



# BOLD

BUILDING OUR LEARNING DIFFERENTLY

2020-2021

# Pivot

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Thursday, March 16 was the last day of the school year that students were in our buildings.

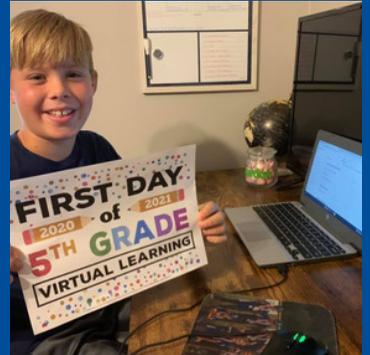
Learning from school. Learning from home. Learning new technology. Learning how to (remotely) work together and overcome challenges. Learning the important ways to protect ourselves and those in our care.

The COVID-19 global pandemic required us to make many changes and face adversity in our day-to-day routines. With each change and challenge, Barrow County School System teachers and staff continue to show incredible resilience and positivity.

BCSS was given an opportunity to use its BOLD approach to learning and was able to shine -- mastering the art of pivoting plans whenever necessary. No classroom? No problem. We have the knowledge and tools to connect with students wherever they prefer to learn.

With an emphasis on transparency, we continue to prioritize safety and learning for our community. Whether virtually or in-person, our team is ready and planning for whatever comes next.

Please note: This annual report reflects on the 2019-2020 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic required us to close our schools in March 2020. Many of the photos included in this publication occurred before the need to take precautions, such as physical distancing and wearing masks.



# BARROW COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

As a growing metro-Atlanta suburban community of ~81,750 residents, Barrow County is about an hour east of Atlanta and 30 minutes west of Athens. The school system is the 24th largest system in Georgia and the 4th largest charter system.

## Elementary Schools

- 1 Auburn
- 2 Bethlehem
- 3 Bramlett
- 4 County Line
- 5 Holsenbeck
- 6 Kennedy
- 7 Statham
- 8 Winder
- 9 Yargo

## Middle Schools

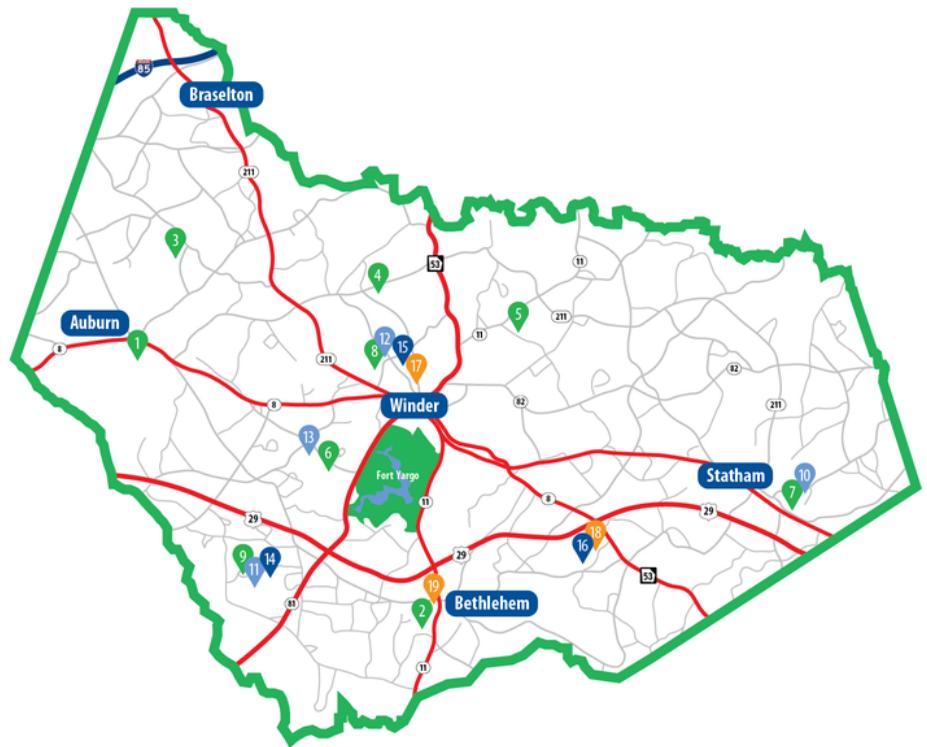
- 10 Bear Creek
- 11 Haymon-Morris
- 12 Russell
- 13 Westside

## High Schools

- 14 Apalachee
- 15 Winder-Barrow
- 16 Barrow Arts & Sciences Academy

## Programs

- 17 Arts & Innovation Magnet at Center for Innovative Teaching
- 18 Sims Academy of Innovation & Technology
- 19 Alternative



