awarded the first round of the [Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Professional Learning Grants](#). This competitive grant program supports local education agencies (LEAs), RESAs and individual schools in improving instruction in those subject areas through the development of innovative professional learning models. Each grant winner will receive \$150,000 to support professional learning programs that promote student achievement in mathematics or expand student access to high-quality computer science/coding programs. Grant recipients will evaluate the effectiveness of the initiatives and submit their findings toGOSA. The state will use these results for advisement in determining the best practices in professional learning for mathematics and computer science/coding. The awarded grants are as follows:

#### ▪ **Northwest Georgia RESA**

Northwest Georgia RESA will partner with all 16 member LEAs to create and scale an effective professional learning model to support high-quality elementary mathematics teaching. This initiative will impact student learning by increasing the number of teachers earning the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement Credential, improving course content and increasing principals' skills to support high-quality mathematics instruction.

#### ▪ **Richmond County Schools**

In partnership with Georgia Southern University, Richmond County Schools will offer professional learning opportunities to an 80-member cohort. This cohort will participate in a Mathematics Academy for Teaching Excellence (MATE) with sessions focused on mathematics course content, hands-on modeling, effective teaching strategies and general curriculum development. MATE will specifically focus on examining the curriculum for geometry, data and measurement.

#### ▪ **Southwest Georgia RESA**

Southwest Georgia RESA will provide professional learning for K-8 mathematics teachers to use critical thinking and problem-solving strategies to engage students in the learning process. Teachers will build an understanding of effective mathematics instruction, access mathematics learning resources, and will develop fair, transparent, and equitable assessments in mathematics to determine the mathematical literacy of all students.

#### ▪ **Sandy Creek High School/Fayette County Public Schools**

Sandy Creek High School will provide professional learning that supports the integration of authentic coding and programming experiences into academic instruction. The program will also increase the exposure of non-traditional STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) students to the STEM subjects. Computer science teachers will be provided professional learning to apply visual programming, scripting, and programming using professional game engines. Computer science and mathematics teachers will collaboratively develop school-wide game programming projects that integrate math and computer science. Teachers will also design and develop integrated instructional materials, artifacts and assessments.

In 2016, GOSA plans to continue to support RESAs and school districts in the implementation of these ongoing professional learning programs and opportunities. GOSA is also planning to develop and implement:

- A technical assistance session prior to the launch of a second round of Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Professional Learning Grants;
- A STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) Launchpad that will provide timely and high-quality resources to expand student access and opportunities to meaningfully engage in STEAM education throughout the state of Georgia; and
- A Language and Literacy Launchpad to provide the same type of high-quality resources for parents, care-givers, and teachers to meaningfully engage children birth to age 8 in language and literacy development.

## **Innovation Fund**

The [Innovation Fund](#), currently administered by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA), has been funded using a total of \$31,980,232 –\$19,480,232 of Race to the Top (RT3) monies, \$5,000,000 in state FY15 funding, and \$7,500,000 in FY16 funding.

To date, the Innovation Funds (RT3and state) have supported grants to nine teacher and leader pipeline programs, 28 STEM/applied learning programs, 9 blending learning programs, and 4 birthto8 language and literacy development programs.

2015 grants were either planning (\$10,000), implementation (\$200,000-\$700,000), or scaling grants (\$200,000-\$700,000). Fifty-seven applications were submitted and scored. Twelve grants have been funded to date – 6 planning, 4 implementation, and 2 scaling.

Notable accomplishments of the Innovation Fund in 2015 include:

- Two (RT3) grantees – Carroll County STEM for Life and Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School's New Teacher Residency Project (ANCS NTRP) received Investing in Innovation (i3) grants from the United States Department of Education.
- Three RT3 Innovation Fund grantees – Georgia Southern Real STEM, the Gwinnett STEP Academy, and the Tift County Mechatronics program also received FY15 Innovation Fund scaling grants.
- 100% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the Technical Assistance Day provided helpful information about the grant application and expectations.
- 100% of planning grantees rated the quality of technical assistance they received from GOSA as excellent.
- Based on the 2015 Innovation Fund Conference survey, 100% of respondents rated their overall experience at the Conference as good or excellent.
- GOSA has monitored and evaluated 100% of the FY15 Innovation Fund grantees. The results of that evaluation are included in the annual Innovation Fund report located at [2015 Innovation Fund Annual Report](#).
- GOSA partnered with Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) to film 26 winners of the RT3-funded [Innovation in Teaching](#) competition in rounds 1 through 5. 25 videos are now available on [GeorgiaStandards.org](#) and iTunes U. GOSA recently selected 5 winners of the School Year 2015-2016 Innovation in Teaching Competition, funded through FY15 funds. GPB will film these winners in winter and spring 2016, and the resources will be posted on [Georgiastandards.org](#) and iTunes U on a rolling basis.
- Michelle Davis (Camden County) and Dr. Brian Swanagan (Floyd County), Innovation in Teaching Competition winners, made it to the [Honor Roll for the 2015 TNTP Fishman Prize](#).
- Based on her Innovation in Teaching Competition resources, the Cobb County School District contracted with Tori Sinco (Cherokee County), a Round 3 Innovation in Teaching Competition winner, to conduct professional development for the district.
- Bynikini Frazier, a Round 3 Innovation in Teaching Competition winner, was featured in the [AJC Get Schooled “Great Georgia Teacher” series](#).

