



Investing Today for a
Better Tomorrow



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Prattville-Autauga School Committee is to advocate for our children to receive the best education possible and, in doing so, position them and our community for sustainable success.

A Year In The Making

- In May of 2017, a committee was formed that included elected officials from the City and County as well as business and community leaders.
- The committee met on several occasions to discuss potential solutions for improving the existing County School System as well as the possibility of forming a “metro” system through a City / County partnership.
- In October of 2017, a sub-committee was formed to assess how other communities approached educating their children. The sub-committee includes elected officials from the City and business and community leaders.
- Since forming, the sub-committee as a whole or individuals members have held discussions with:
 - Current and former teachers and administrators in the Autauga County School System
 - Current residents of Autauga County
 - Current and former City and County elected officials
 - Current and former school superintendents across the State
 - Senior administrators with the Alabama State Department of Education
 - Representatives in Alabaster, Daphne, Enterprise, Gardendale, Gulf Shores, Madison, Madison County, Opelika, Orange Beach, Pike Road and Trussville.



Sub-Committee Members

Bill Gillespie, Mayor

Kyle Glover, Business Owner

Gregory Gray, Private Citizen

Marcus Jackson, Councilman, District 2


Jerry Starnes, Councilman, District 4

Robert Strichik, Councilman, District 6

Joe Turner, Business Owner

Amy Brabham, Economic Develop Director

Advisor to Committee



We fund our Autauga County School System at the **bare minimum** to receive State funding. We **rank 137th out of 137** Alabama public school systems in Per-Pupil Expenditure (PPE)


How We Compare Within The State

Per Pupil Expenditure (PPE)⁽¹⁾

(School Year 2015 – 2016)

1. Mountain Brook City - \$12,811
14. Hoover City - \$10,812
17. Vestavia City - \$10,727
45. Alabaster City - \$9,620
61. Madison City - \$9,305
- Alabama Average - \$9,213**
69. Shelby County - \$9,177
79. Auburn City - \$9,106
- 137. Autauga County - \$7,615***

*At \$143,000, the average homeowner in Autauga County contributes \$11.92 per month / \$143.00 a year to the County for education



Yet, at \$56,580, we rank 3rd in median income
within the State⁽²⁾

1. Shelby County - \$70,879
 2. Madison County= \$59,117
 3. **Autauga County - \$56,580**
- U.S. Average \$55,775
9. Jefferson County - \$48,415
 13. Lee County - \$46,442
- Alabama average - \$44,833

50 Best School Districts in Alabama⁽³⁾

1. Mountain Brook City
2. Vestavia City
3. Madison City
4. Homewood City
5. Hoover City
6. Auburn City
7. Muscle Shoals City
8. Hartselle City
9. Florence City
10. Oxford City
11. Saraland City
12. Enterprise City
13. Athens City
14. Trussville City
15. Cullman City
16. Andalusia City
17. Fort Payne City
18. Arab City
19. Opelika City
20. Alabaster City
21. Huntsville City
22. Guntersville City
23. Shelby County
24. Roanoke City
25. Jacksonville City
26. Albertville City
27. Sylacauga City
28. Madison County
29. Geneva City
30. Decatur City
31. Winfield City
32. Piedmont City
33. Brewton City
34. Opp City
35. Oneonta City
36. Sheffield City
37. Cleburne City
38. Demopolis City
39. Jasper City
40. Dothan City
41. Baldwin County
42. Scottsboro City
43. Satsuma City
44. Covington County
45. Marion County
46. Eufaula City
47. Thomasville City
48. Crenshaw County
49. Tuscaloosa City
50. **Autauga County**

Funding IS a Factor

Funding

1. Mountain Brook City - \$12,811
14. Hoover City - \$10,812
17. Vestavia City - \$10,727
45. Alabaster City - \$9,620
61. Madison City - \$9,305
69. Shelby County - \$9,177^(*)
79. Auburn City - \$9,106
- 137. Autauga County - \$7,615**

