ESEA: Title I, Part A 2019-2020 Annual Report

Foster Care Education Program





Federal Programs Division Grants Unit June 2021

Table of Contents

Grants Unit Program Staff	3
Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement	3
Grant Implementation Overview	
Key Foster Care Provisions	5
The Benefits of Data Driven Work	6
Foster Care Graduation Rates	14
Foster Care Education Demographics	15
LEA Transportation Plan	16
2019-2020 LEA Foster Care Set-Asides	17
Custom Foster Care Education Set-Asides	18
Monitoring of Foster Care Education Program	19
Title I, Part A (Foster Care) FY20 Monitoring Findings	20

Grants Unit Program Staff

Georgia Department of Education

Title I, Part A (Foster Care Education Program) – Federal Programs Division Grants Unit

Eric McGhee, Program Manager Melanie Barner, Grants Program Consultant

Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement



The Georgia Department of Education's strategic plan emphasizes transforming the agency into one that provides meaningful support to schools and districts. The agency has developed a common, continuous improvement framework to ensure that these efforts are aligned across all agency divisions, departments, and programs.

The Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement framework focuses on the systems and structures (the "what") that must be in place for sustained improvement in student outcomes. It also utilizes a problem-solving model (the "how") to provide a clear process for identifying improvement needs, planning for improvement, and implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the improvement efforts.

Grant Implementation Overview

In Georgia, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) sets policy, develops guidance and provides training and technical assistance for Georgia LEAs. GaDOE is required to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)). The Grants Unit provides leadership, guidance, technical assistance, and resources to local educational agencies (LEAs) to ensure youth in foster care meet the state's challenging academic content and student achievement standards. Training is coordinated at a state level and delivered through (a) an annual federal programs conference, (b) collaborative federal program regional sessions and webinars, and direct foster care trainings. The GaDOE publishes an annual LEA Title I, Part A, Foster Care Education Handbook and maintains a public website.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Georgia's governor issued an executive order to close schools on March 16, 2020 due to a global pandemic (COVID-19). LEAs

During the 2019-2020 school year, Georgia's governor issued an executive order to close schools on March 16, 2020 due to a global pandemic.

continued providing instruction to students through distance learning for the remainder of the school year. The GaDOE continued to provide technical assistance for LEAs during the school closures through FAQs, updates, webinars, and online professional development courses included guidance on COVID-19 responses, CARES Act funding, distance learning strategies and FY21 ESSA funds.

The foster care provisions of Title I, Part A (Foster Care) of the ESEA emphasize the importance of collaboration and joint decision-making between child welfare agencies and educational agencies. While these provisions do not create new requirements for child welfare agencies, they mirror and enhance similar provisions in the Fostering Connections Act. LEAs may use Title I, Part A funding to support students in foster care, even if these students attend non-Title I schools in the LEA. LEAs may create a custom set-aside for supplemental academic support.

In addition to state and local funds that may be available for providing transportation, certain federal funds (e.g., Title I, Part A) may be available to cover additional transportation costs to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin. An LEA must collaborate with the state or local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation will be provided to assist in maintaining youth in care within their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the child's time in foster care (the transportation procedures). Coordination among multiple LEAs and child welfare agencies may be necessary. An LEA must ensure that a child in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin receives such transportation for the duration of the time the child is in foster care (ESEA section 1112(c)(5)(B)). When a child exits foster

care, the LEA should continue to prioritize the child's educational stability, consider each child's best interest on a case-by-case basis, and, when possible, make every effort to continue to ensure transportation is provided through the end of the school year, if needed, when remaining in the school of origin would be in the child's best interest.

The LEA foster care point of contact is a mandatory participant in the development of the LEA's comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) and the LEA's District Improvement Plan (DIP).

The LEA foster care point of contact is essential to the LEA Foster Care Education program. It is important that the LEA foster care points of contact have some knowledge and experience in dealing with federal programs, social worker responsibilities, and counseling responsibilities. It is important that the LEA foster care points of contact have knowledge of the LEA, understands the community, has effective communication skills, and has a commitment to the children and youth in foster care. The LEA foster care point of

contact is a mandatory participant in the development of the LEA's comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) and the LEA's District Improvement Plan (DIP).