In 2016:

- GOSA is preparing to hold the third annual Innovation Fund Summit in June where successful grantees can share promising practices with former and current grantees.
- The Innovation Fund will use the proposed FY17 \$7.5 million to:
  - Support the expansion and replication of current successful Innovation Fund programs in the area of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) education specifically;
  - Pilot blended learning initiatives in schools throughout the state;
  - Support birth to 8 language and literacy development initiatives; and
  - Support other state educational priority initiatives.
- Identify which types of innovative programs, strategies, partnerships and practices successfully advance student achievement and have promise for replication, in order to influence future education policy efforts.
- Promote the current Innovation in Teaching Competition resources in order to continue to increase user statistics.
- Foster a network among the current Innovation in Teaching Winners by hosting the first professional development day as part of the 2016 Innovation Fund Conference.

HB283 was passed and signed into legislation during the 2013 session, giving GOSA the authority to establish a non-profit corporation, a 501(c)3, known as the Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation to promote public-private partnerships between businesses, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, local school systems, and public schools, for the purpose of improving student achievement. The Innovation Fund Foundation, Inc. received tax-exempt status from the IRS in November 2015. The Foundation is in the process of setting up the necessary accounts and structure to begin development activities to support the Innovation Fund work and match state appropriated dollars with private donations.



Funded to date – Induction and Teacher/Leader Pipeline Programs

- KIPP Metro Atlanta Teacher Fellows Program
- Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School New Teacher Residency Project
- Clarke County School District Teach to Learn Partnership
- University of Georgia/Georgia Association of Educational Leaders Early Career Principal Residency Program
- Fulton County Charter System Leadership and Innovation Academy
- Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) Partnership for a Quality Pipeline of Effective High School Leaders
- Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) Building a Pipeline of Highly Effective Charter Teachers and Leaders
- Gwinnett County Public Schools Transforming STEM through Teacher and Leader Development
- Mercer University Interdisciplinary STEM Teacher Endorsements

Funded to date – Applied Learning Programs

- Barrow County Direct to Discovery STEM Collaboration Model
- Gwinnett County STEM Targeted Educational Program (STEP)
- Murray County Partnership for Energy and Career Education (PEACE STEM Academy)
- Tift County Mechatronics Partnership
- Carroll County STEM for Life Program
- Drew Charter School Partners of Innovation
- Morehouse College Student Applied Learning, New Teacher Induction, and Staff Leadership Program
- Drew Charter School Partners for Expansion
- Museum School/Avondale Education Association (Museum in a Box)
- Georgia Southern University (Real STEM)
- Georgia Tech Computational Thinking
- Rockdale 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academy of Environmental Science
- Clarke County Inquiring Minds STE(A)M Program
- Georgia State University Educating and Empowering Urban Teachers and Students in Quality STEM Classroom Infusion
- Morehouse College Scientific Literacy Center
- Oconee River GYSTC (Georgia Youth Science Technology Center) STEM N-RG (Network Resources for Georgia)
- Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools STEM Collaborative Planning Grant
- Community Guilds, Inc. STE(A)M Truck
- Georgia Southern University (Real STEM Expansion)
- Georgia Tech Project ENG(2)AGES: Engaging the Next Generation of Girls At Georgia Tech via Engineering and Science
- Replication of Tift County Mechatronics to a College and Career Academy
- Gwinnett County STEP Academy Expansion
- Rome City Schools – Elm Street Elementary STEM in 3D – Dream, Design, Do!
- Rome City Schools – North Heights Elementary Growing Up Green
- Carroll County Schools Step into STEM
- Lowndes County Schools BLAST (Boosting Learning through Authentic STEM Teaching)
- Morgan County Charter System STEAM N-RG (Network-Resources for Georgia)

- Technical College System of Georgia & Hall County Schools Career Pathways for At Risk Students

