

SEF

SOUTHERN
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

*The Southern Education Foundation's
Introduction to the
Georgia Legislative Black Caucus*

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**Fred Jones, Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy
Titilayo Tinubu Ali, Director of Research and Policy**

The Southern Education Foundation's mission is to advance creative solutions to ensure equity and excellence in education for students of color and low income students in the South.



SEF Highlights

In 1903,
W.E.B DuBois
becomes SEF's
First Fellow



SEF Highlights

In 1907,
Booker T. Washington
Joins SEF's Board of
Trustees



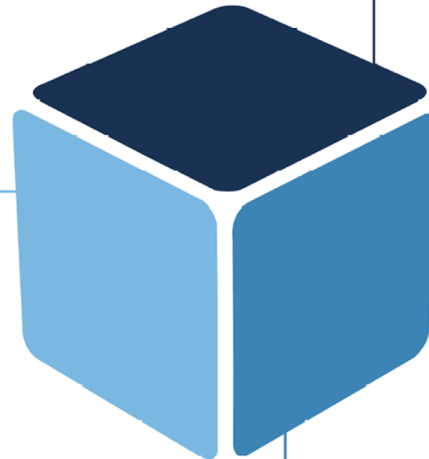
SOUTHERN EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCOPE AND SCALE

EDUCATION CONTINUUM

PRE-K – POST GRADUATE

STRATEGY AREAS

RESEARCH
ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



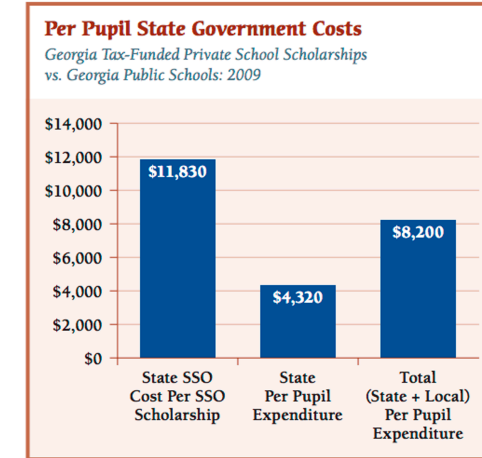
GEOGRAPHY

SOUTHERN STATES

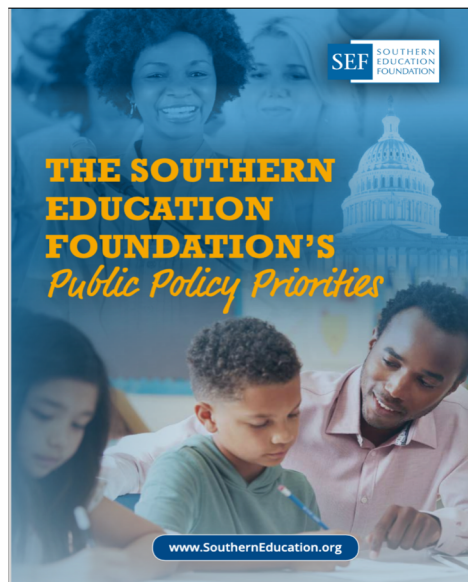
AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV

Strategies - What Do We Do?

- Publish/ Amplify **Research and Data**
- **Strengthen the Capacity** of the **Advocacy** Ecosystem, including legislators
- **Leadership Development**



Source: IRS 990 Forms & Georgia Department of Education
SOUTHERN EDUCATION FOUNDATION | SOUTHERNEDUCATION.ORG



HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP'S PROPOSED EDUCATION BUDGET

Governor Brian Kemp was elected by a narrow margin against his opponent, Stacey Abrams, in Georgia's gubernatorial race last November. He recently developed the state's budget, which stands to impact 1.9 million of Georgia's students, but especially the 1.2 million low-income students that reside in the state. Overall, his budget includes \$10.9 billion for Georgia's K-12 funding formula, a \$67 million increase over FY2019. Governor Kemp's proposal continues to fully fund the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula; however, it has not been updated for nearly 30 years and needs to be aligned with the costs necessary to educate the children of today. The governor also provided additional funding for teacher pay raises (an increase of \$3,000 per year) and charter school expansion. Charter Schools can expect to see a significant bump in funding primarily due to enrollment growth from last year.

Core Georgia Education Programs	FY 2020 Proposed Budget	FY 2019 (Amended)	FY 2018
Pre-K	\$440,200,000	\$428,800,000	\$426,300,000
State K-12 Funding Formula	\$10,970,000,000	\$10,900,000,000	\$10,430,000,000
Charter Schools	\$2,180,000	\$2,370,000	\$2,170,000
Teacher Pay Raises	\$480,000,000	\$0	\$0
Community Schools or Wraparound Services	\$1,230,000	\$1,230,000	\$1,230,000
Virtual Schools	\$10,540,000	\$10,500,000	\$10,180,000
School Safety	\$0	\$68,820,000	\$0
Higher Education	\$2,388,000,000	\$2,440,000,000	\$2,320,000,000
Other - Chief Turnaround Officer	\$2,200,000	\$2,190,000	\$0

1. The education programs listed in the chart were selected based on the priorities of the Southern Education Foundation. We believe these programs are most closely associated with student success or the most significant impediments in the education system.
2. The budget summary and chart figures may slightly differ due to rounding.
3. The state education program charts may differ from state to state due to different budget development processes and a respective governor's education priorities.