Among other duties, the LEA foster care points of contact must ensure that (a) with the assistance of LEA personnel, implement procedures to ensure foster care children and youth receive appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school, (b) ensure LEA school counselors assist and advise foster care children and youth to improve college preparation and readiness, and (c) inform high school foster care youth regarding their independent status on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Grants Unit provided timely technical assistance to LEAs as necessary to ensure LEA compliance with state and federal laws and guidance. In addition to technical assistance sessions, the Grants Unit provided professional learning opportunities via individual LEA trainings, regional trainings, and state conferences.

Key Foster Care Provisions

To identify who your LEA foster care point of contact, please click here.

Collaboration

It is critical and required by ESSA that LEAs coordinate with the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) on the implementation of state and federal laws to collectively support students in foster care. To identify who your regional education support monitor, please click here.

Immediate Enrollment and Records Transfer

If a determination is made that remaining in the school of origin is not in a child's best interest, the student must be immediately enrolled in their new school. Enrollment must not be denied or delayed because documents normally required for enrollment have not been provided.

Best Interest Determinations (BIDs)

Foster care should not be utilized as a tool for school choice. However, children placed in foster care should remain in their school of origin, unless a determination has been made that it is not in the child's best interest.

Transportation

All LEAs are required to develop and implement a plan on how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of a child's time in foster care.

The Benefits of Data Driven Work

Data is one of the most influential and effective ways to implement initiatives that support educational programming for vulnerable student populations. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) requires all LEAs to submit information to determine the extent to which foster care children and youth have access to a free, appropriate, public education under Title I, Part A of ESSA. All data reported must be based on actual student enrollment. Estimated numbers are not acceptable. For all students in foster care, LEAs must maintain disaggregated data regarding

- Information on the performance on the other academic indicator under subsection (c)(4)(B)(ii) for public elementary schools and secondary schools that are not high schools, used by the State in the state accountability system; and
- High school graduation rates, including four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and, at the State's discretion, extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates.

Title I, Part A requires that LEAs disaggregate students in foster care as a subgroup in their student information system (SIS). The local SIS uploads to the Department's Data Collection office. This disaggregated subgroup must be a part of the SEA and LEA report card. Additionally, students in foster care is a disaggregated group in the LEA's comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) that informs the LEA's District Improvement Plan.

***According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the privacy and integrity of all students must be protected. Therefore, LEAs who have less than 15 identified youth in care will be labeled "Too few" (34 CFR Part 99).