Funded to date – Blended Learning Programs

- Jackson County Schools INSPIRE (Innovative, Student-Centered, Personalized Instruction that is Rigorous and Engaging)
- Paulding County Schools – New Hope Academy
- Savannah-Chatham County Public School System Middle School Blended Learning
- Tift @cademy
- Fulton County Schools Teach to One: Math
- Thomas County Schools Bishop Hall Charter Blended Learning Model for High Risk Students
- Forsyth County Schools Let's Get Personal: Meeting Learners Where They Are
- Decatur County Schools Building Personalized Learning Communities in Decatur County
- Bibb County Schools Westside Flexible High School and Modular Schedule for Personalized Learning

Funded to date – Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy Programs

- Charles R. Drew Charter School 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacy in the Making (21CLM)
- Baldwin County Board of Education Read Baldwin County
- Whitfield County Schools Beyond the Classroom
- Atlanta Public Schools Read Right from the Start



## **Governor's Honors Program**

For the 2015 Governor's Honors Program (GHP), the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) was able to:

- Provide faculty training in advance of the summer program;
- Streamline the on-line student nomination, application, and finalist registration process;
- Increase faculty and administrator salaries to be competitive; and
- Allow for greater faculty recruitment efforts, and improve both the safety and academic rigor of the program. Mandarin Chinese was added to the world language program, the engineering program was expanded/enhanced, and a leadership component was added for all majors.

Last year 680 students were selected as finalists, and a similar number is anticipated this year.

For the 2016 program, GOSA plans to:

- Continue to streamline and improve program processes;
- Actively protect and secure all student data; and
- Continue to increase the academic rigor and improve the student life experiences of the program.

The following [GHP](#) activities are currently in process.

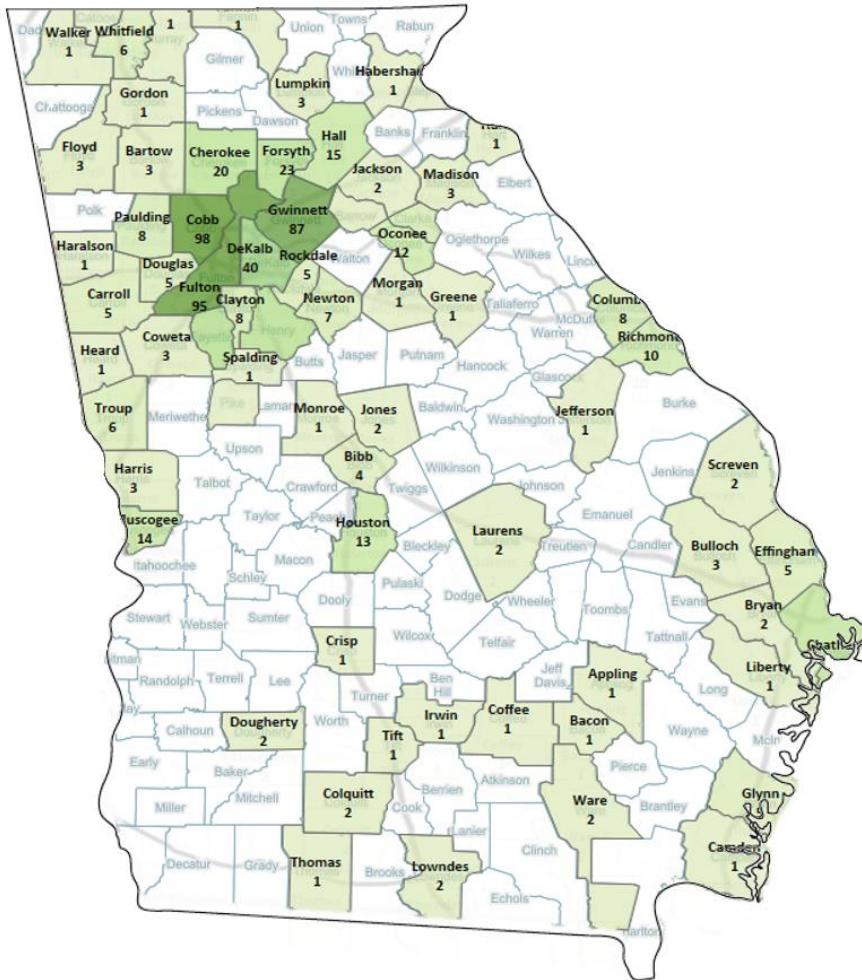
- Approximately 3000 student nominee applications will be reviewed and scored by experts in each subject area.
- Approximately 1800 of these students will be selected as semi-finalists and will be interviewed by over 300 volunteer teachers in early February to select approximately 680 finalists.
- The summer administrative team has been restructured to be more reflective of a university setting. A full-time GOSA program manager directs and leads the program and directly oversees the dean of residence life, dean of instruction, and dean of students.
- GOSA has worked with the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) to post position announcements and is continuing to interview for over 100 summer staff members. Approximately 60% of the instructional staff has already been selected.
- All summer staff will be required to pass federal background checks again this year.