~14,400 Students

~1,800 Employees



# Barrow County School System

Boldly Committed to Student Success

## MISSION

Ensuring an exceptional education that leads each student to become a high-achieving and responsible citizen

## VISION

Boldly Committed to Student Success

## FOCUS

BOLD: Building Our Learning Differently



In order to fully realize our student-centered vision and mission, Barrow County School System (BCSS) pursues strategic goals in three key areas:

- Academic Achievement**
- Stakeholder Engagement**
- Operational Effectiveness**





# LEADERSHIP

**Board of Education (L-R):**  
Bill Ritter, Jordan Raper, Rickey Bailey,  
Dr. Chris McMichael, Lisa Maloof, Dr. Garey  
Huff, Sr., Stephanie Bramlett, Beverly Kelley,  
Debi Krause, Lynn Stevens

**Dr. Chris McMichael**  
Superintendent



**Dr. Angela Moton**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Teaching & Learning



**Dr. Ken Greene**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Support Services



**Jennifer Houston**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business Services



**Joe Perno**  
Assistant Superintendent  
System Operations



**Cindy Beggs**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Planning & Personnel

# LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES *for* STUDENTS

From the arts to robotics to farms, BCSS offers innovative opportunities for students to explore based on their interests.

## **Barrow Arts & Sciences Academy (open Aug 2020)**

As a high school of choice, students enroll in magnet academies, such as Visual Art and Design, Performing Arts, Life and Health Science, or STEM

## **Sims Academy of Innovation and Technology**

Developing workforce-ready students who can walk into high-paying industries while building an entrepreneurship foundation

## **Arts & Innovation Magnet**

Redefining the educational experience for middle school students through arts integration, project based learning, and community partnerships

## **Dual Enrollment**

Provides funding for students to take college-level coursework for credit toward both high school and college graduation

## **Project Search**

A yearlong, school-to-work transition program targeting older high school students with significant disabilities, located at the Winder Housing Authority



# COMMUNITY

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**Barrow County School System is focused on building a sense of community and pride among all stakeholders.**

- Promote BCSS with positive language and common branding
- Strengthen parent engagement through improved communication and involvement
- Increase community-wide awareness and understanding of issues that impact educational decision-making
- Empower students to take ownership of their learning and be actively engaged



## **Community Engagement**

We actively partner with numerous organizations to meet the needs of our families.

## **Principal for a Day**

Community members were invited into our schools to act as the principal and experience education in our schools.

## **Connected Parent Series**

BCSS partnered with the community to provide three, free informational sessions on important topics for families: digital citizenship, suicide prevention, and substance abuse.

## **Updated Websites & Branding**

To improve communication, all district and school websites were upgraded to a new responsive platform, along with refreshed logos and branding

# FACULTY & STAFF

**Barrow County School System is dedicated to attracting, employing, developing, and retaining the most effective and qualified people to provide a high-quality education.**

- Implement a hiring process that results in the employment of top candidates
- Provide high-quality professional learning designed to improve student achievement
- Retain highly effective teachers, staff, and leaders by providing a positive work environment, supportive leadership and opportunities for innovation

Recognized as  
**Kindness Certified**  
School District



**86%** Employee  
Retention  
Rate

Compared to state average of 83%

**68%** Staff Education  
Levels

Master, Specialist or Doctoral Degree



# PARTNERSHIPS



**BCSS wants to strengthen partnerships to sustain a culture of participation, engagement, and commitment to education.**

- Share opportunities and best practices among schools
- Increase student, parent, business, and community partner participation
- Promote collaboration between all governmental units in Barrow County
- Develop and strengthen relationships with all local, state, and federal policymakers



## Partners in Education (PIE)

An opportunity for collaboration between businesses and schools to work together on the common goal of giving children a well-rounded education.

- 7 District Partners
- Hundreds of school and multi-school partners

## Barrow Book Partnership

The BBP provides free age-appropriate books for the home and educates families about the importance of reading to improve early literacy skills in children ages birth to five.

- 41,700+ books given to Barrow Families
- 4,094 families served
- 1,619 library cards to Barrow families

## Feeding Barrow

Weekend and holiday feeding program helps bridge the gap for food insecure students.

