



2021 PAGE Day on Capitol Hill



Education & TRS Bills on the Move

2021 Legislative Session

2021 PAGE Legislative Priorities

- **Foster personalized instruction**
- **Promote student and educator mental health**
- **Invest in Georgia's public school students and their future**
- **Institute transparency for student and educator health**

Full legislative priorities are available at www.pageinc.org along with supporting one-pagers with citations.

Governor Kemp's Teacher Pipeline Package

- **SB 88 sponsored by Sen. Russ Goodman (R-Clinch Co)**
- **Makes the GA Teacher of the Year an advisory ex officio member of the SBOE**
- **Prioritizes military veterans to become certified teachers**
- **Directs GA colleges of teacher education to enhance teacher preparation in differentiated instruction and reading fundamentals**
- **Articulates the need for more Georgia teachers of color and partnerships with HBCU's**
- **Directs school districts to focus evaluation resources on new and struggling teachers**

Governor Kemp's Teacher Pipeline Package

- **HB 385, by Rep. Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire)**
- **Return to Work Legislation**
- **Would allow retired teachers in high needs areas to return to work at 100% while drawing TRS benefits**
- **Participants would need to wait 12 months before becoming eligible**
- **High needs areas would be determined by RESAs, based on local need**
- **As a fiscal retirement bill, HB 385 requires a two-year legislative process, and could not become effective until 2022**

Tax Credit for Teachers New to Rural & Low Performing Schools

- **HB 32 by Rep. Dave Belton (R-Buckhead)**
- **Creates a \$3,000 tax credit for teachers who work for specified rural or low-performing schools.**
- **Credit would be awarded to veteran and new teachers working for schools identified by GaDOE.**

Dexter Mosely (“Tim Tebow”) Act

- **SB 51 by Rep. Bruce Thompson (R-White)**
- **Would allow home schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities in their resident public school system**
- **Student must enroll in one course in their local public school**

Transgender Student Athletes

- **HB 276 by Rep. Phillip Singleton (R-Sharpburg)**
- **Would make it unlawful for public or private schools, both K-12 and postsecondary, whose students compete against public schools, to allow transgender female athletes to participate in athletic programs designated for females.**
- **Title IX and other legal issues may apply. Bill has not passed subcommittee.**

Paid Parental Leave for Educators

- **HB 146 by Rep. Houston Gaines (R-Athens)**
- **Provides three weeks of paid parental leave to eligible state employees in Georgia, including K-12 educators**
- **Applies after birth of a child, adoption of a child, or placement of a child in foster care**
- **No state funding attached**

Private School Voucher Legislation

- **HB 60 by Wes Cantrell (R-Woodstock)**
- **Would create publicly funded, parent–controlled student accounts to be used for eligible education expenses, including private school tuition**
- **Open to students whose districts didn't provide 100% F2F instruction in the prior year, students adopted from foster care, those who have been bullied, special education students, and children of active duty military**
- **Would create Georgia's third private school voucher program**

Private School Voucher Legislation

- **SB 47 by Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega)**
- **Would expand Georgia's existing special education private school voucher program**
- **Students with IEP's and 504 plans would now be eligible**
- **Though legal entitlement to special services triggers eligibility, students accepted the voucher waive their legal rights to special services at private schools**

Contact and Questions

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Please check out our daily reports and other resources under the legislative tab at www.pageinc.org