GHP will be held from June 19 through July 16, 2016 at Valdosta State University.

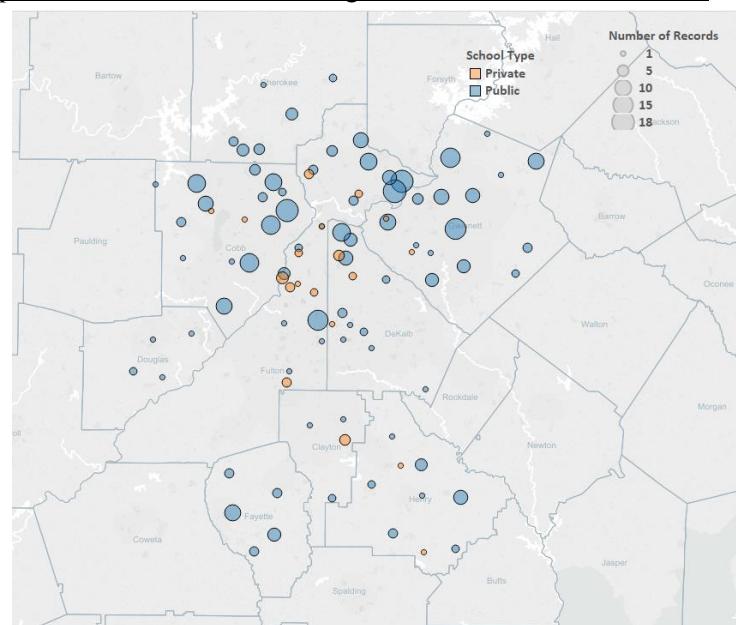
In 2015, GOSA released a request for proposals from public and private institutions of higher education (IHEs) to explore potential partnerships for host sites, seeking to leverage the extensive and diverse resources in the state while maintaining the program's strongest traditional aspects.. GOSA received several proposals and although each proposal had strengths, no proposal had all of the elements that are critical to the program's improvement and continued success. For that reason, GOSA has extended the proposal period to allow for revision and resubmission of the proposals for the summer 2017 program. Resubmissions will be due no later than July 1, 2016.

The [2015 Governor's Honors Program Evaluation Report](#) is now available on GOSA's website.

Map of Counties by Number of GHP Students, Statewide



Map of GHP Students' Home High School, Metro Atlanta Area



## **Academic Auditing**

### **Georgia Milestones Auditing**

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) conducts [academic audits and investigations](#) to maximize the integrity of student achievement data and to ensure that local education agencieess (LEAs) implement Georgia Department Of Education (GaDOE) assessment policies and procedures with fidelity, so that achievement data can be utilized in making critical decisions and reporting of student outcomes. For the three most recent consecutive years, the percentage of schools appearing on the “severe and moderate concern” list has decreased to less than 3%.

#### *Recent Work*

- Contracted with the state testing vendor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), to conduct erasure analyses of all Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) test administrations during FY15;
- Coordinated and trained state monitors that observed spring 2015 test administrations in identified school districts, district charter schools, and state commission charter schools;
- Monitored 44 schools (elementary, middle, and high) during 2015 spring test administration and two high schools during the 2015 Winter EOG test administration;
- Reviewed district-led investigation reports (104 schools) in spring/summer 2015 and provided critical feedback to local systems; and
- Conducted on-site audits of eight identified schools.

#### *Next Steps*

- Make recommendations to the State Board Of Education (SBOE) in February 2016 for next steps with flagged schools (inquiry forms, investigations, and monitoring).
- Review district-led investigation inquiries and provide feedback (once submitted in spring 2016).
- Evaluate DRC's pilot analyses and proposals for online test monitoring that could be used for future online test administrations.
  - The pilot analyses will be completed in early spring 2016 and will include answer change analysis (comparable to paper and pencil erasure), response time analysis, and response similarity analysis.
- Review and revise all audit process documents to ensure continued best practices.

### **Data Accuracy Auditing**

#### *Recent Work*

- GOSA, in collaboration with the GaDOE Data Collections, created and implemented an enrollment verification audit to verify enrollment data that districts report to the GaDOE. This audit seeks to ensure that systems and schools throughout Georgia receive state funding in line with their actual enrollment.
- In fall 2015, nine schools were identified as Schools of Concerns and were required to submit an inquiry form to explain data discrepancies.
  - After analyzing the forms, two schools were cleared of concern. Seven schools provided sufficient responses such that no further action is needed at this time. However, the schools will be monitored for errors next year to ensure that the protocol put in place has been effective. Future errors may warrant additional investigation, which may include an onsite audit.

