



# Whitfield County Schools



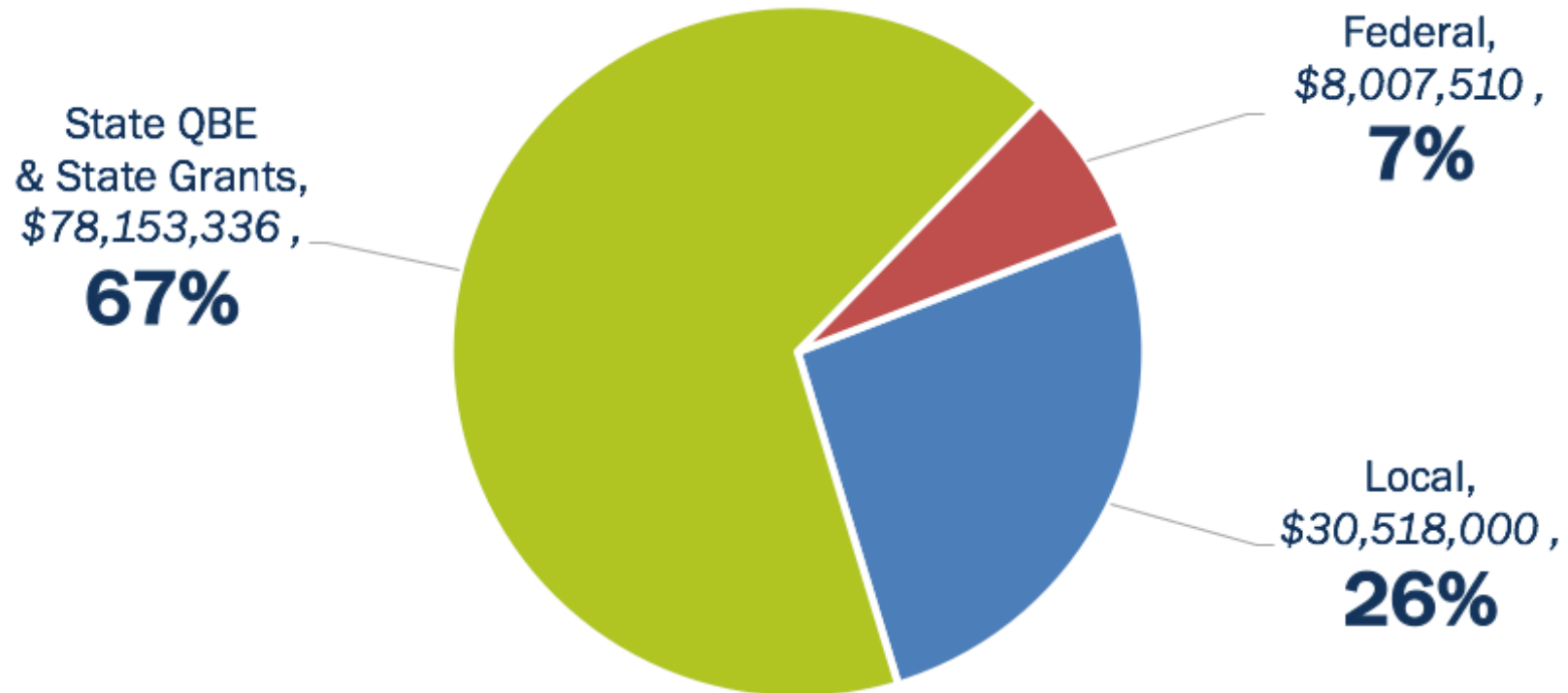
## ESPLOST V



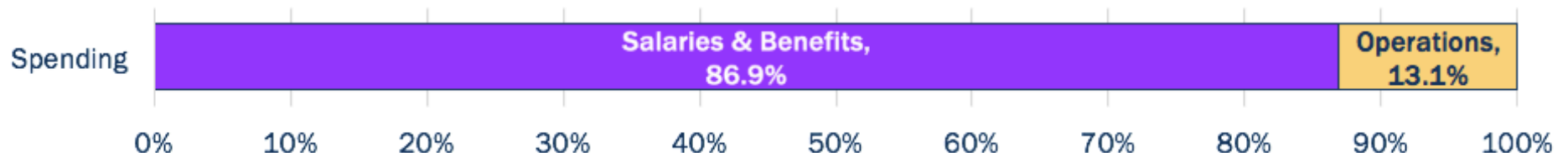
Election Day  
March 21, 2017

# How is Education Funded?

## Whitfield County Schools – Revenue



## Whitfield County Schools – Expenditures



# ESPLOST Background



**E**ducation  
**S**pecial  
**P**urpose  
**L**ocal  
**O**ption  
**S**ales  
**T**ax

# ESPLOST Background

## ESPLOST

- Continuation of a 1-cent sales tax to raise \$50–\$60 million
