

FISCAL YEAR 2022 INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FUND MID-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATES REPORT



This page intentionally left blank.

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.

In February 2022, the GFPE launched the first round of the Innovative Education Fund, which provides traditional public and charter schools, school districts, and organizations partnered with these entities up to \$20,000 to implement innovative programs that will improve student outcomes. The Innovative Education Fund is made possible through the [PEACH Education Tax Credit](#).

TABLE 1. FY22 INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FUND PROTOTYPE GRANTEES

- *Calhoun City Schools, \$20,000*
- *Georgia Gwinnett College in partnership with Alford Elementary School of Gwinnett County Public Schools, \$20,000*
- *Hand, Heart & Soul Project in partnership with 7 Pillars Charter Academy of Clayton County Public Schools, \$20,000*
- *Leap Year in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools, \$20,000*

TABLE 2. FY22 INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FUND MINI GRANTEES

- *Newton County Schools, \$5,000*
- *Rome City Schools, West Central Elementary, \$5,000*

In May 2022, GFPE awarded six Innovative Education Fund grants to Georgia schools, districts, and organizations totaling \$90,000. The grant program provided two tiers of awards: the Prototype Grant, which provided between \$10,000-\$20,000

and the Mini Grant, which provided up to \$5,000. The GFPE awarded four Prototype grants and two Mini grants. The grants focused on improving math pedagogy, coding for girls, urban agriculture, an early education pathway for high school students, a gap-year mentorship program, and outreach with ELL students and families.

This report summarizes the mid-year outcomes for the 2022 Innovative Education Fund grantees and presents evidence of impacts from grantees.



2022 INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FUND PROGRAM SUMMARIES

PROTOTYPE GRANTS

Applicant	Calhoun City Schools
Funding Request	\$20,000.00
Project Summary	The Calhoun College & Career Academy at Calhoun High School will partner with the Calhoun Early Learning Academy (Pre-school, Pre-K, and Kindergarten) to provide hands-on learning experiences to high school students on the aspiring teacher pathway. Specifically, the early learning center will create a training classroom for high schoolers to master the pathway standards while gaining experience with pre-school through kindergarten students. Calhoun City Schools will also partner with the University of West Georgia to use the Live Simulation Lab, which will provide aspiring teacher pathway students the opportunity to practice their pedagogy in a risk-free, simulation setting. Finally, the program will provide families of early learning center students with literacy kits to engage them beyond the classroom.

Applicant	Georgia Gwinnett College in partnership with Alford Elementary School of Gwinnett County Public Schools
Funding Request	\$20,000.00
Project Summary	In 2019, Alford Elementary School (AES) third through fifth grade students scored seven to ten points lower on the mathematics Milestone exam compared to the county average. The need for support increased due to learning loss as a result of the pandemic. Georgia Gwinnett College will use the Prototype grant to provide the school with its early learning teacher candidates specializing in math pedagogy. In a model lab structure, teacher candidates will learn best practices in math instruction and have the opportunity to apply those practices in the classroom with AES students.

Applicant	Hand Heart & Soul Project in Partnership with 7 Pillars Charter Academy of Clayton County Public Schools
Funding Request	\$20,000.00
Project Summary	Hand, Heart & Soul Project (HHSP) and 7 Pillars Career Academy of Clayton Public School System will partner to implement a food- and wellness-based curriculum. Ninety percent of 7 Pillars Middle School students live below the poverty line and there is limited access to healthy foods. HHSP, a grassroots non-profit, addresses food insecurity in schools located in food desert settings by teaching students about nutritious foods, incorporating a horticulture and agriculture pathway, and integrating healthy habits, such as yoga and art therapy. This project will impact 131 middle school students in 6 th -8 th grades, 30 parents, and 10 teachers. The curriculum will become part of the school's focus on career pathways and activism.

Applicant	Leap Year in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools
Funding Request	\$20,000.00
Project Summary	Prior to COVID-19, only 42% of Atlanta Public School (APS) third grade students were reading on grade level. Additionally, only 27% of APS high school graduates completed a post-secondary degree. Leap Year recruits first-generation high school graduates to serve as Fellows, where they spend one year as reading coaches for at-risk second graders while preparing themselves for success in college and career. Leap Year, in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools, will place yearlong Fellows to serve as mentors and tutors in three schools in their local communities before committing to a post-secondary degree program.

