



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent Richard Woods

FROM: Terry England, House of Representatives Appropriations Chair
Blake Tillery, Senate Appropriations Chair
Kelly Farr, Office of Planning and Budget Director

DATE: May 1, 2020

RE: FY 2021 Budget

We find ourselves in extraordinary times. COVID-19 has dealt a blow to our local, state, national and world economy like none we have seen in our lifetimes. Words cannot express our appreciation for the incredible work your agency and our local schools' systems have done these last few weeks in shifting from in-person daily learning to virtual models on an unprecedented scale. Systems large and small have stepped up to the call to ensure Georgia students have the information and resources necessary to continue their learning during this time of shelter-in-place and social distancing.

However, the actions we have had to take as a state and as a nation to protect the health of our citizens is significantly impacting our economy and our state revenues. As you know, we have a strict Constitutional mandate to create and adopt a balanced budget for our state. Due to the rapidly changing revenue picture for FY 2021, at this time we are asking every state agency to prepare an FY 2021 budget that includes a 14% reduction from their FY 2020 original base. This includes formula funding for local school systems.

We need you to email your revised budget plans to our offices by May 20, 2020, so we can react, prepare a budget, and give local systems guidance and adequate lead time as they prepare their budgets.

This request is being made of all state agencies.

Again, we greatly appreciate all that you, your staff, and all of those involved in education do for our children on a daily basis here in Georgia.

cc: Local School Superintendents of Georgia