- Restricted to capital projects (buildings, land, equipment, etc.)
- Cannot pay for salaries, maintenance, or daily operations
- Supplements property tax revenue
- Without ESPLOST, property tax is only way to fund capital projects





# **ESPLOST Funds City & County Schools**

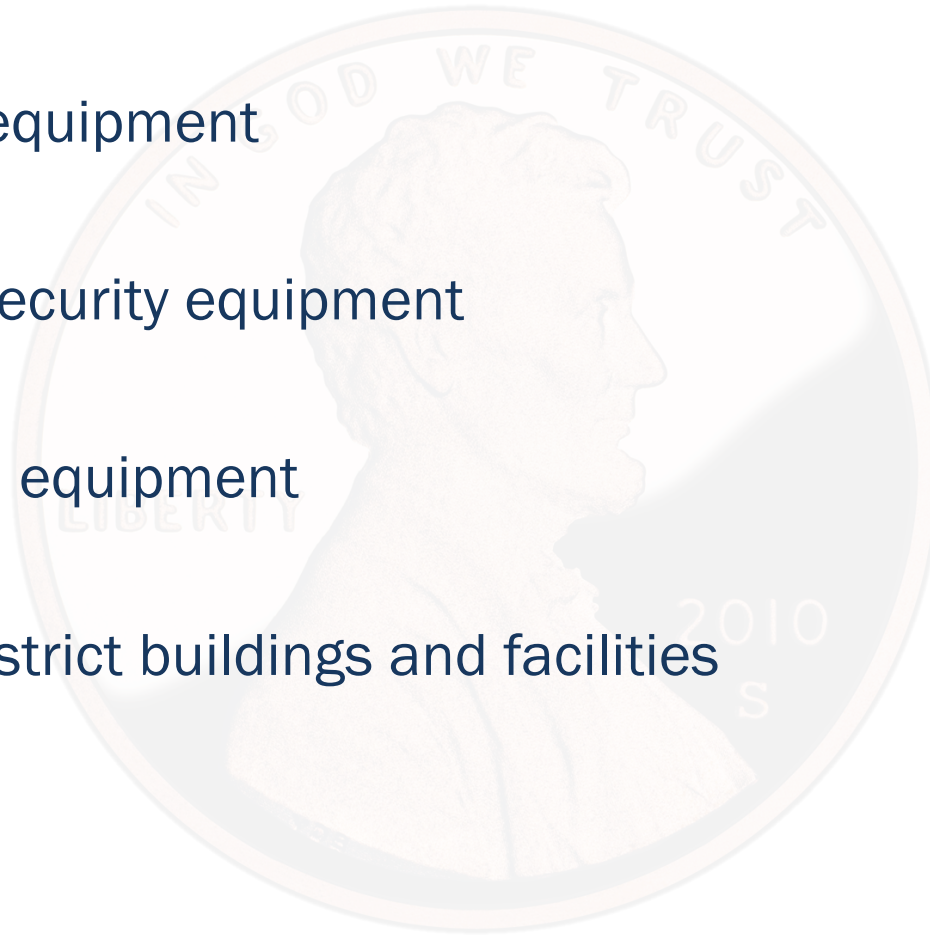
ESPLOST is a joint effort between the Whitfield County and Dalton boards of education.