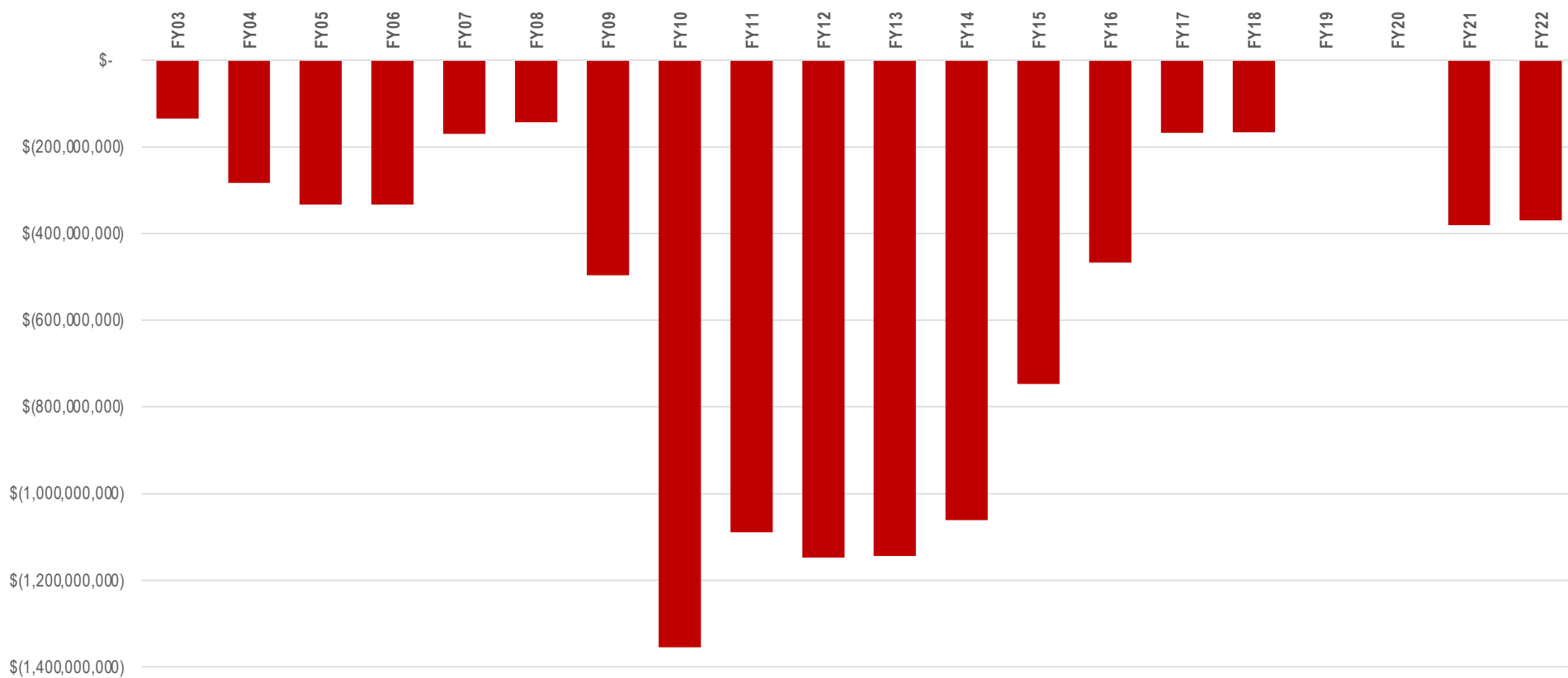
PAGE Day
on Capitol Hill:

Budget Highlights

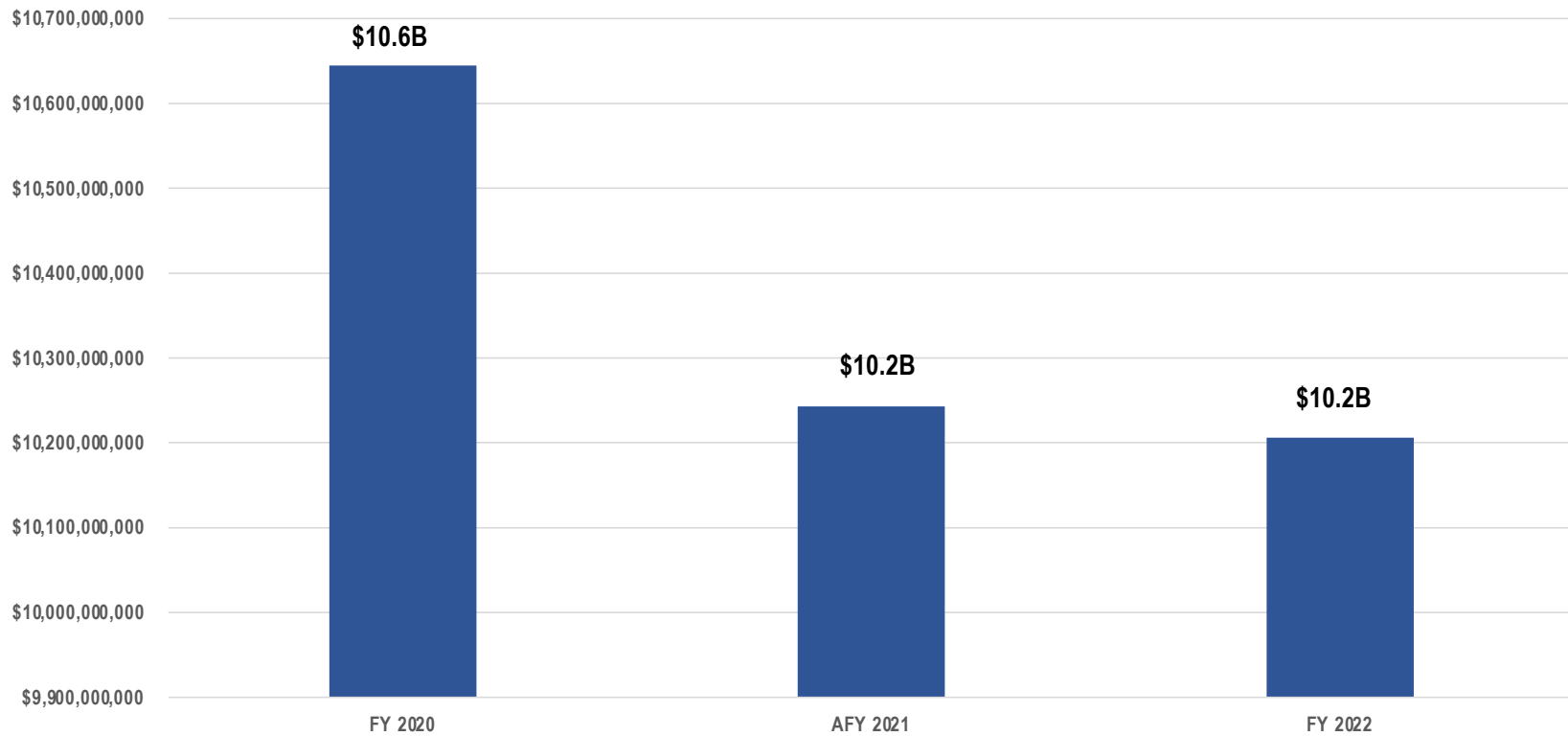
K-12 Funding Highlights

- **Partial restoration of austerity cut**
- **\$39 million for school bus replacement**
- **\$1,000 one-time educator bonus**

QBE Austerity Cuts



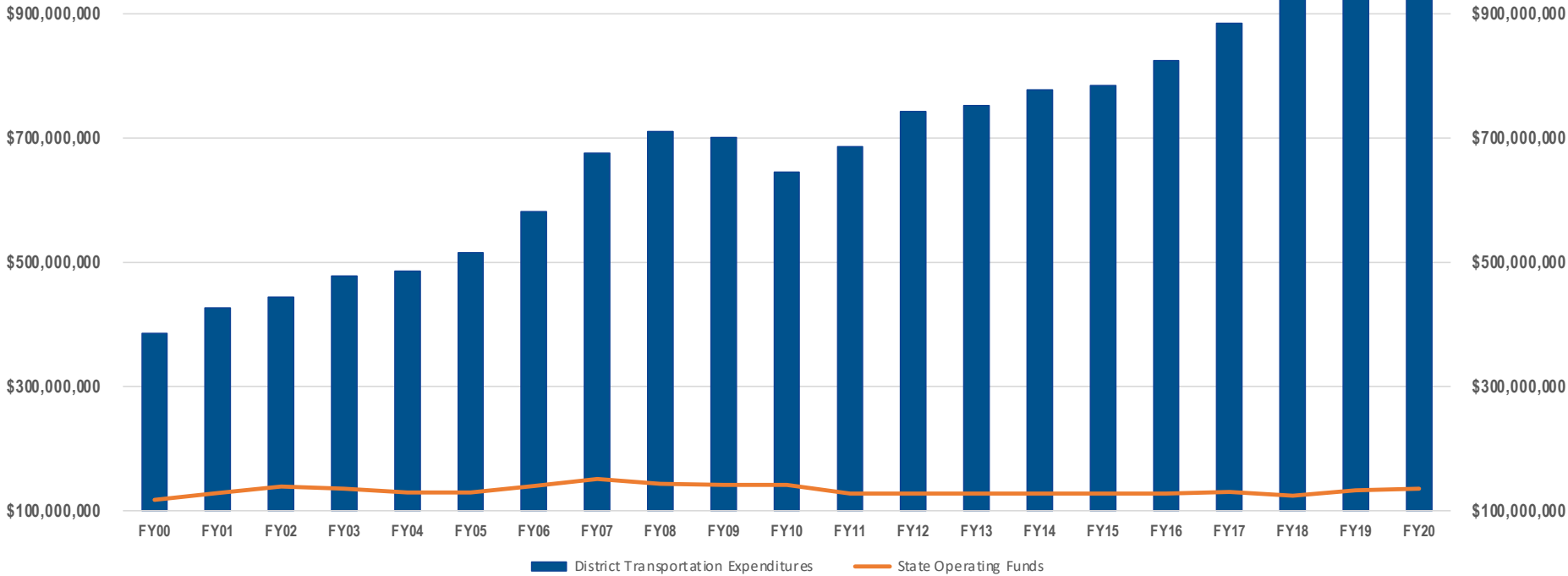
State Funding for K-12



Student Mental Health Funding Gaps

- **QBE does not fund counselors for 6 student categories: 5 special education and gifted**
- **QBE-funded counselor-student ratio: 1 per 450 students**
- **Recommended school counselor-student ratio: 1 per 250 students**