Ranking

1. Mountain Brook City
2. Vestavia City
3. Madison City
5. Hoover City
6. Auburn City
20. Alabaster City
23. Shelby County
- 50. Autauga County**

*Shelby County also contains three municipalities in Alabaster, Hoover & Pelham which are served by city school systems

**Citizens and Businesses of Prattville contributed
~\$7.7 Million in funding to the Autauga County
BOE and ~\$3.5 Million to the Elmore County BOE
in FY 2016**

Funds to Autauga County BOE

Ad Valorem \$3,253,000
Sales Tax \$4,486,000

Total \$7,739,000⁽⁴⁾

Funds to Elmore County BOE

Ad Valorem \$589,896
Sales Tax \$2,946,538

Total \$3,536,434⁽⁴⁾

Conclusions

- The teachers and administrator of the Autauga County School System do an extraordinary job with the resources available. There are just not enough resources.
- This is a pivotal moment for our community. What we do now, will determine if we sustain success in the future.
- We can do better.
- Our children must be equipped to compete at the State and national levels for college acceptance, scholarships and trade jobs.
- Higher-achieving school systems are typically the better funded systems.
- Communities with high-achieving schools systems realize greater economic development success and increased property values
- Time is of the essence. Such efforts are measured in years; not weeks or months.

Voices in the Community

"We really are funded the lowest in the state. Teachers, parents, and community members provide many of the items we need. I know that over the years I have built up a good supply of things— but only a very small percent of what I need for my classroom is paid for by school funds. (Of course, school funds do provide the curriculum, furniture, and classroom itself)."

"Every school year we pay a few hundred dollars in supplies going to the school....on top of fundraising things.. I'm usually against anymore taxes but if it helps only the schools to get better equipment and pay teachers better.... I'm all for it...."

"As much as this is about our children and funding their future; this issue is about job creation, career readiness, business / industrial development in the entire county."

"Bottom line, though, children are our future and there is nothing more important to invest in than that."

"Property taxes are insanely low, we can afford this for our schools."

"Our community will never reach its potential as long as every other school system in Alabama ranks ahead of us in their financial commitment to public education. It has been said you can tell what is important to someone by seeing how they spend their money. Obviously to those on the outside looking in, public education is not very important to the citizens of Autauga County."

"Please do this. Private school is killing me."



Recommendation

Consider investing today for a better tomorrow by commissioning a new study or updating the previous 2004 study to determine feasibility of investing in education



APPENDIX

Current State

- We fund our children's education at the lowest in the state and one of the lowest in the entire nation
 - Our Autauga County School System ranks 137 out of 137 school systems in Alabama in per child funding for education
 - We spend, on average, \$7,615 per child for education in Autauga County. The number 1 school system spends \$12,811, on average, per child and the state average is \$9,247 per child
 - Our State ranks 39 out of 51 (including the District of Columbia) in per child funding for education
 - Our County would rank 49th in per child funding if compared at the national level
 - Nationally \$11,397 is spent, on average, per child for education
- And yet, we are one of the wealthiest counties in Alabama
 - Autauga County ranks 3rd in median income at an average of \$56,580 annually
 - Only Shelby County at an average of \$70,879 and Madison County at an average of \$59,117 rank higher
 - Our State ranks 46 out 51 (including the District of Columbia) in median income
 - Our County would rank 34th in median income if compared nationally
 - Nationally the median income is \$59,039

Sources

- (1) - [https://www.alsde.edu/dept/erc/Pages/per-pupil-expenditures.aspx#InplviewHash234fe88e-30c4-4071-a1c8-7cf68b07af12=SortField%3DAll x0020 Sources x0020 PPE x002-SortDir%3DAsc](https://www.alsde.edu/dept/erc/Pages/per-pupil-expenditures.aspx#InplviewHash234fe88e-30c4-4071-a1c8-7cf68b07af12=SortField%3DAll%20Sources%20PPE%20SortDir%3DAsc)
- (2) - http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2017/06/67_alabama_counties_ranked_fro.html
- (3) - http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2018/01/50_best_school_districts_in_al.html
- (4) - City of Prattville Finance Department