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44 Commerce City 20 5.0% 45 Cook County 26 19.2% 46 Coweta County 164 17.1% 47 Crawford County 16 12.5% 48 Crisp County 47 12.8% 49 Dade County 30 0% 50 Dalton City 47 16.7% 51 Dawson County 35 5.7% 52 Decatur City Too few - 53 Decatur County 55 7.3% 54 DeKalb County 937 25.2% 55 Dodge County 31 6.5% 56 Dooly County Too few - 57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 290 19.0% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County To few -	42	Colquitt County	50	12%
45 Cook County 26 19.2% 46 Coweta County 164 17.1% 47 Crawford County 16 12.5% 48 Crisp County 47 12.8% 49 Dade County 30 0% 50 Dalton City 47 16.7% 51 Dawson County 35 5.7% 52 Decatur City Too few - 53 Decatur County 55 7.3% 54 DeKalb County 937 25.2% 55 Dodge County 31 6.5% 56 Dooly County Too few - 57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 290 19.0% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8%	43	Columbia County	147	3.4%
46 Coweta County 164 17.1% 47 Crawford County 16 12.5% 48 Crisp County 47 12.8% 49 Dade County 30 0% 50 Dalton City 47 16.7% 51 Dawson County 35 5.7% 52 Decatur City Too few - 53 Decatur County 55 7.3% 54 DeKalb County 937 25.2% 55 Dodge County 31 6.5% 56 Dooly County Too few - 57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 18 16.7% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County 60 5.0%	44	Commerce City	20	5.0%
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48 Crisp County 47 12.8% 49 Dade County 30 0% 50 Dalton City 47 16.7% 51 Dawson County 35 5.7% 52 Decatur City Too few - 53 Decatur County 55 7.3% 54 DeKalb County 937 25.2% 55 Dodge County 31 6.5% 56 Dooly County Too few - 57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 290 19.0% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6%	46	Coweta County	164	17.1%
49 Dade County 30 0% 50 Dalton City 47 16.7% 51 Dawson County 35 5.7% 52 Decatur City Too few - 53 Decatur County 55 7.3% 54 DeKalb County 937 25.2% 55 Dodge County 31 6.5% 56 Dooly County Too few - 57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 290 19.0% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County 60 5.0% 64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6%	47	Crawford County	16	12.5%
50 Dalton City 47 16.7% 51 Dawson County 35 5.7% 52 Decatur City Too few - 53 Decatur County 55 7.3% 54 DeKalb County 937 25.2% 55 Dodge County 31 6.5% 56 Dooly County Too few - 57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 290 19.0% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County 51 11.8% 64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% <t< td=""><td>48</td><td>Crisp County</td><td></td><td></td></t<>	48	Crisp County		
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53 Decatur County 55 7.3% 54 DeKalb County 937 25.2% 55 Dodge County 31 6.5% 56 Dooly County Too few - 57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County Too few - 64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8%	51	Dawson County		5.7%
54 DeKalb County 937 25.2% 55 Dodge County 31 6.5% 56 Dooly County Too few - 57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 290 19.0% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County Too few - 64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8%	52	Decatur City	Too few	-
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56 Dooly County Too few - 57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 290 19.0% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County Too few - 64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8% <td>54</td> <td>DeKalb County</td> <td>937</td> <td>25.2%</td>	54	DeKalb County	937	25.2%
57 Dougherty County 229 9.6% 58 Douglas County 290 19.0% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County Too few - 64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	55	Dodge County	31	6.5%
58 Douglas County 290 19.0% 59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County Too few - 64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	56	Dooly County	Too few	-
59 Dublin City 18 16.7% 60 Early County Too few - 61 Echols County Too few - 62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County Too few - 64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	57	Dougherty County	229	9.6%
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62 Effingham County 51 11.8% 63 Elbert County Too few - 64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	60	Early County	Too few	-
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64 Emanuel County 60 5.0% 65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	62	Effingham County	51	11.8%
65 Evans County Too few - 66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	63	Elbert County	Too few	-
66 Fannin County 41 14.6% 67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	64	Emanuel County		5.0%
67 Fayette County 63 11.1% 68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	65	Evans County	Too few	-
68 Floyd County 83 20.5% 69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	66	Fannin County	41	14.6%
69 Forsyth County 115 7.0% 70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	67	Fayette County	63	11.1%
70 Franklin County 44 4.5% 71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	68	Floyd County	83	20.5%
71 Fulton County 430 12.8% 72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	69	Forsyth County	115	7.0%
72 Gainesville City 65 7.7% 73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	70	Franklin County	44	4.5%
73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	71	Fulton County	430	12.8%
73 Gilmer County 52 3.8%	72	Gainesville City	65	7.7%
	73		52	3.8%
74 Glascock County I oo few -	74	Glascock County	Too few	-