- Asking to collect up to \$98 million countywide over five years
- Taxes divided based on student enrollment in each district
  - 37.7% of revenue to city schools
  - 62.3% of revenue to county schools

# What ESPLOST Can Provide

ESPLOST funds can pay for:

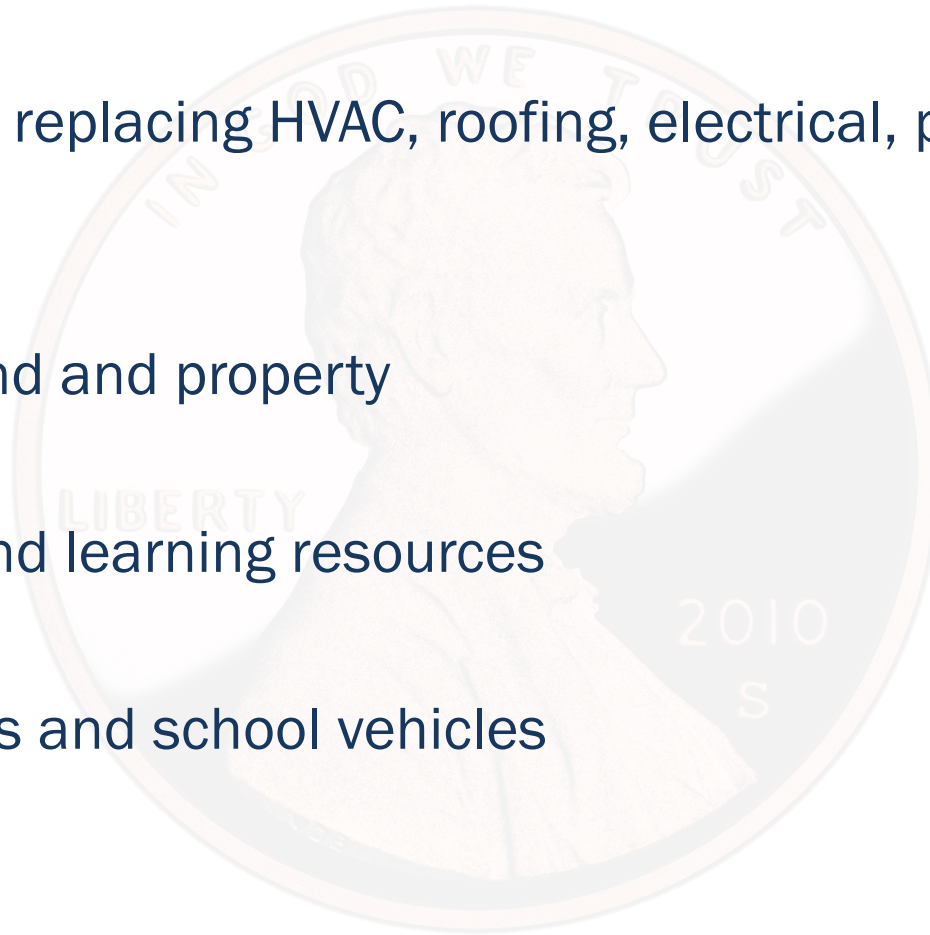
- Technology equipment
- Safety and security equipment
- Other school equipment
- Improving district buildings and facilities



# What ESPLOST Can Provide

ESPLOST funds can pay for:

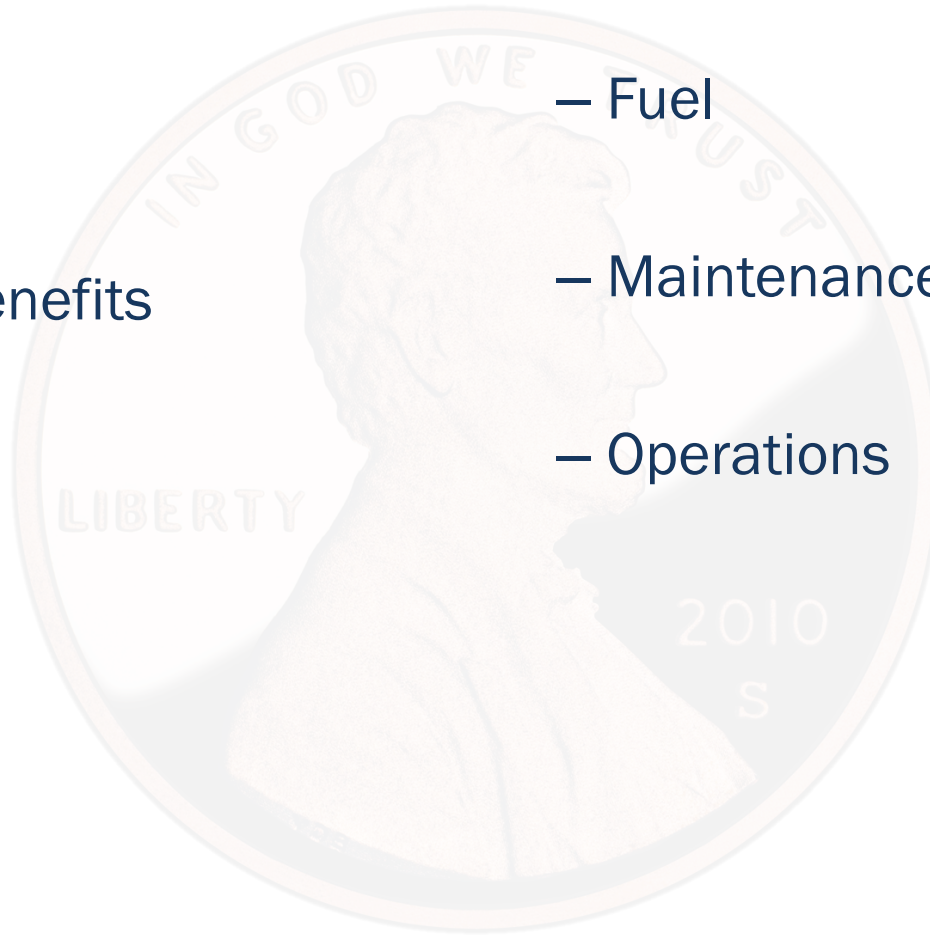
- Improving or replacing HVAC, roofing, electrical, plumbing and paving
- Acquiring land and property
- Textbooks and learning resources
- School buses and school vehicles



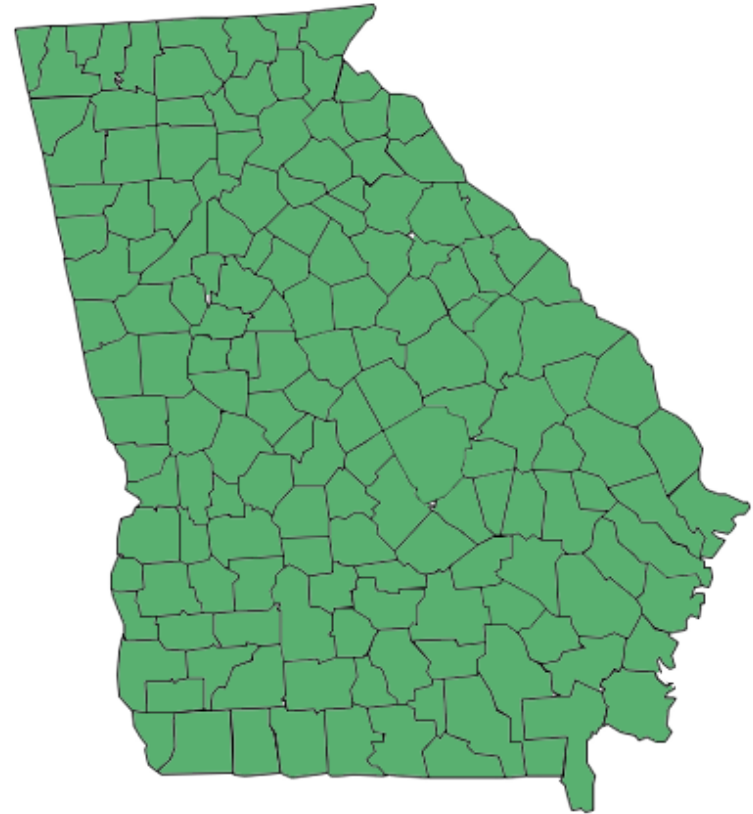
# What **ESPLOST** *Can't* Provide

ESPLOST funds *can't* pay for:

- Salaries
- Employee benefits
- Contracts
- Fuel
- Maintenance
- Operations

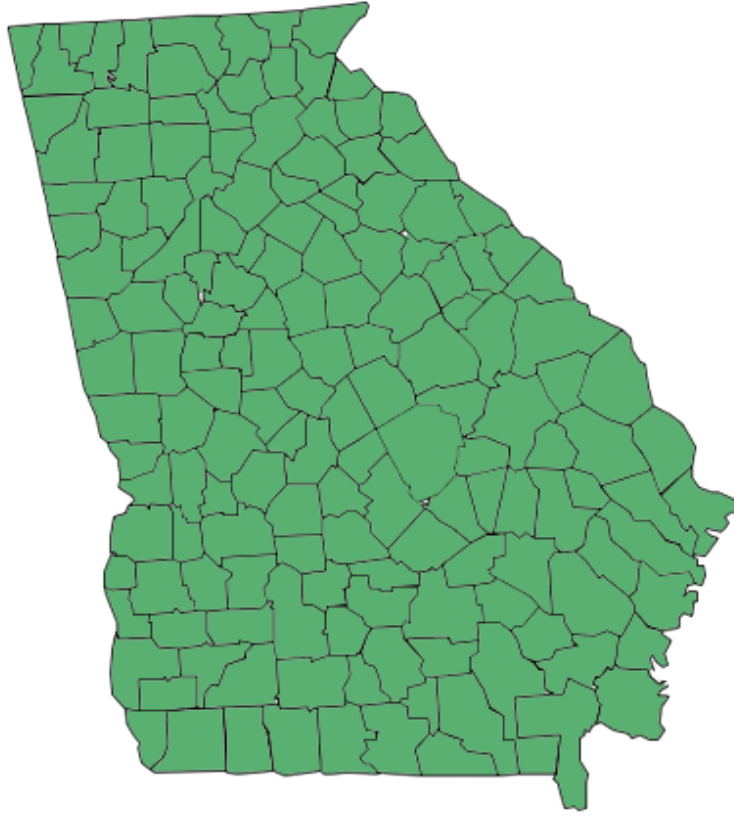


# ESPLOST Background



159 Counties

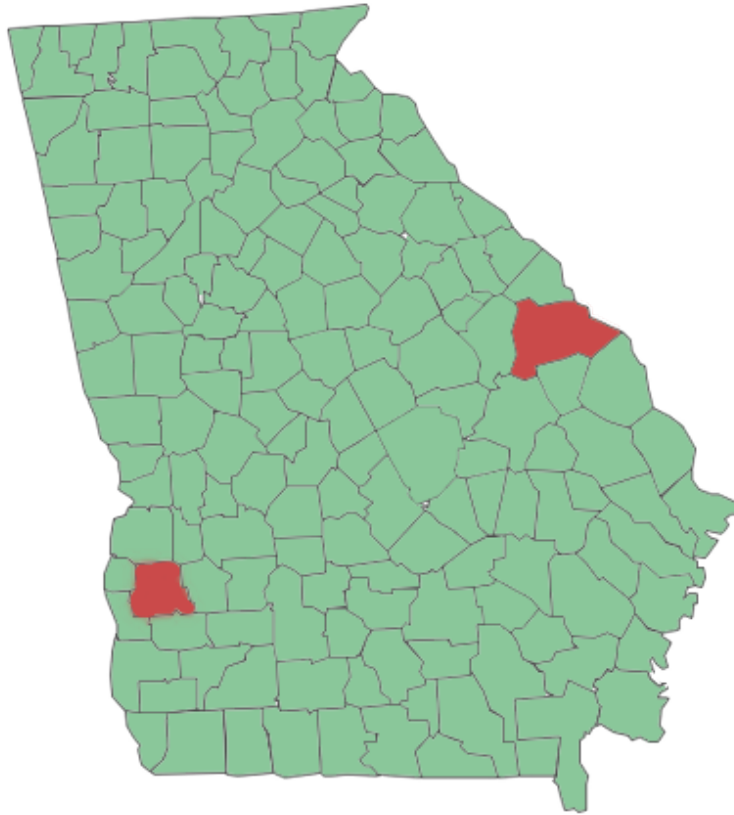
# ESPLOST Background



159 Counties

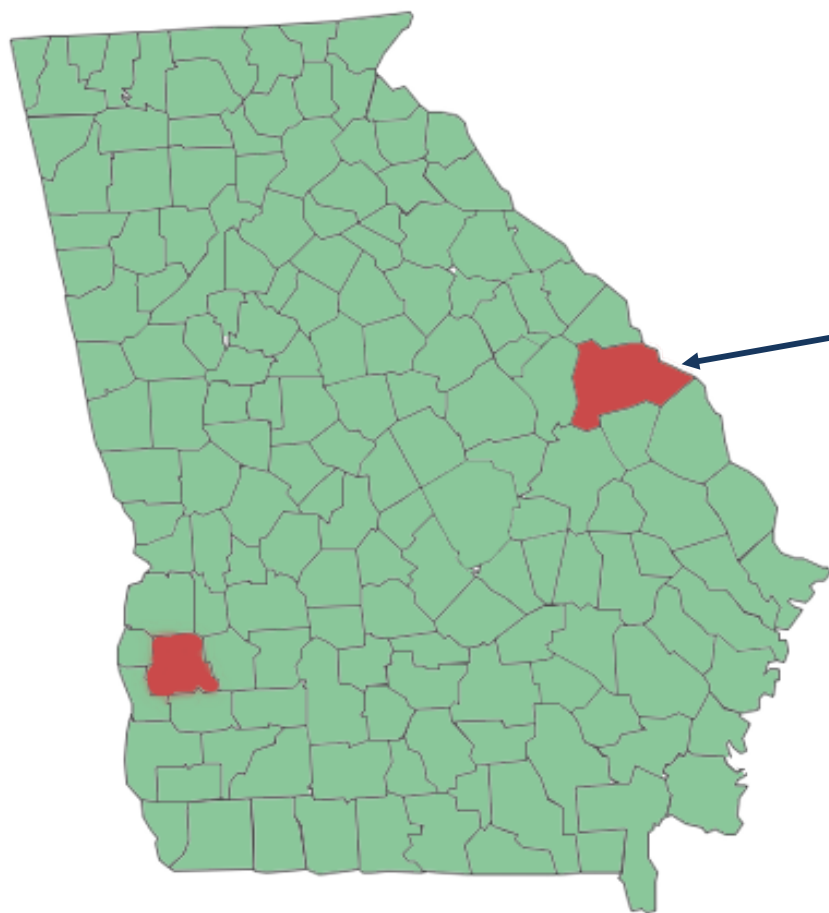


# ESPLOST Background



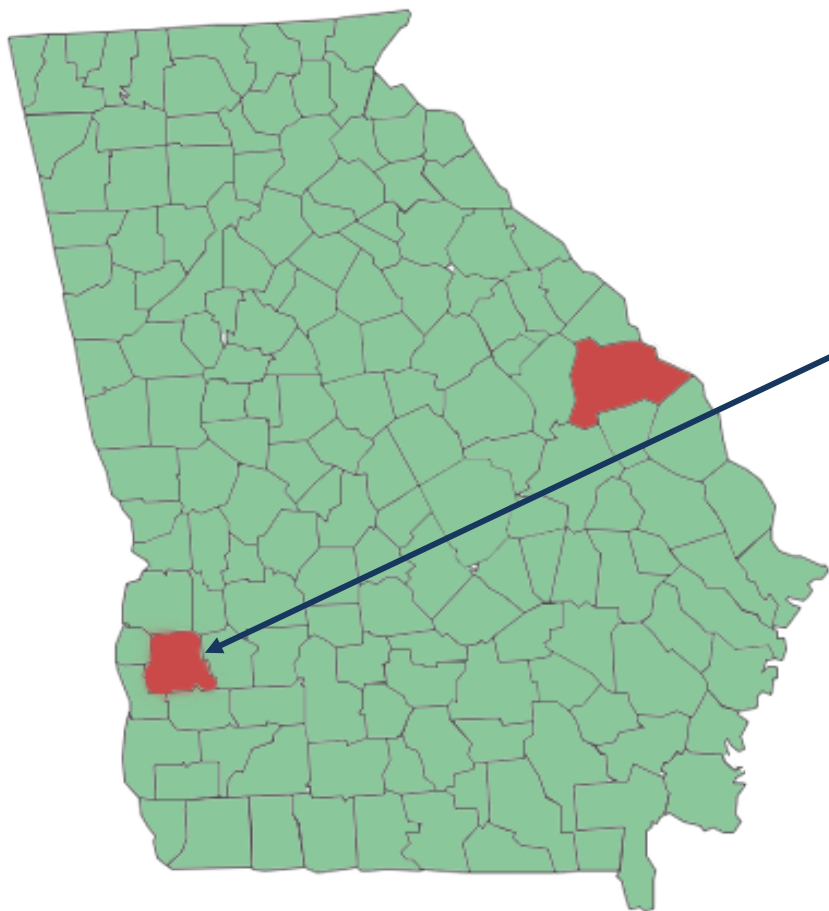
2 counties without  
ESPLOST

# ESPLOST Background



In Burke County, Plant Vogtle is capable of producing 2,400 MW as well as approximately \$31 million in revenue for schools each year.

