

State Funding and the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program

2019-2020 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Award Amounts

During the 2019-2020 school year, which is the most recent officially reported data, over 5,000 students received a scholarship award to attend a participating private school through the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program. The range of the annual scholarship amounts for this school year were between \$2,365 and \$14,635. Of the students participating during the 2019-2020 school year, the average scholarship award amount was \$6,734. These annual scholarship award amounts are based upon the state funds that would have been provided to the local school system of residence. The remainder of this document provides an explanation how state funds are earned for public school students and how this relates to Georgia Special Needs scholarship awards.

2021-2022 State Funding Amounts – General Education Categories*

Scholarship Funding for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program, to be used by a qualified student at a participating private school, is calculated based upon the amount of state funds that would have been allotted to the local school system in which the student resides.

To calculate these funds the State divides a school day into 6 segments. For each of these segments a specific funding code is input by the local school system for each student enrolled that correlates to the types of education services received during the two reporting periods each school year. Though there are 20 different funding categories for education funding, the following 6 funding categories represent those most commonly used in Georgia K-12 public education. The table below outlines the categories of funds generated by students, per segment, which is then multiplied by 6 to show how much state funding would potentially be generated for the school year for the student assuming that all six segments are for the same category.

These are the most common funding programs used in K-12 public education.

<i>Funding Category</i>	<i>FY22 Funding Amount Per Segment</i>	<i>Number of Funding Segments</i>	<i>FY22 Total Annual State Funding per Student*</i>
Kindergarten	\$777	6	\$4,664
Primary Grades (Grades 1-3)	\$602	6	\$3,611
Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)	\$483	6	\$2,898
Middle School Program (Grades 6-8)	\$529	6	\$3,174
Grades 9-12	\$465	6	\$2,790

*Throughout this document all amounts are rounded to the whole dollar.

As an example, using the data from the previous table, a kindergarten student that receives general curriculum services throughout the entire school day would generate \$4,664 in state funds. If this were a student participating in the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program, this is the scholarship amount that would be awarded to the student to offset tuition at a participating private school if the student attended the entire school year at any participating private school.

Description of General Education Categories

Funding Category	Description of Funding Category
Kindergarten	Students scheduled to receive general curriculum services in Kindergarten for the entire day will normally have six segments of Kindergarten (PROGRAM CODE = 'A') per school day. Students in Kindergarten who receive other services will be coded with the appropriate program code for each segment of other services received outside of the Kindergarten program.
Primary Grades (Grades 1-3)	Students scheduled to receive general curriculum services in grades 1 - 3 for the entire day will normally have six segments of Grades 1-3 (PROGRAM CODE = 'B') per school day. Students in grades 1 - 3 who receive other services should be coded with the appropriate program code for each segment of other services received outside of the grades 1 - 3 program.
Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)	Students scheduled to receive general curriculum services in grades 4 - 5 for the entire day will normally have six segments of Grades 4-5 (PROGRAM CODE = 'C') per school day. Students in grades 4 - 5 who receive other services should be coded with the appropriate program code for each segment of other services received outside of the grades 4 - 5 program.
Middle School Program (Grades 6-8)	Students who are scheduled to receive general curriculum services in grades 6 - 8 for the entire day will have six segments of Grades 6-8 (Middle School Program) (PROGRAM CODE = 'H') per school day. Students in grades 6 - 8 who receive other curriculum services would be coded with the appropriate program code for each segment of other services received outside of the general education program.

Funding Category	Description of Funding Category
Grades 9-12	Students scheduled to receive general curriculum services in grades 9 - 12 for the entire day will normally have six segments of Grades 9-12 (PROGRAM CODE = 'D') per school day. Students in grades 9 - 12 who receive services other than the general curriculum should be coded with the appropriate program code for each segment of other curriculum services received outside of the general education program.

2021-2022 State Funding Amounts – Additional Specialized Education Categories

Of course, many students have different and specific needs and the remaining state funding categories are intended to address the additional and specialized educational needs of students.