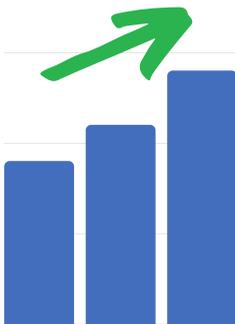
- 300+ students served weekly
  - Students sponsored at \$275/child for the year
- Partner Agencies: New Path 1010, Nothing but the Truth, Food Bank of Northeast Georgia (Food 2 Kids)

# GROWTH & CHANGE

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**Barrow County School System will proactively manage system growth.**

- Continuously assess and address the impacts of economic development, population growth, and demographic change
- Develop collaborative relationships with economic and community leaders to help predict and prepare for growth and change
- Develop staffing, infrastructure, and facility plans to address growth and change



**Enrollment by 2025**

Students: ~17,500

Staff: ~2,100



**For the 2020-21 school year**

- Barrow Arts & Sciences Academy opened in August
- Additional buses were purchased and routes added
- Construction is underway at Westside Middle School adding a new building wing

# TECHNOLOGY

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**Barrow County School System leverages technology and digital tools efficiently and effectively.**

- Ensure that technology is operational, deployed optimally, and has sufficient capability to meet instructional and administrative needs
- Develop a viable and goal-oriented comprehensive system-wide technology plan
- Strengthen teacher competency in using technology to enhance classroom teaching and student learning



## Classroom Cameras & Microphones

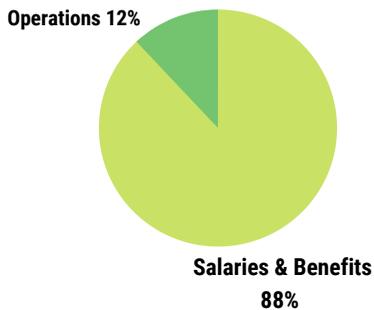


# FUNDING

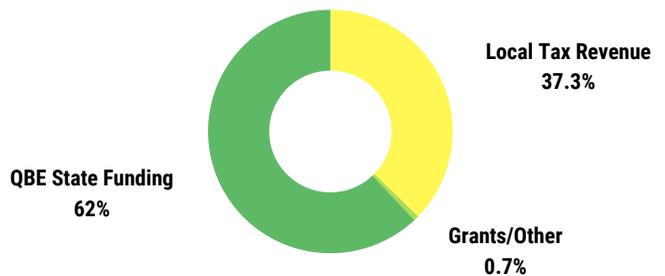
**Barrow County School System is dedicated to being fiscally responsible by enhancing school and system funding and resource effectiveness.**

- Identify strategies for enhancing revenues and resources through foundations, partnerships, and other sources
- Cultivate fiscal responsibility through ongoing evaluation of resource allocation
- Provide ongoing professional learning to build knowledge of finance and budgeting capacity in all school leaders