#### *Next Steps*

- Develop and implement withdrawal code verification audit process to examine accuracy of withdrawal codes that high schools use. This audit will ensure that schools appropriately identify the reasons that high school students withdraw from school.



## **State Report Cards and Single Statewide Accountability System**

### Traditional Report Card

#### *Recent Work*

- In December 2015, the 2014-2015 school year [Report Card](#) was released with all data except the Georgia Milestones assessment and personnel/fiscal data.
  - These data will be released in spring 2016, pending when they are received from Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and processed into GA•AWARDS .
  - GOSA revised the order and layout of some reports based on stakeholder feedback.
- The Report Card now contains a five year historical view (2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015) of data.
- All data on the report card are available for [download](#) as well.
- GOSA continues to fulfill public user data for data requests prior to 2010-2011.

#### *Next Steps*

- Explore additional, user-friendly reports to add to the Report Card:
  - Georgia Milestones assessment data;
  - ACT and SAT assessment data report reconfiguration to make comparisons easier to understand;
  - Teacher Effectiveness and Leader Effectiveness Measure data (once available statewide); and
  - Integration of School Climate Rating and Financial Efficiency Star Rating.
- Establish individual links on the Report Card at school level for the parent-friendly school report (once published).

### Parent-Friendly School Report

#### *Recent Work*

- GOSA developed a mock-up of a parent-friendly school report that will be released in spring 2016 once the 2014-2015 College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) is released.
- For each school, the reports include school contact information, demographics, outcomes (CCRPI and Georgia Milestones) and other key indicators.
- The reports are mobile-friendly and allow for PDF generation for easy printing.

#### *Next Steps*

- Gain stakeholder feedback to improve the reports.
- Integrate 2014-2015 data into reports and publicly release.
- Share report links with Great Schools to allow for direct links from their school pages to these reports and integrate links into GOSA's traditional Report Card.

### Single Statewide Accountability System

GOSA has redesigned the Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS) to align with the Georgia Milestones and the measures used within CCRPI. The proposed award structure will include awards for Greatest Gains and Highest Performing schools. The proposal will be presented to the State Board of Education (SBOE) in February 2016 for approval. These awards will be announced and presented in late February or early March 2016 as soon as the 2015 CCRPI data is available from GaDOE.

## **GA•AWARDS**

[\*\*GA•AWARDS\*\*](#) provides consistent data matching using defined business rules and trust values. Personally identifiable information is removed immediately after the person matching and a unique identifier is applied. De-identified student level data is returned to designated researchers from each of the participating organizations for research. This service allows researchers access to cross-agency data in support of broader research focus areas.

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) also produces the [Annual Report Card](#), which is a public-facing dashboard that displays the state-, district-, and school-level performance on key indicators. (e.g., demographics, assessments, graduation rate, etc.). A new report, the [High School Graduate Outcomes Report](#), provides a dashboard to show the status of Georgia public high school graduates from each high school in postsecondary or the labor market at one year intervals after graduation.

### Overview

- GA•AWARDS includes 2007 - 2015 data from the following sources:
  - Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE),
  - State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC),
  - Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG),
  - University System of Georgia (USG),
  - Georgia Independent College Association (GICA) (75% of institutions have provided data),
  - National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) (out-of-state college enrollment and degree awards),
  - Professional Standards Commission (PSC),
  - Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC),
  - Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL),
  - Tests for national comparisons (ACT, SAT, and AP), and
  - Quarterly wage data from the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL).
- All data collected within the GA•AWARDS system are used for educational and program evaluation purposes only and are needed to answer research questions identified by the participating agencies.
- GA•AWARDS does not collect any new data. Rather, it matches preexisting data to facilitate stronger research and reporting in state education agencies.

### Data Uses

- GOSA's [High School Graduate Outcomes Report](#) provides a dashboard to show the status of Georgia public high school graduates from each high school in postsecondary or the labor market at one year intervals after graduation (e.g., for the class of 2007 from a certain high school, one can see how many students are in TCSG, USG, other colleges, the Georgia labor market, or unknown).
- GaDOE's High School Feedback Report serves as a feedback mechanism to school administrators on high school graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution and whether or not those students required remediation.