LEA Name Child Count Foster Care OSS Percentages 75 Glynn County 180 11.1% 76 Gordon County 123 1.6% 77 Grady County 53 7.5% 78 Greene County 20 10.0% 79 Griffin-Spalding County 807 11.8% 80 Gwinnett County 58 15.5% 81 Habersham County 190 0.0% 82 Hall County 52 11.6% 83 Hancock County 27 29.6% 84 Haralson County 65 1.5% 84 Haralson County 82 24.4% 85 Harris County 29 10.3% 86 Harris County 29 10.3% 87 Heard County 24 8.3% 88 Henry County 375 10.9% 89 Houston County 156 8.3% 90 Irwin County 32 3.1%		match the overall state totals.		
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88 Henry County 375 10.9% 89 Houston County 156 8.3% 90 Irwin County 32 3.1% 91 Jackson County 59 8.5% 92 Jasper County 48 8.3% 93 Jeff Davis County 41 4.9% 94 Jefferson City Too few - 95 Jefferson County 27 14.8% 96 Jenkins County Too few - 97 Johnson County Too few - 98 Jones County 87 6.9% 99 Lamar County 53 15.1% 100 Lanier County 20 5.0% 101 Laurens County 59 22.0% 102 Lee County 45 6.7% 103 Liberty County 114 7.9% 104 Lincoln County Too few - 105 Long County 70 7.1%	86	Hart County		10.3%
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94 Jefferson City Too few - 95 Jefferson County 27 14.8% 96 Jenkins County Too few - 97 Johnson County 87 6.9% 98 Jones County 87 6.9% 99 Lamar County 53 15.1% 100 Lanier County 20 5.0% 101 Laurens County 59 22.0% 102 Lee County 45 6.7% 103 Liberty County 114 7.9% 104 Lincoln County Too few - 105 Long County 70 7.1% 106 Lowndes County 117 14.5% 107 Lumpkin County 56 1.8% 108 Macon County Too few - 109 Madison County 28 10.7% 110 Marietta City 58 10.3%	92	Jasper County	48	8.3%
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120 Murray County 81 8.6% 121 Muscogee County 492 25.2% 122 Newton County 301 22.3% 123 Oconee County 34 0 0 124 Oglethorpe County 195 15.9% 125 Paulding County 51 19.6% 126 Peach County 195 15.9% 127 Pelham City Too few -	118	Montgomery County	Too few	-
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122 Newton County 301 22.3% 123 Oconee County 34 0 124 Oglethorpe County Too few - 125 Paulding County 195 15.9% 126 Peach County 51 19.6% 127 Pelham City Too few - 128 Pickens County 85 3.5% 129 Pierce County 45 0 130 Pike County 24 20.8% 131 Polk County 171 26.9% 132 Pulaski County Too few - 132 Pulaski County Too few - 133 Putnam County Too few - 134 Quitman County Too few - 135 Rabun County Too few - 135 Rabun County Too few - 137 Richmond County 408 18.1% 138 Rockdale County 194 22.2	120	Murray County	81	8.6%
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136 Randolph County Too few - 137 Richmond County 408 18.1% 138 Rockdale County 194 22.2% 139 Rome City 61 16.4% 140 Schley County 15 0% 141 Screven County 80 10.0% 142 Seminole County Too few - 143 Social Circle City 26 0% 144 Stephens County 36 2.8% 145 Stewart County Too few - 146 Sumter County 86 11.6% 147 Talbot County Too few -	134	Quitman County	Too few	-
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140 Schley County 15 0% 141 Screven County 80 10.0% 142 Seminole County Too few - 143 Social Circle City 26 0% 144 Stephens County 36 2.8% 145 Stewart County Too few - 146 Sumter County 86 11.6% 147 Talbot County Too few -	139	Rome City	61	16.4%
142 Seminole County Too few - 143 Social Circle City 26 0% 144 Stephens County 36 2.8% 145 Stewart County Too few - 146 Sumter County 86 11.6% 147 Talbot County Too few -	140	Schley County	15	0%
143 Social Circle City 26 0% 144 Stephens County 36 2.8% 145 Stewart County Too few - 146 Sumter County 86 11.6% 147 Talbot County Too few -	141	Screven County	80	10.0%
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146Sumter County8611.6%147Talbot CountyToo few-	144	Stephens County	36	2.8%
147 Talbot County Too few -	145	Stewart County	Too few	-
147 Talbot County Too few -	146	Sumter County	86	11.6%
	147	•	Too few	-
<u> </u>	148	Taliaferro County	Too few	-

