



## 2018 Legislative Issues

Many important issues impact education, but two areas remain of utmost concern:

1. support for public education, not tax-funded vouchers; and
2. full federal funding for education.

### 1. Support for Public Education, Not Tax-Funded Vouchers

The HCBOE opposes vouchers, tuition tax credits or scholarships which would divert K-12 public funding to private schools or home study.

- Reallocation of billions of tax dollars into private schools would weaken, not improve, public education.
- Parents are concerned about crime, drugs, and discipline. Vouchers will not solve these problems – only parents and communities can address these issues.
- Vouchers could send public money into unregulated, ill-qualified or financially unstable private schools with no public accountability.
- If vouchers are implemented, then private schools and home schools should be required to meet the same standards as public schools, to include Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).
- The HCBOE urges Congress to reject vouchers and instead work to improve the public schools.

### 2. Federal Funding for Education

High quality, adequate investments in educational excellence are imperative to strengthening student outcomes. As Georgia's population and student enrollment continue to grow, the need for increased revenue is even more critical. Houston County's public school enrollment increases by approximately 400 students per year.

Schools need adequate funds for Title I programs (education for the disadvantaged) and IDEA (special education), which are the two largest sources of federal funding to school districts. Other areas of funding significance are teacher quality grants, education technology programs, and Title V State Grants for Innovative Education Programs.

### 3. Houston County's Local IDEA Share

The chart that follows illustrates the cost and funding sources of special education. Of the \$51.1 million spent on special education during FY2017, 9.59 percent were federal dollars, 39.53 percent were state funds, and 50.89 percent represented the local supplement. The local share has increased more than 10 percent since 2009, up from 42.79 percent. Although the federal contribution has improved over time, it remains far less than the 40 percent promised in the 1975 IDEA mandate.

**Houston County Public Schools  
Analysis of Special Education Cost and Funding Sources  
FY2017 Budgeted Expenditures  
Superintendent's Recommended Level**

<b>Direct Instructional Costs:</b>	
QBE Categories I-V	\$31,679,260
Title VI-B	4,767,370
Preschool	533,854
<b>Administrative &amp; Support Costs:</b>	
Special Ed Administration	2,922,903
Psychologists/Social Workers	973,413
*Transportation	4,729,636
*M&O of Bldgs, Staff Dev, Central Support	2,878,053
*Local School Administration	2,101,920
*Legal Expenses	555,000
<b>Total Cost Associated with Special Education</b>	<b>\$51,141,408</b>
<b>Less State &amp; Federal Funding</b>	<b>25,120,492</b>
<b>Local Cost to fund Special Education</b>	<b>\$26,020,916</b>

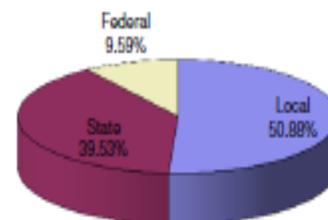
<b>Funding Sources</b>	
State K-12	\$22,527,792
State Preschool	394,809
Federal -K-12	4,767,370
Federal Preschool	139,045
State Transportation	454,103
<b>Less Local Five Mills Austerity Reduction</b>	<b>(2,673,928) (488,699)</b>
<b>Net funding sources</b>	<b>\$25,120,492</b>

Projected FTE for 2017 (Includes 48 FTE for 100 preschool students) 1,864

<b>Local Cost per FTE</b>	<b>\$13,958.48</b>
<b>State Cost per FTE</b>	<b>10,843.50</b>
<b>Federal Cost per FTE</b>	<b>2,631.96</b>
<b>Total Cost Per FTE</b>	<b>\$27,433.93</b>

\*Estimated

**Special Education Funding Sources**



**Note: Projected number of students served is 3,514**