

CUTTING EDUCATION IS NOT THE ONLY OPTION

EDUCATION FUNDING IS NOT MEETING GROWING DEMANDS

One million Georgians over the age of 24 — 16 percent of the adult population — lack a high school diploma or GED.

Unemployment continues to top 10 percent and laid-off workers are seeking new skills from technical colleges, universities, and adult literacy programs in record numbers. Already Georgians are on waiting lists for the Adult Literacy programs.

WITHOUT NEW FUNDS, LAWMAKERS WILL CONTINUE TO CUT

Investments in Georgia's education system does not escape the governor's proposed cuts for the upcoming year. If the General Assembly follows suit, per student state spending on K-12 education and the University System will fall to their lowest levels in a decade (adjusted for inflation). Per student spending for technical colleges likewise will drop to the lowest level in at least six years.

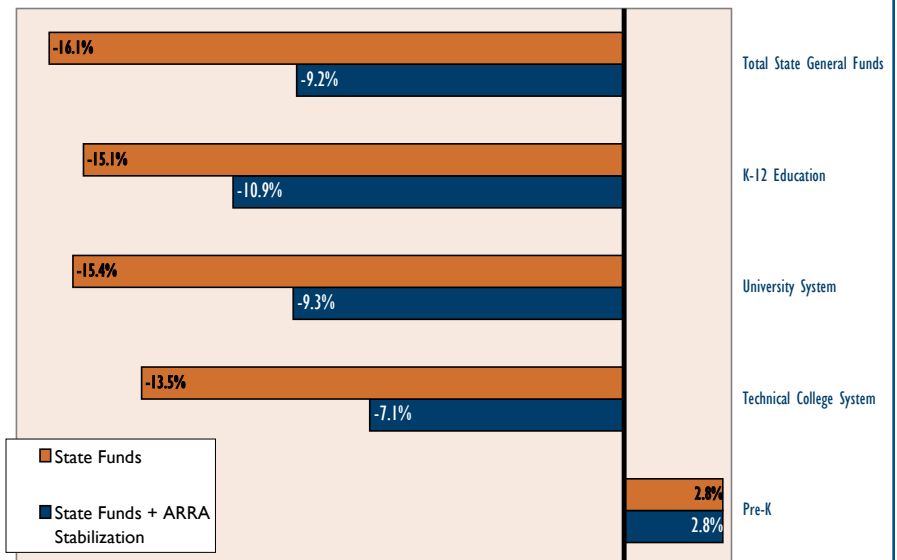
Education comprises more than 50 percent of state spending; therefore, if lawmakers refuse to add new revenues to the state budget, the likely consequences for years to come are:

- Larger class sizes in K-12 schools
- Less school days for some K-12 schools
- More adjunct faculty at colleges and universities instead of full-time faculty
- Cuts in pay for teachers and instructors
- Less supportive services such as tutoring, advising, and professional development

RECOMMENDATION IF LAWMAKERS CHOOSE BUDGET CUTS OVER MORE REVENUES:

- How will communities respond? Will some offset funding cuts with local resources, while other communities will not, or cannot?
- How will these cuts affect Georgia's long-term economic position when workers need adult literacy and technical education to transition to new jobs?
- How will increased tuition and fees to post-secondary schools affect access for low- and moderate-income students, especially given that Georgia has no state need-based financial aid?

EDUCATION FUNDS CUT DESPITE RISING COST AND ENROLLMENT



Notes: Total state general funds includes motor fuel funds. Pre-K includes lottery funds.

The complete report is available at www.GBPI.org.