

State Funding and the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program 2023-2024 School Year

2021-2022 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Award Amounts

During the 2021-2022 school year, which is the most recent officially reported data, 5,788 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 \$1,256 and \$14,734. Of the students participating during the 2021-2022 school year, the average scholarship award amount was \$6,590. 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.

2023-2024 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>FY24 Funding Amount Per Segment</i>	<i>Number of Funding Segments</i>	<i>FY24 Total Annual State Funding per Student*</i>
Kindergarten	\$848	6	\$5,087
Primary Grades (Grades 1-3)	\$655	6	\$3,928
Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)	\$524	6	\$3,145
Middle School Program (Grades 6-8)	\$575	6	\$3,450
Grades 9-12	\$504	6	\$3,022

*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 \$5,087 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.

2023-2024 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>FY24 Funding Amount Per Segment</i>
Alternative Education	\$754
Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Lab (Grades 9-12)	\$594
Early Intervention Program - Kindergarten	\$1,050
Early Intervention Program - Primary Grades (Grades 1-3)	\$922
Early Intervention Program - Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)	\$920
English for Speakers of Other Languages	\$1,317
Gifted Education	\$870
Remedial Education Program (Grades 6-12)	\$688
Special Education I	\$1,242
Special Education II	\$1,463
Special Education III	\$1,859
Special Education IV	\$3,007
Special Education V	\$1,271

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>

2023-2024 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.

Funding Category	Funding Amount Per Segment	Number of Funding Segments	Total Annual State Funding
General Education Categories			
Kindergarten	\$848		
Primary Grades (Grades 1-3)	\$655		
Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)	\$524	5	\$2,620
Middle School Program (Grades 6-8)	\$574		
Grades 9-12	\$504		
Specialized State Education Categories			
Alternative Education	\$754		
Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Lab	\$594		
Early Intervention Program (EIP) Kindergarten	\$1,050		
Early Intervention Program (EIP) Grades 1-3	\$922		
Early Intervention Program (EIP) Grades 4-5	\$920		
English for Speakers of Other Languages	\$1,317		
Gifted Education	\$870		
Remedial Education Program	\$688		
Special Education I	\$1,242		
Special Education II	\$1,463		
Special Education III	\$1,859	1	\$1,859
Special Education IV	\$3,007		
Special Education V	\$1,271		
		*TOTAL:	\$4,479

* Please note that in the event of state budget reductions during the school year, actual scholarship awards may be less than the funding amounts referenced in the categories above. To minimize any negative impact or hardship on scholarship families as a result of mid-year budget reductions, GaDOE awards 90% of the total scholarship award in Quarters 1 – 3 and provides the remaining scholarship amount (full or 90%, based on state budget decisions) in Quarter 4.