MINI GRANTS

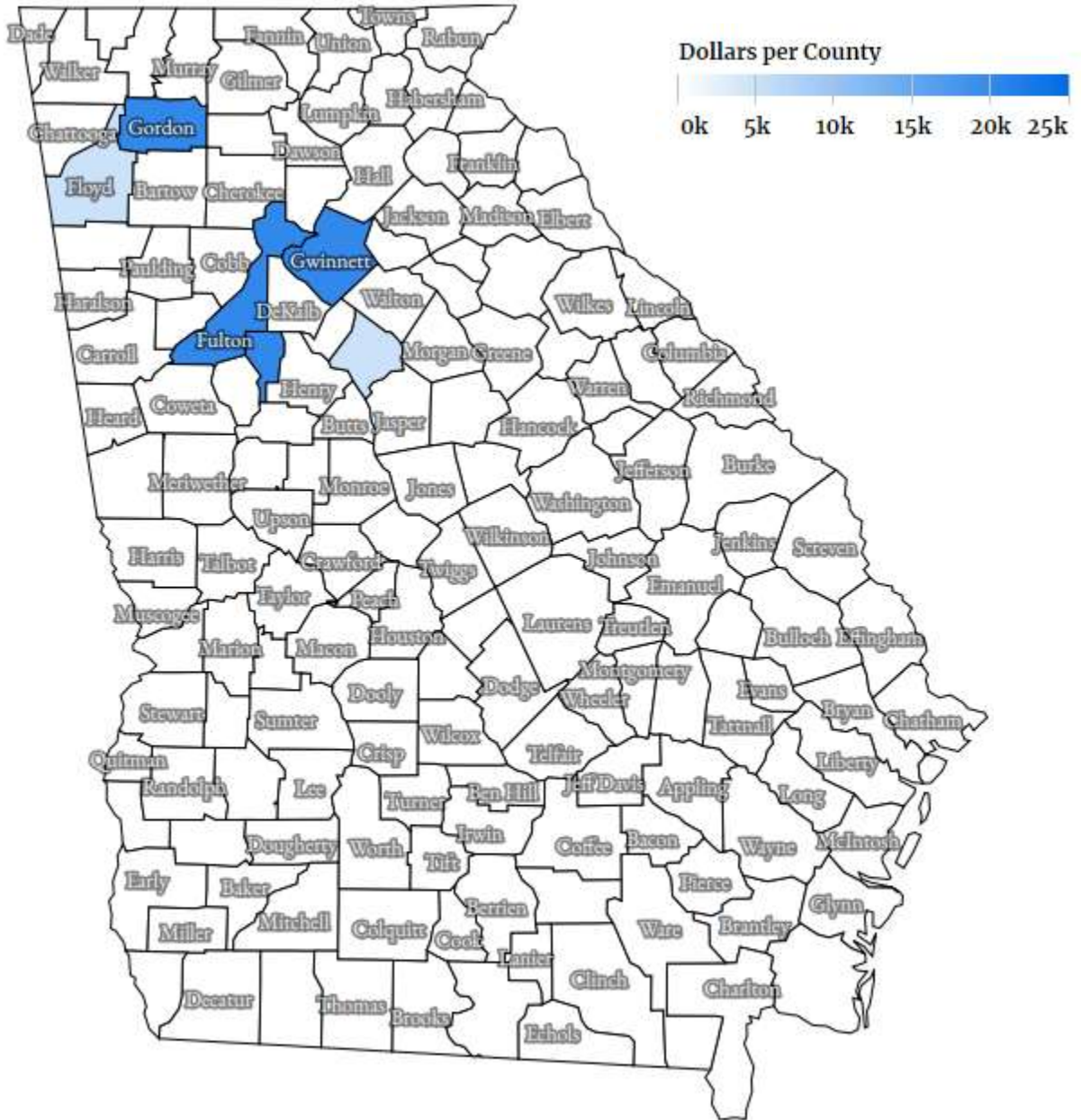
Applicant	Newton County Schools
Funding Request	\$5,000.00
Project Summary	Newton County Schools will use the Mini Grant to implement a district-wide coding program for girls. The full-day coding conference aims to expose girls to careers in computer science and technology fields. We need \$5,000 to buy supplies to run the conference.

Applicant	Rome City Schools, West Central Elementary
Funding Request	\$5,000.00
Project Summary	West Central Elementary serves 587 students, 54% of whom speak exclusively Spanish at home. The language barrier limits family engagement in school activities and with their children's teachers. West Central Elementary School will use the IEF Mini Grant to create a video recording zone in the STEAM lab where students will plan, film, edit, and produce bilingual video communication to keep fellow students, families, and community members up to date on current school events, successes, and engagement opportunities.



MAPPING THE 2022 INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FUND

GRANTS BY COUNTY



2022 INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FUND IMPACTS AT MID-YEAR

AT A GLANCE

By mid-year, **2,140** students were **IMPACTED** by Innovative Education Fund programs.

Of the students impacted, **44%** are **FEMALE** and **56%** are **MALE**.