Climbing Student Transportation Costs

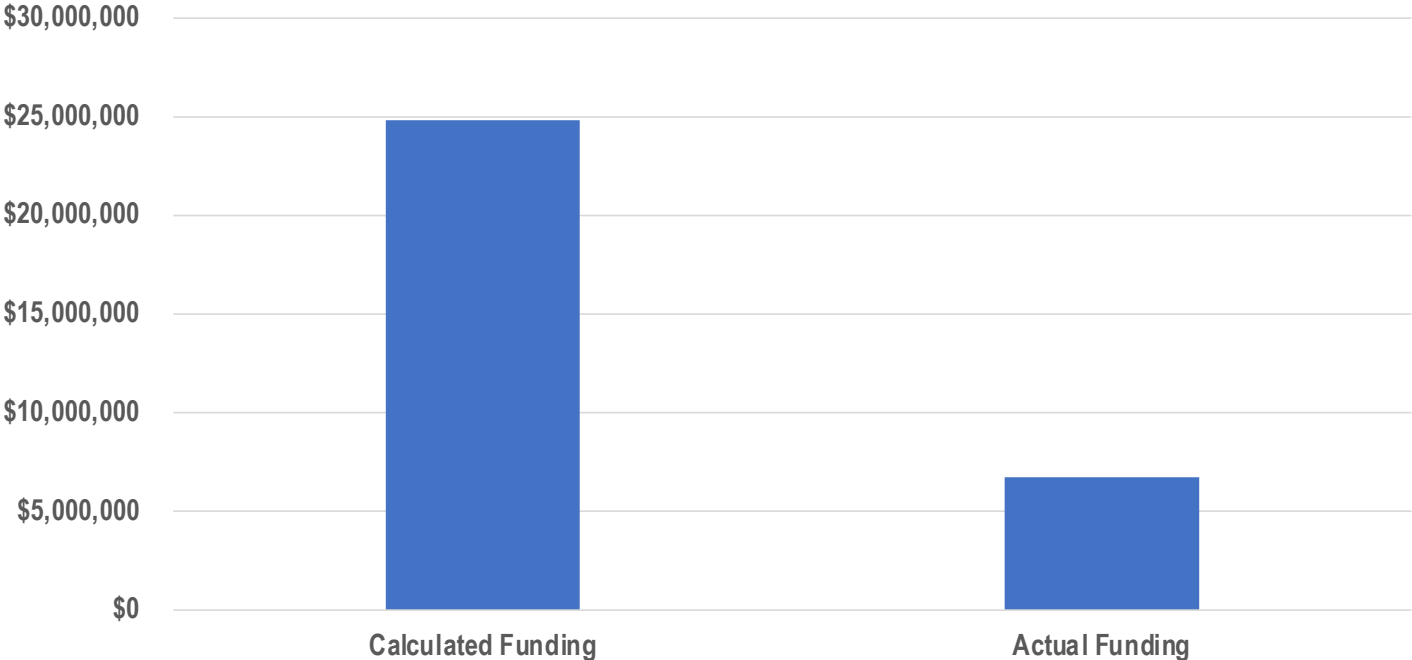


Outdated Funding for Substitutes

- **QBE funding for substitutes: \$150 for 8 days per teacher = \$18.75 per day**
- **Inflation-adjusted QBE funding for substitutes: \$356 for 8 days per teacher = \$45 per day**

Underfunded Sparsity Grants

Sparsity Grants funded at 27%





PAGE Day on Capitol Hill:

Advocacy Tips

Your Voice Matters

- **Engage key lawmakers**
- **Share your expertise**
- **Explain with personal stories**
- **Be brief and focused**
- **Involve others**

Your Voice Matters

- **Email and call during session**
- **Meet before/after session (summer!)**
- **Monitor issues**
- **Follow-up**

Your Voice Matters: SB 47-Special Needs Voucher

- **Senate Education & Youth Committee**
- **Rules Committee**
- **Senate**
- **Talking Points:**
 - **Students waive right to specialized services**
 - **Minimal data**
 - **No evaluation of student outcomes**
 - **No financial audits of participating schools**
 - **No accountability for poorly-performing schools**

Your Voice Matters: HB 60-ESA Voucher

- **House Education Committee/Subcommittee**
- **Rules Committee**
- **House**
- **Talking Points:**
 - **Mimics voucher programs with poor student outcomes**
 - **Students waive right to specialized services**
 - **Minimal data**
 - **No evaluation of student outcomes**
 - **No financial audits of participating schools**
 - **No accountability for poorly-performing schools**
 - **Big price tag**