- In FY16, the GSFC is examining high school course-taking patterns that predict postsecondary success.
- In FY16, USG is examining the relationship between completion of dual enrollment, AP, and IB courses and college attendance and course choices.
- In FY16, DECAL is examining the effect of Georgia Pre-K participation on third grade reading.
- Participating agencies collaborated to develop a thorough inter-agency review and approval process for external research requests from approved researchers at USG, TCSG, and GICA institutions. The process was unanimously approved by all agencies in December 2015.
  - The process prioritizes research proposals that answer GA•AWARDS research questions or that align with state strategic goals.
  - Data requested will be de-identified.
  - The process includes clear, stringent guidelines designed to protect data privacy.
  - The first “pilot” request is an examination of the impact HB 280 math/science teacher bonuses on the teacher labor market that will be conducted in 2016.
- DECAL’s Cross Agency Child Data System, a birth to five dataset to support research and reporting, uses GA•AWARDS for its person-matching process. The use of the GA•AWARDS’ unique identifier will allow the State to answer questions about children with high needs from birth through Pre-K and into K through12.



## **Research and Evaluation**

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement's (GOSA) [Research and Evaluation Program](#) conducts research, analysis, and program evaluation on Georgia 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.

The Research & Evaluation team designs and conducts evaluations for some of GOSA's Innovative Programs, such as the Reading Mentors Program (RMP) and the Governor's Honor's Program (GHP). The team also conducts analysis using GA•AWARDS and other education data to produce reports on topics, such as student mobility, the effectiveness of the Race to the Top (RT3) Initiatives, and the Department of Early Care and Learning's (DECAL) quality rated system. Lastly, the team provides analysis for the Governor's Office and the General Assembly, including the reports concerning the Governor's Education Reform Commission and relevant legislation.

### *Recent Work*

- Published monthly [e-bulletins](#) on various education topics, such as student mobility patterns, the REACH scholarship, the Connections for Classrooms grant program, and Innovation Fund grantees;
- Published [second annual report on the performance of state charter schools](#) in 2013-2014;
  - Contracted to Dr. Tim Sass, Georgia State University.
  - The evaluation examined multiple measures including:
    - Student performance on state assessments;
    - A “value-added” model (VAM) that includes statistical controls for observable student characteristics and prior academic performance; and
    - The student growth model utilized in the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI).
- Conducted preliminary analysis for the Financial Efficiency Star Rating and finalized methodology with the Georgia Department Of Education (GaDOE);
- Published 2015 program evaluation of the Governor's Honors Program (GHP);
- Completion of 2015-2016 mid-year evaluation reports for the Reading Mentors Program and the RESA Growing Readers Program (GRP) (publication in January 2016);
- Provided program evaluation support for the Innovation Fund.
- Assembled data to support the Education Reform Commission;
- Reported results of 2013-2014 IE2/SWSS (Strategic Waiver School Systems) Evaluations to the State Board of Education (SBOE);
- Reviewed [SWSS applications](#) for approval by the SBOE;and
- Assisted in the development of an external research request process for university researchers to use GA•AWARDS data to answer relevant research questions.

### *Next Steps*

- Publish district-level Financial Efficiency Star Ratings (Spring 2016).
- Continue to collaborate with GOSA Innovative Programs team to evaluate and continuously improve these programs.

- Continue to review [SWSS/IE2 contracts](#). GOSA will evaluate the performance of schools relative to meeting the contracted performance targets annually.
- Continue to publish e-bulletins and monthly updates on education topics.
- Publish 2014-2015 state charter school report (Spring 2016).
- In collaboration with GA•AWARDS team, publish a dashboard and research report on high school graduate outcomes (Spring 2016).



## **Race to the Top Grant Evaluation**

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) was tasked with conducting the [evaluation](#) of many aspects of Georgia's Race to the Top (RT3) grant, which came to a conclusion in June 2015. The summary below outlines the recent publications on the RT3 work.

### Accomplishments

- Innovation Fund
  - Social Return on Investment
    - GOSA released a Social Return on Investment Report of the four RT3 Innovation Fund grantees that focused on high school transitions to college and career:
    - Each program yielded positive outcomes for participating students and positive returns for the community.
  - Profiles of Innovation Fund Grantees
    - GOSA released a report profiling promising practices from five Round 1 and Round 2 Innovation Fund grantees:
    - Though it is too early to assess the long-term effects of these programs, these profiles serve as a framework for districts and schools looking to implement, expand, or replicate innovative approaches to teaching and learning.
- Published an update on the Leading/Lagging Indicator Report on the improvement of RT3 Lowest-Achieving schools.
  - While some schools have made strides to improve student achievement, most schools have fallen short of the grant's expectations for dramatic increases.

### *Next Steps*

- Publish report on progress of Lowest-Achieving Middle Schools (February 2016).