**FY21 Budgeted Expenditures \$137.5M**

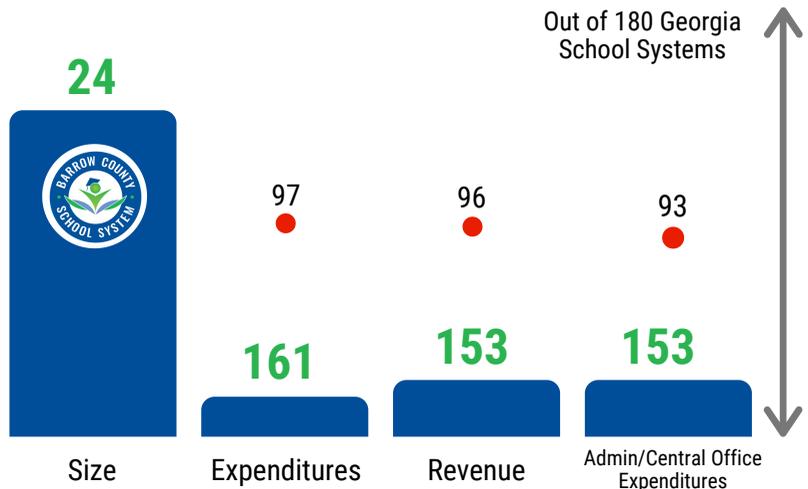


**FY21 Budgeted Revenues \$132.9M**



## State Comparison

● = State Average



# FUNDING



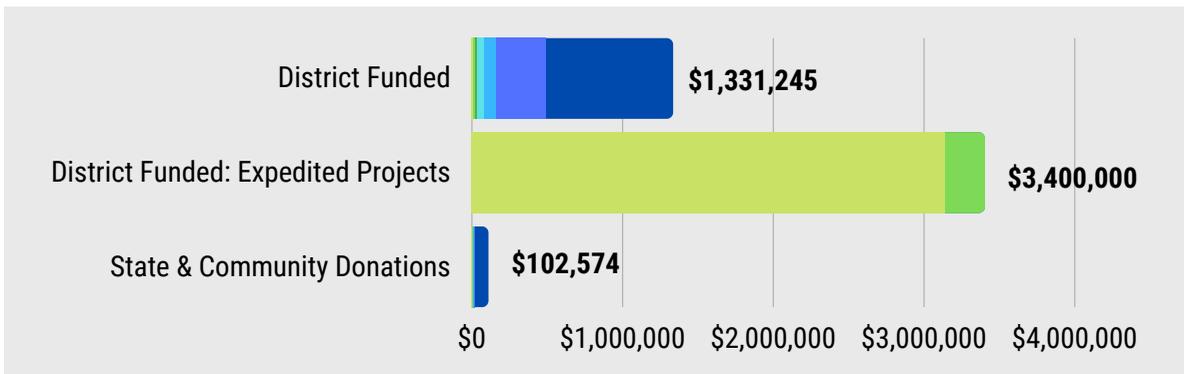
In spring 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted business operations and revenue across the state. While already planning for a 3% state budget cut, Governor Kemp increased the budget cut across all agencies, which totaled 10.1%. While we received \$2.45M in federal CARES Act funds, it did not cover our loss of **\$8.15 million**.



**When every dollar counts in education, this had a significant impact on the budget for the 2020-21 school year.**

At the same time when our revenues decreased, we had **increased** costs due to the pandemic. It was essential to invest in health and safety for our schools, and we needed to support digital learning for our teachers and students.

## **BCSS Pandemic-related Expenditures = \$4,731,245**



# STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

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## GRADUATION RATES

*The graduation rates have not yet been released by the state for the Class of 2020.*

For the Class of 2019, the BCSS graduation rate increased to 87.6%, which continued 5 straight years of growth and 7 years of beating the state average.

For Students with Disabilities, the FY19 Annual Event graduation rate increased by +8% over last year and posted at 85.2%. BCSS is one of 78 school districts in Georgia with this success rate.

## WBHS AWARDED UGA DIRECTORS CUP

Winder-Barrow High School was awarded the prestigious UGA Director's Cup. The 10 students from Winder-Barrow High School that enrolled as first-year students at UGA in Fall 2018 semester achieved a 3.804 first-year cumulative GPA, higher than any other high school with 10 or more students from the 2018 entering class.



**2019 UGA Director's Cup awarded to Winder-Barrow High School**

whose students earned the highest GPA as freshmen at the University of Georgia



## Title I Recognitions

Barrow County School System had three schools recognized as a top-performing Title I School by the Georgia Department of Education.

- Bramlett Elementary earned the honor of a Title I Distinguished School.
- Auburn Elementary and Russell Middle were recognized as Title I Reward Schools.



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Holsenbeck, Statham and Yargo Elementary Schools were named 2019-2020 National Beta Schools of Distinction. This award is an honor for Beta Clubs striving toward academic achievement, exemplary character, leadership and service to others.

## First Class of REACH Scholar Graduates

In fall 2015, the first five REACH scholars from Barrow County were selected. In May, each of these students graduated high school. REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) Georgia is the State of Georgia's first needs-based mentorship and college scholarship program. Congratulations to these students as they head off to college!



# TEACHER & STAFF RECOGNITIONS

The BOLD teachers in Barrow County have been recognized for the amazing things to support their students and learning.

## Dr. Brad Bowling

Dr. Bowling received the National Early Career Special Education Administrator Award. The Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) presents the award to a Special Education Administrator who exemplifies CASE's ethics, values, and standards in their first three years in the position.



## Bridget Bach

The Georgia Department of Education recognizes Georgia ESOL Educators for their excellence in achievement. Bridget Bach from Bethlehem Elementary Schools was selected as a Georgia 2020 Exemplary English Learner Teacher.



## David Kendrick

David Kendrick from Bear Creek Middle School was selected to be one of the two inaugural Master Teachers for the White House History Teacher Institute. He was chosen from a pool of applicants from around the nation to teach teachers. During the virtual national summer institute, three of his students co-presented with him.

David Kendrick was also the BCSS District Teacher of the Year in 2019.



# Congratulations

# CLASS OF 2020

# 848

graduates

# TBD

graduation rate

# 413

Dual Enrollment courses completed

# 66,046

Internship hours logged for Work-Based Learning

## Plans after graduation

# 72%

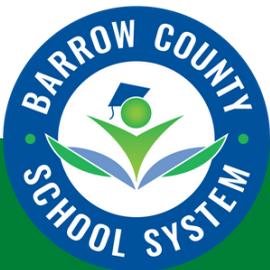
## ATTENDING COLLEGE



Entering Military  
4%

Entering Workforce  
13%

Other  
12%



## Barrow County School System

179 West Athens Street, Winder, Georgia 30680

770-867-4527



[www.barrow.k12.ga.us](http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us)



BarrowCountySchools



BCSchools1



BarrowCountySchools