	LEA Name	Child Count	Foster Care OSS Percentages
149	Tattnall County	27	11.1%
150	Taylor County	127	1.6%
151	Telfair County	Too few	-
152	Terrell County	30	6.7%
153	Thomas County	46	4.3%
154	Thomaston-Upson County	34	20.6%
155	Thomasville City	54	20.4%
156	Tift County	57	17.5%
157	Toombs County	20	5.0%
158	Towns County	Too few	-
159	Treutlen County	Too few	-
160	Trion City	81	0%
161	Troup County	37	8.6%
162	Turner County	Too few	-
163	Twiggs County	57	0%
164	Union County	34	0%
165	Valdosta City	104	22.1%
166	Vidalia City	19	15.8%
167	Walker County	130	7.7%
168	Walton County	129	12.4%
169	Ware County	84	15.5%
170	Warren County	Too few	-
171	Washington County	34	11.8%
172	Wayne County	41	7.3%
173	Webster County	Too few	-
174	Wheeler County	Too few	-
175	White County	39	5.1%
176	Whitfield County	122	21.3%
177	Wilcox County	Too few	-
178	Wilkes County	Too few	-
179	Wilkinson County	Too few	-
180	Worth County	52	23.1%
	STATE CHARTER SCHOOL LEAS		
1	Academy of Classical Education (ACE)	Too few	-

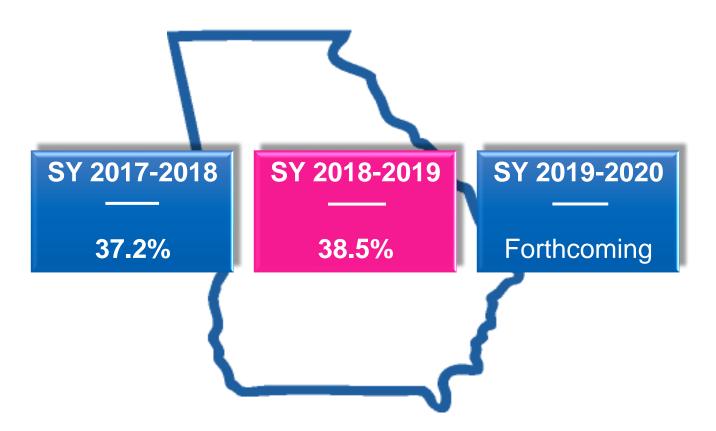
LEA NameChild CountFoster Care OSS PercentAtlanta Heights CharterToo few-2 SchoolBaconton CommunityToo few-3 Charter SchoolBrookhaven InnovationToo few-4 AcademyCherokee CharterToo few-5 Academy6 Cirrus Charter AcademyToo few-7 Charter HSToo few-8 Coweta Charter AcademyToo few-9 Dubois Integrity Academy00%	centages
2 School Baconton Community Charter School Brookhaven Innovation Academy Cherokee Charter Academy Cirrus Charter Academy Coastal Plains Education Charter HS Coweta Charter Academy Too few - Too few	
3 Charter School Brookhaven Innovation Too few - 4 Academy Cherokee Charter Too few - 5 Academy 6 Cirrus Charter Academy Too few - Coastal Plains Education Too few - 7 Charter HS 8 Coweta Charter Academy Too few -	
4 Academy Cherokee Charter 5 Academy 6 Cirrus Charter Academy Coastal Plains Education 7 Charter HS 7 Coweta Charter Academy Too few - Too few	
5 Academy 6 Cirrus Charter Academy Too few - Coastal Plains Education Too few 7 Charter HS 8 Coweta Charter Academy Too few - Too few	
Coastal Plains Education Too few - Charter HS Coweta Charter Academy Too few -	
Coastal Plains Education Too few - Charter HS Coweta Charter Academy Too few -	
8 Coweta Charter Academy Too few -	
9 Dubois Integrity Academy 0 0%	
10 Ethos Classical 0 0%	
Foothills Charter High 11 School 27	
Fulton Leadership Too few - 12 Academy -	
13 Genesis Academy for Boys 0 0%	
14 Genesis Academy for Girls 0 0%	
Georgia Connections Too few - Academy -	
16 Georgia Cyber Academy 36 0%	
Georgia School for Too few - 17 Innovation and Classics	
International Academy of Too few - 18 Smyrna -	
International Charter 0 Academy of GA	
International Charter 0 School of Atlanta	
Ivy Preparatory Academy, Too few - 21 Inc -	
Liberty Tech Charter 0 Academy	
Mountain Education 35 5.7% Charter HS	
24 Odyssey School 0 0%	
25 Pataula Charter Academy Too few -	
26 Resurgence Hall 0 0%	