Impacts by Race/Ethnicity
White, **27%**
African American, **40%**
Latino, **31%**
Asian, **0.9%**
Native American, **.01%**
Other, **1.5%**

Impacts by **Grade Band**
Elementary School, **72%**
Middle School, **18%**
High School, **10%**

83% of students impacted are identified as **Economically Disadvantaged**

14% of students impacted are identified as **English Language Learners**

8 Schools Involved in Programming



This report excludes the mid-year data for Georgia Gwinnett College in partnership with Alford Elementary School of Gwinnett County Public Schools and Newton County Schools.

SNAPSHOTS OF IMPACT

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

"It (small group intervention) gives those students extra practice with reading and word recognition in a small group setting." – Teacher, The Leap Year

"Students learned and practiced reading strategies that they can use independently." – Teacher, The Leap Year

"Students in all levels of the ECE and TAP pathway program have had the opportunity to support the Voluntary Action Center while providing our students practical experiences working with preschool aged students." – Director, Calhoun City Schools

"When I hear other students on the morning show share about the books they've been reading, it makes me want to read them too." – Student, West Central Elementary School

"The Scholars are so excited to have the opportunity to truly learn and create the farm to table concept at our new location. They will have an understanding of how organic fruits and vegetables not only fuel the body but help to bring peace to the soul." – 7 Pillars Career Academy Parent Liaison

"[The program] provided an opportunity for the scholars to be exposed to different genres of literature and have additional opportunities to practice reading fluency." – Teacher, The Leap Year

"I enjoy this class because I am able to research and learn new things about plants." – Student, 7 Pillars Career Academy

"I like the news show because instead of you guessing what we are having for lunch, they tell you. I like how everybody in the whole entire school can be a part of it...We should show our families projects and talk about what we do in our classes." – Teacher, West Central Elementary School



MID-YEAR TAKEAWAYS

At mid-year, most grantees were on track to finish their grant action steps by the end of the grant year. In addition, most grantees had made progress towards reaching their goals for the program. Here are brief mid-year updates from four grantees:

Calhoun City Schools (Prototype Grantee)

According to an Early Childhood Education Pathway Survey distributed to high school students in the pathway,

- 92.5% of student respondents felt prepared or somewhat prepared to teach in a real classroom setting because of their experience with the simulation lab.
- 97.5% of student respondents felt that the simulation lab provides a real-world or somewhat of a real-world classroom experience.
- 67.5% of student respondents felt prepared to teach first grade.



Hand, Heart & Soul Project in partnership with 7 Pillars Charter Academy of Clayton County Public Schools

By mid-year, Hand, Heart & Soul Project was halfway towards reaching two out of three goals, which both surpassing the baseline:

Goal	Baseline	Target	Actual
90% of teachers will feel confident and competent to incorporate food- or wellness-based education in their curriculum.	4 teachers	10 teachers (by spring 2023)	5 teachers
90% of middle school students will try five healthy foods.	80 students	150 students (by spring 2023)	91 students

The Leap Year in Partnership with Atlanta Public Schools (Prototype Grantee)

- According to a Fellow Engagement Survey distributed in fall 2022 to teachers at participating school, 11 out of 15 teachers agreed or strongly agreed that their assigned fellow was able to engage all students and manage student disruptions.
- According to a Fellow Engagement Survey distributed in fall 2022 to teachers at participating school, 15 participating teachers reported overwhelmingly positive feedback on student academic achievement from Leap Year small group interventions.
- Leap Year small groups served at Harper Archer Elementary (HAE) and Deerwood Academy (DA) experienced a 4-point and 6-point average growth, respectively, from winter 2021 to spring 2022. The (HAE) small group average scores increased from 161.11 in winter to 163.56 in spring and the average scores for DA increased from 166.15 in winter to 175.77 in spring.

Rome City Schools, West Central Elementary

At mid-year, West Central Elementary School had already surpassed one goal and nearly reached the second goal it set for its program:

Goal	Baseline	Target	Actual
During the 2022-2023 school year, we hope to see at least a 50% increase in the number of families participating in academic nights and PTO events as compared to the previous school year as indicated by sign-in sheets at these events.	25 families	50 families	53 families
As compared to Facebook data before the grant project is implemented, we would like to double the average likes, indicating increased engagement and awareness of school news.	During SY 21/22, West Central published 33 Facebook posts an average of 15.4 likes per post.	30.8 likes per post	26 posts in the last month- an average of 24 likes per post.

This evaluation update excludes mid-year updates for Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) in partnership with Alford Elementary School of Gwinnett County Public Schools as there were scheduling conflicts between GGC and Alford Elementary School. The teacher candidate trainings began in fall 2022 and teacher candidates will begin working with students at the elementary school in January 2023. This update also excludes Newton County Schools, which held the IEF-funded conference *InspiHer* in December 2022, which followed the mid-year report due date. Newton County Schools will be completing one end-of-grant report.



