



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 18, 2023

Chairman Clint Dixon
Senate Education and Youth Committee
301-B Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
Senate Bill (LC 49 1567)

Dear Chairman Dixon:

This bill would expand the use of capital outlay funds for educational facilities to include any voluntary pre-kindergarten programs provided by local school systems. To project facility needs, the projection program methodology may include projected student counts for voluntary pre-kindergarten programs provided or anticipated by the school system.

As shown in **Table 1**, Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) data indicates that local school systems currently share \$300 million in annual state capital outlay entitlement funding to provide facilities for the more than 1.6 million students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12th grade, averaging \$181 per student annually. The bill would have increased entitlement funding by approximately \$9.1 million had the bill been in effect during fiscal year 2024. This total is based on the 50,300 pre-kindergarten students being educated in public school facilities according to the October 2023 student count. If enrollment in voluntary pre-kindergarten programs provided by public schools increased by 10% (an additional 5,030 students), the estimate would increase to \$10,014,730.

Table 1: Addition of Pre-Kindergarten Increases State Capital Outlay Program Costs

	Enrollment	Entitlement per Student	Annual Entitlement
Current Public Pre-K Enrollment	50,300	\$181	\$9,104,300
10% Increase in Public Pre-K Enrollment	55,330	\$181	\$10,014,730

Additionally, GaDOE estimates one-time costs of \$242,000 for software used to manage capital outlay entitlement funds. GaDOE noted that the current Capital Outlay Planning System is over 10 years old and does not have the ability to incorporate pre-kindergarten students.

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/slw