

Common Terms/Definitions and the Georgia LUA Chart of Accounts

Common Terms and Definitions

GaDOE- Georgia Department of Education – the State Educational Agency that provides oversight to the local educational agencies.

LEA – Local Educational Agency – a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school system, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school systems or counties that is recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools. (www.ed.gov)

LUA - Local Units of Administration – same definition as an LEA but includes Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs).

RESA – Regional Educational Service Agency - created by the General Assembly to provide shared services to improve the effectiveness of educational programs and services of local school systems, to provide instructional programs directly to selected public school systems, and to provide Georgia Learning Resources System services. RESAs are neither county nor independent school systems. Rather, they are service agencies, partly funded by the state, created to provide educational and support services to a group of school systems. O.C.G.A. §20-2-270.1 and §20-2-271 enumerates the specific kinds of assistance RESAs must provide to member school systems.

DE046 – The financial analysis report, as well as the initial and final budget for each fiscal year, that is submitted by each school system and state charter on an annual basis to the Georgia Department of Education. The specific File Layout for this report is required for every submission and can be found on the GaDOE Financial Review’s website.

FESR- The Financial Efficiency Star Rating as required by O.C.G.A. §20-14-33. The methodology used for the per pupil expenditure calculation for each LEA and school within an LEA is required to be presented by the Fiscal Transparency Bill. The calculation is also used as the calculation for the per pupil expenditures as required by the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act - The Act was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. The Act reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation’s national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

ESSA requires each State and LEA to report the per-pupil expenditures of Federal, State, and local funds, including actual personnel expenditures and actual nonpersonnel expenditures of Federal, State, and local funds, disaggregated by source of funds, for each local educational agency and each school in the State for the preceding fiscal year.

CCRPI – College and Career Ready Performance Index - a comprehensive school improvement, accountability, and communication platform for all educational stakeholders that will promote college and career readiness for all Georgia public school students.

QBE – Quality Basic Education – This Act describes the programs which the State of Georgia authorizes and supports in an effort to provide a quality basic education to all Georgia children. Periodically, the Georgia General Assembly has amended the original Act. For funding purposes, currently the Act identifies 18 QBE programs.

FTE – Full Time Equivalent - refers to data collected for Quality Basic Education funding and is based on student enrollment and the education services provided by local school systems to students. Each student is reported with 6 segments; the 6 segments equates to 1 full time student.

FMGLUA – *Financial Management for Georgia’s Local Units of Administration* - manual which provides guidance to LUA fiscal personnel and serves as a useful training and reference source for SCHOOL SYSTEM employees. LUAs are required by Georgia law [O.C.G.A. 20-2-167 (b) (1)] to comply with uniform regulations established by the State Board of Education relative to the statewide uniform computerized budget and accounting system. Rule 160-5-2-.02, of the Georgia Board of Education incorporates this manual by reference.

Local Facility Plan - Georgia law (20-2-260) requires all school systems to develop and maintain a long-range comprehensive facilities plan that is updated every five years to be eligible to participate in Georgia’s Capital Outlay Program. The GaDOE Facilities Department works directly with each school system to provide technical assistance in developing comprehensive plans.

Georgia LUA Chart of Accounts

Each expenditure reported by the school system must include an associated fund, function, program, object code, and facility/school code.

The categories of attributes are defined as follows:

Fund – Governmental accounting systems are organized and operated on a fund basis. Each school system and commission charter school are considered a local unit of administration (LUA) for accounting purposes. All the individual funds of a LUA are first classified by category and then by generic fund type within each category.

Function – The function describes the activity for which a service or material is acquired. The functions are classified into five broad areas: Instruction, Support Services, Operation of Non-Instructional Services, Facilities Acquisition and Construction, and Other Outlays.

Program Codes – Program codes are used to accumulate the data for the functions used in QBE program accounting and for required reporting of QBE programs and other programs as specified by GaDOE. The program codes identify specific grant sources and uses, which allows systems and commission charters to identify the expenditures related to specific grants.

Program Codes are disaggregated between state/local funding resources and federal resources where applicable to meet the expenditure reporting requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Object Codes – Object codes are used to describe the service or commodity obtained as the result of a specific expenditure, such as State Health Insurance for employees, Teachers Retirement System, and supplies. Object codes are the most distinct level of identification of expenditures. Categories include salaries, employee benefits, supplies, purchased services, etc.

Facility/School/Program Code – a code used to identify an open building or school within a school system. All facilities and schools are required to be registered with the GaDOE Facility Department. The information is utilized in the annual review of each LEA’s local facility plan, which is used to determine the need of the system based on enrollment growth and condition of the facilities. A program is an activity operated by an LEA, such as a career academy or alternative program, that is not a separate school and does not report student enrollment.

Revenues are required to be reported using a revenue source code instead of a function or object code. Revenue source codes are disaggregated into four categories: State, Local, Federal, and Other Financing Sources (such as bond issuance proceeds or transfers from other funds).

The LUA Chart of Accounts can be accessed [here](#).