	LEA Name	Child Count	Foster Care OSS Percentages
27	School for Arts-Infused Learning (SAIL)	0	0%
28	Scintilla Charter Academy	Too few	-
29	SLAM Academy	0	0%
30	Spring Creek Charter Academy	Too few	-
31	SWGA S.T.E.M. Charter Academy	Too few	-
32	Statesboro STEAM Academy	0	0%
33	Utopian Academy for the Arts	0	0%
	SPECIAL LEAS		
1	Dept. of Corrections	-	-
2	Dept. of Juvenile Justice	21	0%
3	State Schools	8	12.5%
	Total		
		11,075	State Foster Care OSS Percentage (17.1%)

Foster Care Graduation Rates

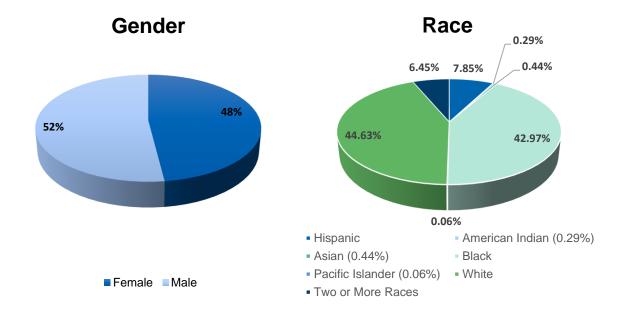
Georgia Department of Education

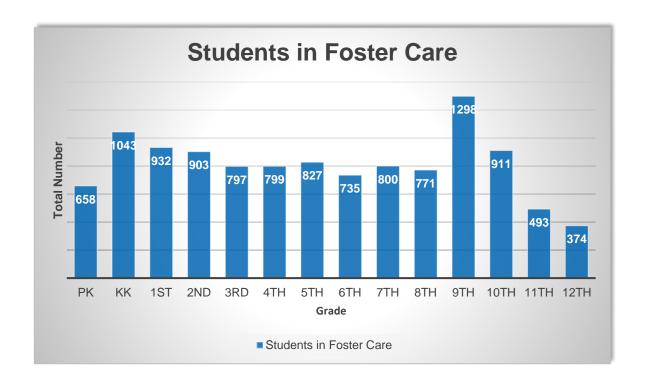
Foster students are retained three times the rate of the general student population. National research shows that children in foster are at a higher risk of dropping out of school. As policy, practices, and advocacy develops throughout the state of Georgia, solid partnerships between LEAs and child welfare agencies will assist in improving positive outcomes for students in foster care.



Note: The graduation rates are derived from the GaDOE Data Collections Division through Technology Services.

Foster Care Education Demographics





LEA Transportation Plan

Source: FY20 Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)

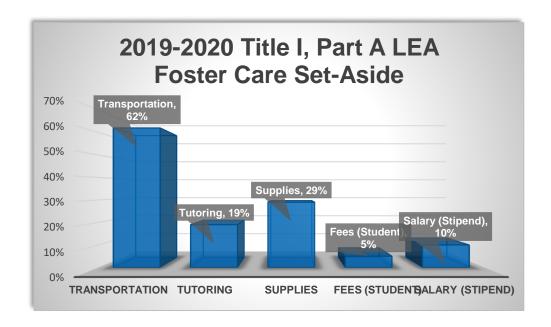
GaDOE requires all LEAs, including virtual schools and charter schools that function as an LEA, to complete a Foster Care Transportation Plan. The plan is completed in addition to the development and implementation of written transportation procedures and the identification of a foster care point of contact. An LEA must collaborate with the state or local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the child's time in foster care (the transportation procedures). These procedures must ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to their schools of origin will immediately receive transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section OCGA §20-2-133(b), OCGA §20-2-690.1 and 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act; and if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the LEA will provide such transportation if the following transpires.