# ESPLOST Background



Randolph County has 7,719 residents as of the 2010 census. The school district has one elementary, one middle school, and one high school with an enrollment of 990 students.

## **ESPLOST in Whitfield**

ESPLOST I	July 1997–Dec. 2001
ESPLOST II	Jan. 2002–Dec. 2006
ESPLOST III	Jan. 2007–Dec. 2011
ESPLOST IV	Jan. 2013–Dec. 2017

## **Why Do We Need ESPLOST?**

Architect identified critical  
needs totaling approximately  
**\$140 million**

# **Funding Without ESPLOST**

- One mill earns approximately \$1.5 million
- Current property tax rate of 18.756 mills earns approximately \$28 million
- Georgia Constitution sets maximum property tax rate for schools at 20 mills
- Assuming no changes, 20 mills could earn additional \$1.8 million annually
- ESPLOST expected to earn approximately \$10 million annually



## **ESPLOST in Whitfield**

Among many other improvements since 1997, ESPLOST has enabled the school district to build:

- Three Elementary Schools: New Hope Elementary, Beaverdale, and Cedar Ridge
- Two Middle Schools: New Hope Middle & Eastbrook
- Two High Schools: Coahulla Creek & Career Academy

# ESPLOST in Whitfield

Elementary



Middle



High



# ESPLOST in Whitfield

ESPLOST has enabled the school district to provide:

- Sewer
- Roofs
- HVAC

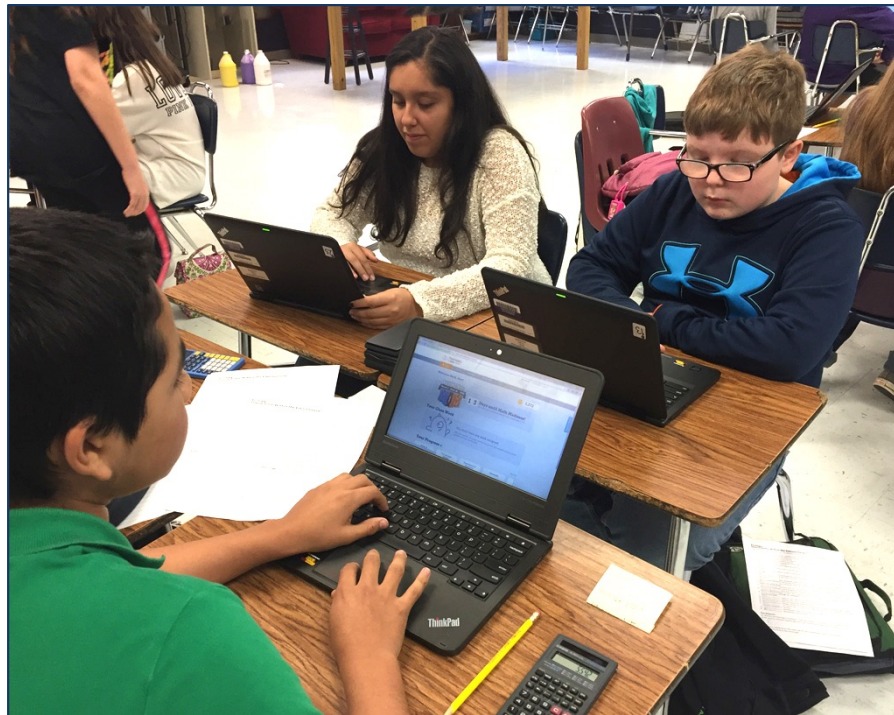




# ESPLOST in Whitfield

ESPLOST has enabled the school district to provide:

- Technology including ActivBoards, laptops, wireless upgrades, room projectors



# ESPLOST in Whitfield

ESPLOST has enabled the school district to provide:

- Gyms



# **ESPLOST V**

**Plans for 2018-2022**



# **ESPLOST V in Whitfield**

ESPLOST V will enable the school district to provide:

- Two new middle schools (North Whitfield & Valley Point)



# ESPLOST V in Whitfield

## Approximate Project Costs



### North Whitfield Middle

Projected Total Cost	\$25.0 million
<u>-State Capital Outlay</u>	<u>- \$3.5 million</u>
Net Cost	\$21.5 million



### Valley Point Middle

Projected Total Cost	\$16.2 million
<u>-State Capital Outlay</u>	<u>- \$4.9 million</u>
Net Cost	\$11.3 million



# **Challenges at Valley Point & North Whitfield**



## **Facts About Both Schools**

- Opened in 1954, so they're already 63 years old
- Sewer problems
- Designed and built before air conditioning was common
- Buildings are not energy efficient
- No insulation and no moisture barrier  
(compare a cold canned drink to an insulated cup)

# Facts

- Walls separating from both buildings due to settling
- HVAC repair parts hard to find for aging equipment
- VPM only has one bathroom conforming with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Water drainage problems at VPM  
*Example: courtyard drain clogs*
- Water drainage problems at NWM  
*Example: football field*

# Local Real Estate

A random sample of 306 homes for sale in Whitfield County shows including date of construction shows:

- The average year of construction was 1985, making most homes approximately 31 years old
- Only 18 of 306 homes on the market were built before 1954

Source: <http://www.homes.com/for-sale/whitfield-county-ga/>



# **New Construction or Renovation**

# **Renovation v. New Construction**

- Renovations expected to last 5–10 years
- Renovation approximately 25% cheaper than new buildings
- New buildings expected to last 50 years or more

# ESPLOST in Whitfield

ESPLOST V will also enable the school district to provide:

- Gymnasium replacement at Westside Middle School



# ESPLOST in Whitfield

ESPLOST V will also enable the school district to provide:

- Car rider loop at Tunnel Hill Elementary School



## ESPLOST in Whitfield

ESPLOST V will also enable the school district to provide:

Flooring & Painting	\$500,000 to \$1 million
HVAC	\$2.5 million to \$5.5 million
Roofs	\$2 million to \$4 million
Athletics	\$500,000 to \$1 million
Fire Alarm Upgrades	\$1 million to \$3.5 million
Technology	\$6 million to \$8 million
Sewer	\$750,000
Restroom Renovations & Accessibility Improvements	\$750,000 to \$1.25 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14 million to \$25 million</b>



# Remember to



**Election Day is March 21**

**Feb. 21** is the last day to register  
and be eligible to vote

**Feb. 27** is the first day of early voting