

2020 RURAL EDUCATION FUND END-OF-GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

The Georgia Foundation for Public Education (GFPE), the philanthropic arm of the Georgia’s Department of Education’s (GADOE), exists for the single purpose of supporting educational excellence for students in Georgia. Through donations, the foundation is able to fund a variety of projects, as well as serve as a channel for organizations to fund their vision.

One such project is GFPE’s signature annual grant program, the Rural Education Fund, which provides traditional public schools, charter schools, and school districts located in counties with 35,000 or fewer residents up to \$5,000 to use however they wish to drive student outcomes. The Rural Education Fund is made possible through the purchase of the “Educator” and “Support Education” license plates by Georgia residents.

In 2020, GFPE awarded 27 Rural Education Fund grants to Georgia schools and districts, totaling \$127,152. The grants focused on technology and hotspots to support virtual learning, a mobile library, podcasting equipment for English Language Arts classes, and much more.

This report summarizes the end-of-grant outcomes for the 2020 Rural Education Fund grantees.

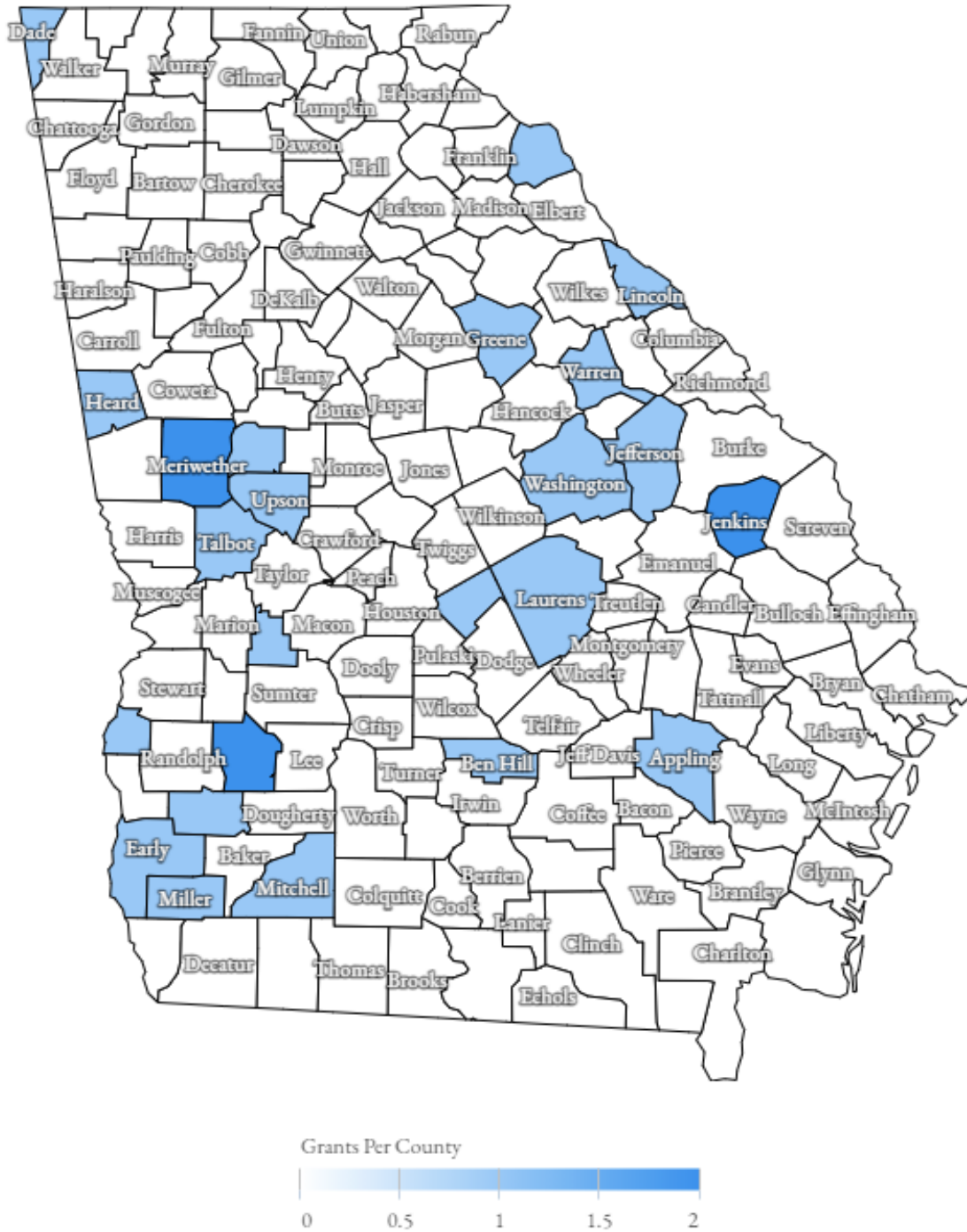


TABLE 1. RURAL EDUCATION FUND GRANTEES

- *Appling County Schools*
- *Ben Hill County Middle School, Ben Hill County Schools*
- *Bleckley County Schools:*
- *Calhoun County Schools*
- *Dade County High School, Dade County Schools*
- *Susie Dasher Elementary School, Dublin City Schools*
- *Early County Schools*
- *Greene County Schools*