## Race to the Top & Early Learning Challenge Grant Evaluation

GOSA serves as an external evaluator for two projects within Georgia's Race to the Top-[Early Learning Challenge \(ELC\) grant](#): Quality Rated Validation and the Early Education Empowerment Zones (E3Zs).

### *Recent Work*

- [Quality Rated](#): Quality Rated is Georgia's tiered quality rating and improvement system that rates child care centers on a three-star scale. It is optional, but the Department of Early Care and Learning's (DECAL) goal is to have 100% participation by 2017. GOSA's validation work of Quality Rated examines whether the star ratings are truly differentiating quality in child care centers. GOSA has provided on-going data analysis to strengthen implementation.
- [E3Zs](#): Four areas of the state have been selected to receive an infusion of support, resources, and incentives to increase the quantity and quality of high-quality childcare. As the four E3Zs roll out, GOSA is evaluating implementation to identify best practices that can be scaled elsewhere in the state. GOSA released its first two evaluation reports in October and December 2015.

### *Next Steps*

- Continue validation work on Quality Rated.
- Continue to publish quarterly evaluation reports of the E3Zs.
- Publish a report on the Great Start Georgia Home Visitation Model (April 2016).

## **Connections for Classrooms Grant Program**

### Overview

[Connections for Classrooms](#) (CFC) is a competitive grant program joining 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 \$65 million from the following two sources:

- Bond funds appropriated to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE; and
- State general funds appropriated to the OneGeorgia Authority at the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) manages the funds.

The program is part of a broader statewide effort to expand classroom high-speed broadband access in response to Governor Deal's Digital Learning Task Force recommendations as well as the GaDOE's efforts to enable personalized learning for Georgia students. It complements the expansion of the University System of Georgia's (USG) PeachNet network to connect every Georgia local educational agency (LEA) to its high-speed network. The partnership between USG and GaDOE ensured that all district central offices have 100 megabits per second per school of bandwidth as of July 2015. CFC ensures that schools have sufficient network infrastructure to effectively utilize the increased bandwidth at the classroom level.

The current [Connections for Classrooms Annual Report](#) is now available on GOSA's website.

The CFC grant application and award criteria prioritized funding districts that will leverage the technology to implement digital learning, where students have "some element of control over the time, place, path, and/or pace" of learning.

### Round 1

Round 1 of CFC provided approximately \$37 million in funds for 104 LEAs to upgrade their broadband infrastructure at the district, school, and classroom levels. Round 1 reimbursements are ongoing.

- As of December 2015, 43 LEAs have completed their projects
- All projects must be completed by June 20, 2016.

### Rounds 2 and 3

In late 2014, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has infused \$2 billion more dollars into the Category 2 of the federal E-Rate program to focus on building out school-level network infrastructure. With these changes, Georgia districts became eligible for as much as \$188 million in those funds over the next five years.

Given this change, Rounds 2 and 3 provided funds for the LEAs E-rate local match. Focusing on the E-rate match as opposed to directly funding infrastructure allows schools to leverage federal funds towards their infrastructure needs alongside their grant money.

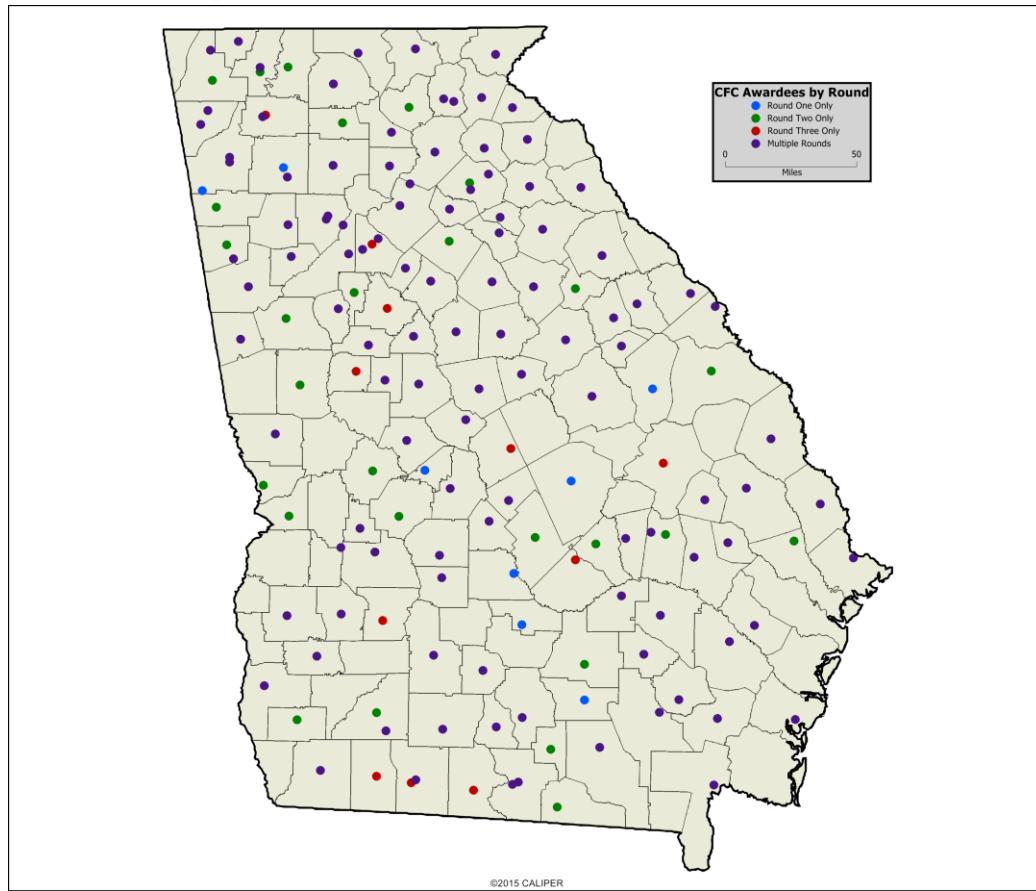
- Round 2 fully funded the "local match" of all Round 1 applicants' unfunded school- and classroom-level requests.
- Approximately \$25.3 million were awarded to 136 LEAs, which enabled them to receive \$90.8 million in E-rate funding.
- Contract finalization and reimbursements are ongoing.