<i>Funding Category</i>	<i>FY22 Funding Amount Per Segment</i>
Alternative Education	\$692
Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Lab (Grades 9-12)	\$550
Early Intervention Program - Kindergarten	\$961
Early Intervention Program - Primary Grades (Grades 1-3)	\$845
Early Intervention Program - Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)	\$842
English for Speakers of Other Languages	\$1,203
Gifted Education	\$781
Remedial Education Program (Grades 6-12)	\$631
Special Education I	\$1,121
Special Education II	\$1,320
Special Education III	\$1,682
Special Education IV	\$2,728
Special Education V	\$1,150

Description of Additional Specialized Education Categories

Funding Category	Description of Funding Category
Alternative Education	Alternative education is a state program intended to meet the education needs of a student who is suspended from the regular classroom or a student who is eligible to remain in the regular classroom but is more likely to succeed in a nontraditional setting such as that provided in an alternative education program.
Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Lab	State program that provides additional funding to offset costs involved in operating CTAE programs that require a specialized vocational lab component for successful instruction.
Early Intervention Program (EIP)	This state program serves students who are at risk of not reaching or maintaining academic grade level, in grades kindergarten through five.
English for Speakers of Other Languages	Students identified as English Learners may also qualify to be served by the English for Speakers of Other Languages, which is a state-funded program to provide additional educational supports for identified students.
Gifted Education	This program serves students identified as gifted and receive services as provided by State Board Rule 160-4-2-.38 Education Program for Gifted Students.
Remedial Education Program	This state program serves students in grades 6-12 to address deficiencies in reading, mathematics, or writing who meet the qualifications set forth in OCGA 20-2-154 and State Board of Education Rule 160-4-5-.01 Remedial Education.
Special Education I	Per OCGA 20-2-152, this specialized funding category includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific Learning Disability (U) for 4 to 6 segments • Speech-Language Impairment (3) for 4 to 6 segments
Special Education II	Per OCGA 20-2-152, this specialized funding category includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild Intellectual Disability (P) for 1 to 6 segments
Special Education III	Per OCGA 20-2-152, this specialized funding category includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate Intellectual Disability (Q) for 1 to 6 segments • Severe Intellectual Disability (R) for 1 to 6 segments

Funding Category	Description of Funding Category
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional and Behavioral Disorder (T) for 1 to 6 segments • Specific Learning Disability (U) for 1 to 3 segments • Orthopedic Impairment (V) for 4 to 6 segments • Hard of Hearing(W) for 4 to 6 segments Deaf (X) for 4 to 6 segments • Other Health Impairment (Y) for 4 to 6 segments • Speech-Language Impairment (3) for 1 to 3 segments
Special Education IV	<p>Per OCGA 20-2-152, this specialized funding category includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profound Intellectual Disability (S) for 1 to 6 segments • Orthopedic Impairment (V) for 1 to 3 segments • Hearing Impairment (W) for 1 to 3 segments • Deaf (X) for 1 to 3 segments • Other Health Impairment (Y) for 1 to 3 segments • Visual Impairment (Z) for 1 to 6 segments • Blind (1) for 1 to 6 segments • Deaf and Blind (2) for 1 to 6 segments
Special Education V	<p>Per OCGA 20-2-152, this specialized funding category is an inclusion model for those special education students classified as being in Categories I through IV, whose Individualized Educational Programs (IEP) specify specially designed instruction or supplementary aids or services in alternative placements, in the least restrictive environment, including the regular classroom and who receive such services from personnel such as paraprofessionals, interpreters, job coaches, and other assistive personnel.</p>

2021-2022 State Funding Amounts – Example of General Education and Specialized Education Category Funding

Scenario:

A fourth-grade student receives general curriculum services throughout the day but has an IEP that includes speech language services once a week.

<i>Funding Category</i>	<i>Funding Amount Per Segment</i>	<i>Number of Funding Segments</i>	<i>Total Annual State Funding</i>
General Education Categories			
Kindergarten	\$777		
Primary Grades (Grades 1-3)	\$602		
Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)	\$483	5	\$2,415
Middle School Program (Grades 6-8)	\$529		
Grades 9-12	\$465		
Specialized State Education Categories			
Alternative Education	\$692		
Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Lab	\$550		
Early Intervention Program (EIP) Kindergarten	\$961		
Early Intervention Program (EIP) Grades 1-3	\$845		
Early Intervention Program (EIP) Grades 4-5	\$842		
English for Speakers of Other Languages	\$1,203		
Gifted Education	\$780		
Remedial Education Program	\$631		
Special Education I	\$1,121		
Special Education II	\$1,320		
Special Education III	\$1,682	1	\$1682
Special Education IV	\$2,729		
Special Education V	\$1,150		
		TOTAL:	4,097