School Privatization Policy Brief

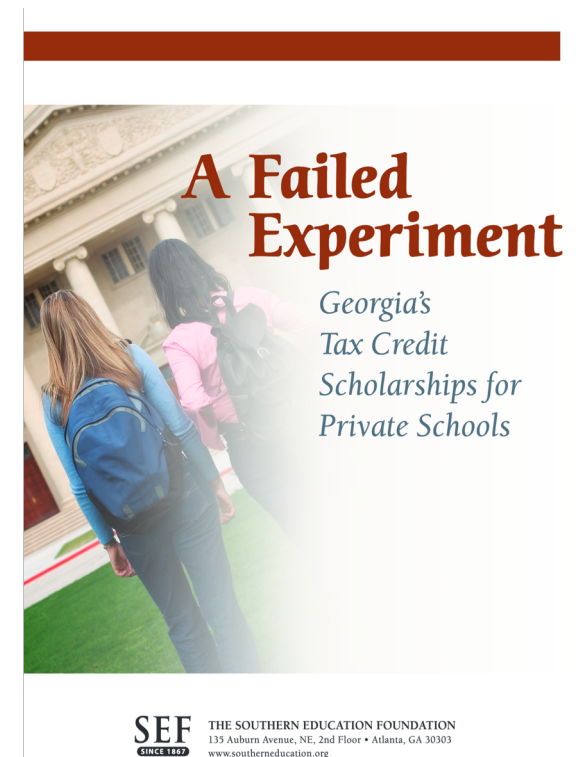
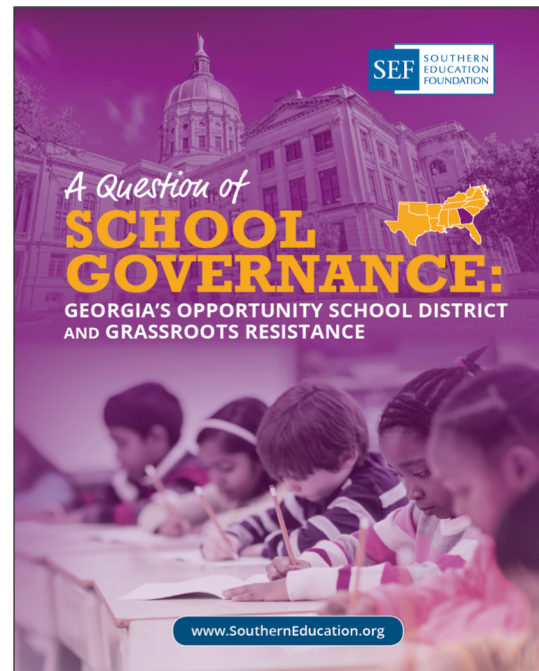
SEF Position
SEF opposes all school voucher programs, education savings accounts, tax credit scholarship programs, and any other efforts to fund private schools with public dollars.

Background
From tax exemptions to direct grants for scholarships for K-12 students, state policymakers have found creative ways to funnel taxpayer dollars away from public schools and into private schools. School privatization policies provide families of various income levels and disability (or ability) statuses opportunities to use public dollars to finance enrollment in private schools. In the seventeen states SEF serves, twelve¹ states operate school privatization programs that provide either school vouchers, tax-credit scholarships, or education savings accounts, resulting in 276,000 participating students and amounting to \$1.6 billion in state funding or tax benefits to fund private schools or pay for private education services.² A review of the most comprehensive forms of school vouchers from the Center on Education Policy concluded that "studies have generally found no clear advantage in academic achievement for students attending private schools with vouchers."³ Most research findings show no material difference in learning outcomes when comparing students who use vouchers to attend private schools and those who are enrolled in public schools. Despite the lack of evidence that school vouchers have any substantial positive impact on student achievement, the advancement of voucher programs in many states has not slowed. State and federal legislatures continue to introduce bills that spread school privatization efforts regardless of the negative impacts on traditional public schools, including United States Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos's

¹ Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.
² SEF analysis of EDC Online Database.
³ Usher, A. & Kober, N. (2017). Keeping Informed about School Vouchers: A Review of Major Developments and Research. Washington, DC: Center on Education Policy.

SEF's Latest Engagements In Georgia

- Testified to the Georgia Senate Study Committee on African American Children
- Produce reports and policy analysis



SEF Opposition to School Privatization Efforts

- **School Vouchers** - States offer parents a certain amount of public education funding for private school tuition.
- **Education Savings Account** - States set aside funding and place it in individual accounts for students to be used for a variety of services.
- **Tax-Credit Scholarship** - States offer businesses or individuals tax credits to donate money to non-profit student scholarship-granting organizations.

Georgia School Privatization Efforts

Program Type	Program Name	Participation	Avg. Funding	# of Participating Schools	Total Costs
School Voucher	Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program	4,873	\$6,814	261	\$33.2 million
Tax-Credit Scholarship	Qualified Education Expense Tax Credit	13,895	\$4,008	400	\$55.7 million
Total Amount					\$88.9 million

Source: Edchoice

Georgia Education Scholarship Act HB301 / SB173 – 2019

- Established an Education Savings Account for students with disabilities

Main Issues

- Unproven strategy to improve outcomes for SWD or traditional students
- Disinvests in public schools
- Duplicative school voucher program and current IDEA protections
- Fails to pay for avg. costs of attendance (\$8k vs real costs of \$18k)

SEF's Legislative Priorities

1. Update and revamp QBE and adopt an “Opportunity weight” for low-income students
2. Advance Community Schools by streamlining wraparound services
3. Eliminate or sunset all school privatization efforts

Main Take Away!

**We want to work with you
and support your education
needs!**

Acknowledgements & Thank You

Contact Information:

Fred Jones, Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy,

Fjones@southerneducation.org

Titilayo Tinubu Ali, Director of Research and Policy,

Tali@southerneducation.org