- Round 3 applications opened to all LEAs with remaining E-rate Category 2 eligibility in summer 2015 and closed in October 2015. 62 LEAs applied for more than \$15 million.
- GOSA will announce roughly \$8.2 million in Round 3 awards in January 2016.
- The next E-rate funding cycle opens in early 2016.

The table and map below summarize the grant awards.

Connections for Classrooms Grant Awards			
Round	Amount Awarded	Participating LEAs	Eligible Expenditure
1	\$37 million	104	District and School Network Equipment
2	\$25.3 million	136	E-rate Category 2
3	Roughly \$8.2 million to be awarded January 2016	TBD	E-rate Category 2

**Map of Connections for Classrooms Awardees**



#### Next Steps

- Execute contracts with Round 2 and 3 grantees as they receive their E-rate funding commitment letters from the federal government.
- Continue to conduct site visits to ensure that implementation aligns with the contract.

## **YouScience Pilot Program**

The General Assembly, in an effort led by Senator Lindsey Tippins, appropriated state funds for a pilot initiative to identify an online profile that would help Georgia high school students discover their aptitudes and apply those strengths to find direction for their pathway, college, and career choices. After a committee explored various options, the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) partnered with YouScience to provide 20,000 licenses to Georgia 10th graders in a representative sample of high schools around the state for the 2015-2016 school year. The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) has partnered with TCSG to administer and evaluate this pilot program.

High schools across the state were strategically selected to ensure diverse representation of schools and students and invited to participate in a statewide pilot of the YouScience profile. The profile is a series of online, brief aptitude assessments that identify a person's natural abilities through a unique performance-based method, which is in contrast to commonly used self-report and interest-only methods. The Profile results provide students with personalized, scientifically data-driven feedback on natural abilities, interests, and work styles to better inform their college and career choices. The Profile results also provide students with up-to-date information on the job market and salaries for matching careers. With over 40% of the careers not requiring a college education, the YouScience Profile is designed to support all students, both college- and career-bound.

### **Pilot Timeline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
July 17, 2015	Contract Awarded
August 28, 2015	Initial Email Invitation to Districts for Participation
September – October 2015	Outreach to Secure School Agreement & Ambassador Assignment
September 29 – October 28	15 In-Person Training Sessions for 45 Schools
September 30, 2015	YouScience Implementation Begins
December 1 – 3; Early January	Remote Training Sessions for 11 Schools ( <i>9 &amp; 2 respectively</i> )
December 4, 2015	Preliminary Ambassador Survey from GOSA to Gauge Implementation
December 22, 2015	61% of Schools administered YS Profile Exercises (43% of Students)
February 28, 2016	Target for All YS Profile Exercises to be Complete
March – April 2016	Full Student and Ambassador Survey to be Administered
July 2016	Pilot Evaluation Report to be Complete

Implementation will continue in spring 2016 in the remaining schools. GOSA will continue to monitor and support implementation. SageFox is developing the surveys with stakeholder feedback in collaboration with YouScience and GOSA. The student and Ambassador surveys will be administered in March – April 2016, and the full evaluation report will be released in July 2016.