- *Hart County High School, Hart County Schools*
- *Heard County High School, Heard County Schools*
- *Wrens Elementary School, Jefferson County Schools*
- *Jenkins County Elementary School, Jenkins County Schools*
- *Jenkins County High School, Jenkins County Schools*
- *Lincoln County Schools*
- *Meriwether County Schools*
- *Manchester Middle School, Meriwether County Schools*
- *Miller County Middle School, Miller County Schools*
- *Pelham Elementary School, Pelham City Schools*
- *Pike County Middle School, Pike County Schools*
- *Quitman County Schools*
- *Schley County Elementary and Middle Schools, Schley County Schools*
- *Central of Talbotton, Talbot County Schools*
- *Cooper Carver Elementary School, Terrell County Schools*
- *Terrell County Middle School, Terrell County Schools*
- *Upson-Lee High School, Thomaston County Schools*
- *Warren County Middle and High School, Warren County Schools*
- *Washington County Schools*

MAPPING THE 2020 RURAL EDUCATION FUND

GRANTS BY COUNTY



2020 RURAL EDUCATION FUND IMPACTS AT END OF GRANT

AT A GLANCE[†]

49.5% Female
Students Impacted

50.5% Males
Students Impacted

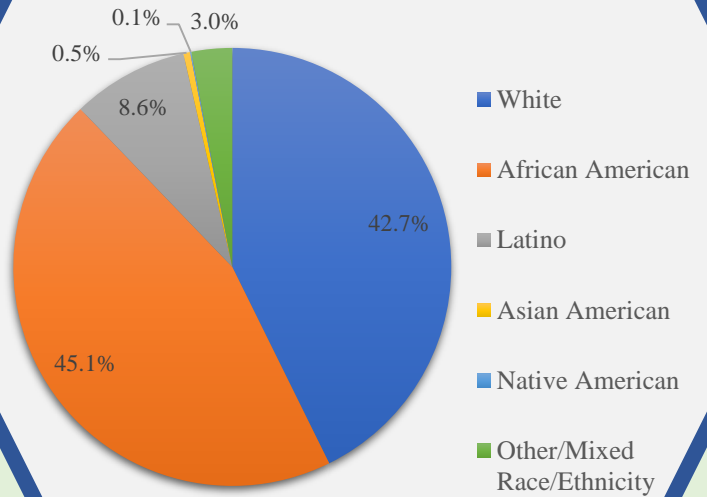
47 Schools
Involved in REF
Programming

10,795 Students
Impacted

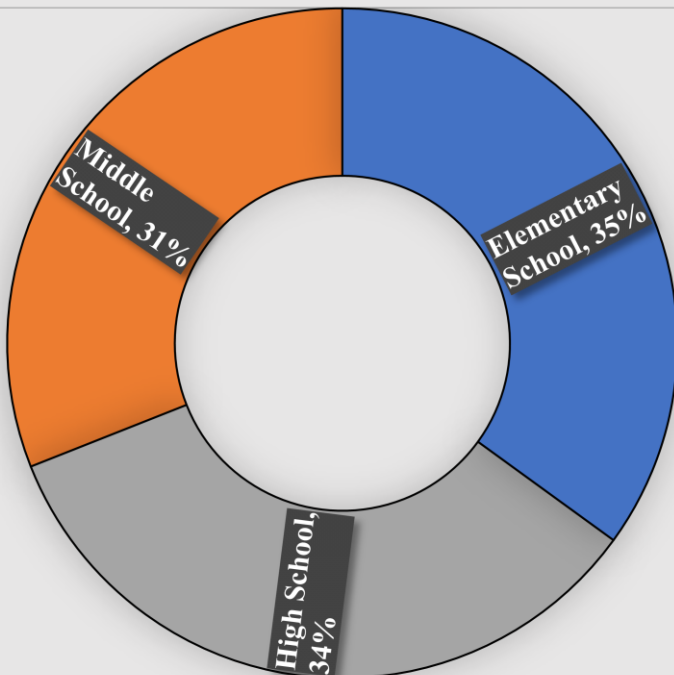


8,655
Economically
Disadvantaged
Students Impacted

Students Impacted by Race/Ethnicity



Impacts by Grade Band



[±] This report includes the mid-year data for Dublin City Schools, Wrens Elementary School, Meriwether County Schools, Talbot County Schools, Cooper-Carver Elementary School, and Upson Lee High School.

