



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

February 7, 2025

Honorable Sam Park
State Representative
609 Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 49 2045)

Dear Representative Park:

The bill would require that Quality Basic Education (QBE) program weights be adjusted to cover the beginning salary of one school counselor for every 250 full-time equivalent (FTE) students.

As shown in **Table 1**, additional counselors would require state funding of \$165.1 million, or approximately \$213.13 per FTE. This amount is based on FY25 FTE counts and current QBE program weights that provide \$118.41 per FTE for counselors at a 1:450 ratio. The cost for subsequent years will be impacted by any change in the base FTE amount from the FY25 amount, as well as any change to the FTE count.

Table 1. Cost of LC 49 2045, Based on FY25 FTE Count and QBE Base

FTE Count	1,743,300
Current Counselor Ratio (1:450)	\$206,424,153
Proposed Counselor Ratio (1:250)	\$371,549,529
Additional State Costs	\$165,125,376
Note: Changes in QBE earnings are borne by the state and local school systems, with the ratio dependent on Local Five Mill Share calculations made each year. Currently, the state share is 80% but could increase in future years based on changes in local property tax digests.	

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/jb