

# What Makes Paulding County School District Funding Unique?

		Unique Feature	How does that impact funding?	Measurement	Rankings	
<b>Demographic and Economic Factors</b>	<b>Local Funding Low Wealth</b>	Paulding County has a limited commercial and industrial tax base. In fact, only 18% of the tax digest is non-residential.	<b>Less local funding</b> due to a lower net tax digest per student (NDPS) and a slightly below-average millage rate.	NDPS is \$65,000 or 31% lower than the average large district in Georgia. On average, 39% of the large district tax digest is non-residential. <sup>a</sup>	31 out of 35 large districts or 121 out of 180 total districts in Local Revenue per Student <sup>b</sup>	24 out of 35 large districts or 150 out of 180 total districts in Total Revenue per Student <sup>b</sup>
		PCSD does not compensate for a limited tax base by inflating the millage rate.		18.750 millage rate compared to a large district average of 18.964. <sup>a</sup>		
		Paulding County has a large number of school-age children per household.	<b>Less local funding</b> because funding is based on property tax values not the number of school-age children living in the home.	9.2% more persons-per-household than the state average, specifically school-age children. <sup>c</sup>		
	<b>State/Federal Funding</b>	PCSD is highly dependent on state funding sources.	<b>Highly susceptible to changes in state funding</b> , including austerity reductions, Equalization Grant funding and changes in the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula.	Approximately 66% of PCSD revenue comes from state sources, compared to a statewide average of 52%. <sup>b</sup>	8 out of 35 large districts or 92 out of 180 total districts in State Revenue per Student <sup>b</sup>	
		PCSD is one of the largest recipients of equalization.		10% of total General Fund revenue comes from the Equalization Grant. <sup>b</sup>	4 out of 35 large districts and 180 total districts in Equalization <sup>b</sup>	
		PCSD has relatively low Title I funding.	<b>Less Federal funding.</b> Low wealth school districts typically have a higher percentage of Title I schools. This also impacts other funding allocations like the CARES Act, which was allocated based on Title I funding.	Title I and free-and-reduced lunch percentages can be obtained via the Georgia DOE. While PCSD ranks 4th in equalization funding (an indication of low wealth) and 164th in Title I funding per pupil, out of all 180 school districts.	30 out of 35 large districts or 168 out of 180 school total districts <sup>d</sup>	
		PCSD has relatively low free-and-reduced lunch participation.	<b>Less Federal funding.</b> Low wealth school districts typically have a higher percentage of free-and-reduced lunch. This also impacts other funding allocations like the IDEA grants (ESEP).	No other school district in Georgia has this high of a disparity. <sup>d</sup>	29 out of 35 large districts <sup>d</sup>	
	<b>Enrollment Factors</b>	PCSD is one of the fastest growing school districts in the state.	With a limited non-residential tax base, the value of new residential construction is critical. Typically, property taxes from new residential construction does not support the additional enrollment.	PCSD 3-year average annual growth rate is 1.6%, compared to a large district rate of 0.1%. FY21 enrollment is projected to grow 485 or 1.6%. <sup>b</sup>	12 out of 35 large districts and 180 total districts <sup>b</sup>	
		PCSD has a high percentage of students in a Exceptional Students Educational Program (ESEP).	FY2019, the average additional cost per ESEP student was \$2,607 or 33% (including Local, State and Federal sources).	In FY20, 14.8% of PCSD students were ESEP, compared to a large district average of 12.6%. This contributes to PCSD's low weighted (based on ESEP participation) NDPS. <sup>b</sup>	12 out of 180 district in Georgia <sup>b</sup>	

**Sources:**

- <sup>a</sup> Georgia Department of Revenue, Consolidated Tax Digest Summaries
- <sup>b</sup> Georgia Department of Education Enrollment (Data & Reporting), Revenue/Expenditures Reports and QBE Earnings (Data & Reporting, Financial Review)
- <sup>c</sup> [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts)
- <sup>d</sup> Georgia Department of Education Title I (Offices & Divisions, Title Programs) and Free-and-Reduced Lunch (Data & Reporting),

**Terms:**

The **Equalization Grant** is intended to reduce funding inequalities between high and low property wealth districts.

**ESEP** stands for Exceptional Students Educational Programs or special education.

**Large Districts** are school districts with enrollment equal to or greater than 10,000

**Millage Rate** is the ad valorem tax rate expressed in terms of the levy per thousand dollars of taxable assessed value established by the governing authority each fiscal year.

**Net Tax Digest** is the Paulding County Tax Assessor's summary of the projected taxable value of all commercial, industrial and residential property in the school district, net applicable exemptions.

**Net Digest per Student** (Weighted NDPS) is the NDPS weighted by participation in ESEP programs, lowering wealth-per-student.

**Persons per household**, or average household size, is obtained by dividing the number of persons in households by the number of households. A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

**QBE** or Quality Basic Education reflects funding allotted by the State on the basis of "Weighted" FTE (Full-time Equivalent students) to the local school system.

**Weighted Net Digest per Student** (NDPS) is the net tax digest divided by the enrollment.