[†] This report excludes the end-of-grant data for Bleckley County Schools, Dade County High School, Heard County High School, Jenkins County High School, and Terrell County Middle School.

FEEDBACK FOR THE GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Grantees are required to provide mid-year and end-of-grant evaluation reports. In the evaluation, grantees highlight the grant's current status, including the demographics of students/faculty/families impacted, as well as progress towards the SMART goals outlined on the original application. In addition, the evaluation provides space for grantees to give feedback to the Georgia Foundation for Public Education regarding its responsiveness as a grantor. Here are the feedback findings from the 2020 end-of-grant evaluation reports:

- Grantees are asked to rate the GFPE's quality of technical assistance and support on a scale of one to five, with one being poor and five being excellent. Of the 13 grantees that provided a rating, 12 gave GFPE an excellent rating.
- GFPE received an overall average rating of 4.9.
- Nine grantees provided comments regarding the rating and/or overall feedback for the foundation. The majority of comments thanked the foundation for awarding the district/school with the funds, while some provided anecdotal impact stories.

Here are the grantee comments:

- **Appling County Schools:** We were very proud to receive funding for this grant and appreciate your efforts to assist us. This grant allowed us to pilot a subscription to the First District RESA Consortium Overdrive Collaborative for a year. As a result, we found that the resource was most useful for our students in grades 3-12 who are reading chapter books. Going forward, we can focus our efforts with this resource on this student population.
- **Cooper Carver Elementary School, Terrell County Schools:** Thank you for giving Cooper-Carver the opportunity to receive the Rural Grant. We are grateful for the chance to expose our 4th and 5th grade students to robotics. They are so excited about learning. Hopefully next year, we can branch out to all grade levels.
- **Greene County Schools:** We are incredibly grateful to GFPE for supporting our efforts during the COVID pandemic.
- **Hart County High School, Hart County Schools:** We have not sought technical assistance at this point so I cannot give any feedback.
- **Lincoln County Schools:** We are still so excited about this opportunity/funds available for our students. This pandemic year kept parents/students from visiting colleges and thus our post-secondary enrollments are down considerably. We would greatly appreciate it if you would continue the grant through the 2021-22 school year. Thank you!!!
- **Manchester Middle School, Meriwether County Schools:** While COVID has definitely been a challenge this year during this grant process, our school has still continued to push ahead with STEM/PBL as best as we

can to give students those hands on opportunities. We will continue to provide as much STEM/PBL for our students using the carts and materials we were able to purchase using the grant. Our school and teachers implemented as much STEM/PBL as we could during the year. We will continue to implement STEM/PBL in our science classes and grow as we continue to gain knowledge and understanding of STEM/PBL. The Georgia Foundation for Public Education has been great and we greatly appreciate what the grant has allowed us to purchase to offer more opportunities for our students.

- **Miller County Middle School, Miller County Schools:** The purchase of Chromebooks has been very difficult due to the demand for this product across the country. Our Tech department ordered Chromebooks and they were on backorder until they came in a few months before school ended. Also cleaning supplies and covers for Chromebooks are in limited supply and are more expensive due to the increased demand for these items. Rural Georgia needs better internet access and infrastructure in order for our population to be successful instructionally.
- **Pike County High School and Middle School, Pike County Schools:** Thank you so much for the grant that helped our program to be successful. The opportunity presented itself for us to visit another district that has developed a very successful career readiness program. Our district will be working towards a goal to develop a similar program here for our students. We greatly look forward to next year and how we can expand our program to reach even more students. Again, thank you for your generous support. Sincerely, Chanda P. Steele
- **Quitman Elementary School and High School, Quitman County School District:** The funds have greatly benefited our students. Several students live outside the town limits several miles into the most rural areas around the district. Even at this point and with the hotspots, some of students live in areas that still do not allow them to get Wi-Fi.
- **Schley County Elementary School and Middle School, Schley County Schools:** We greatly appreciate GFPE and their willingness to reach out and help us. This year was very trying in all areas. The sincere effort put into serving and helping others during this time shows the good fortune that we have to be Georgians. Many unspoken and selfless acts made the hard tasks manageable. Thank you for your help. It made a difference for us!
- **Warren County Schools:** We are so thankful to have this equipment that was provided under this grant. It has saved time and ensured that our students are getting fed in a manner consistent with the Georgia Department of Health requirements for off-site feeding.

- **Washington County School District:** We are extremely thankful to be recipients of the grant and appreciate the opportunity it has provided us to serve our students.