Transportation costs should not be considered when determining a child's best interest, which is consistent with the program instruction released by The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) after the passage of the Fostering Connections Act.

2019-2020 LEA Foster Care Set-Asides

The Title I, Part A Foster Care Education (FCE) requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA) has no corresponding budget. However, LEAs have the option to create a custom set-aside for supplemental academic support to address the needs of students who have been identified in foster care. In FY20, **21 LEAs** elected to establish a unique foster care set-aside that concentrated on eliminating barriers that prevented educational stability. The data below highlights LEA prioritized needs that have been supported by budgeted funds and resulted in positive outcomes. The majority of set-aside funds were used for the purpose of providing transportation to maintain students within their schools of origin. The data also provided evidence that LEAs utilized their funds in more than one area; however, each area of focus assisted in minimizing interruption to a regular program of instruction.



Custom Foster Care Education Set-Asides

	LEA Name	FY20 Foster Care Set- Aside
1	Bulloch County	\$3,500
2	Carroll County	\$5,000
3	Columbia County	\$300
4	Fayette County	\$800
5	Forsyth County	\$62,911
6	Fulton County	\$12,130
7	Gwinnett County	\$5,000
8	Harris County	\$8,700
9	Jackson County	\$700
10	Laurens County	\$5,246
11	Liberty County	\$2,000
12	Meriwether County	\$1,000
13	Paulding County	\$15,000
14	Peach County	\$590
15	Rabun County	\$3,000
16	Richmond County	\$1,000
17	Schley County	\$500
18	Troup County	\$13,875
19	Whitfield County	\$2,200
	Utopian Academy for the	\$100
20	Arts Charter School	
	International Academy of	\$100
21	Smyrna	A440.050
	Total	\$143,652

Monitoring of Foster Care Education Program

Generally, cross functional monitoring dates (CFM) may include onsite or desktop, however, in FY20 monitoring dates were adjusted to include only desktop after the governor issued an executive order to close schools due to the global pandemic. Immediately following the school closures, monitoring dates were suspended until the

Fall of 2020, however, eight LEAs opted to continue with desk monitoring as scheduled. Of the 58 LEAs on the monitoring cycle for FY20, 24 of them were monitored in spring 2020. LEAs receiving findings as part of the cross-functional monitoring will complete corrective actions to ensure they have internal controls and protocols that ensure compliance with federal law, federal regulations (EDGAR), and federal and state guidance. Based on the GaDOE 4-year cross-functional monitoring cycle, any LEA that does not participate in CFM completes an annual self-monitoring review.

Generally, CFM dates may include onsite or desktop; however, in FY20 monitoring dates were adjusted to include only desktop after the governor issued an executive order to close schools due to the global pandemic. Following the school closures, monitoring dates were suspended until the Fall of 2020.

GaDOE is responsible for overseeing the successful implementation of the Title I, Part A, Foster Care Education program among LEAs. According to the Uniform Grants Guidance (2 CFR 200.328), monitoring by the non-federal entity must cover each program, function, or activity. GaDOE monitors the foster care education program by ensuring LEAs are making collaborative efforts in connecting with DFCS. By doing so, LEAs and DFCS personnel are informed of best practices and resources that would assist in removing barriers for youth who are in care. The Grants Unit searches for documentation that captures the working relationship between both agencies. In determining which LEAs are to be monitored, the Division of Federal Programs conducts a risk assessment using a combination of elements defined by GaDOE.

Title I, Part A (Foster Care) FY20 Monitoring Findings

Due to a global pandemic, the FY20 monitoring cycle was interrupted because the Georgia Governor issued an executive order to close schools in March 2020. There were 7 LEAs that received a finding due to not providing evidence of coordination or correspondence with the local child welfare agency regarding transportation services to foster care children and youth. GaDOE staff commonly find errors in internal controls and lack of supporting documentation that illustrate compliance with statute and applicable regulations.