**PARTNER WITH THE PEACH EDUCATION TAX CREDIT TO FUND INNOVATION IN YOUR DISTRICT**

Georgia's PEACH Education Tax Credit – previously known as the Qualified Education Donation tax credit – offers an exciting opportunity to advance public education and foster excellence for students across Georgia. Individuals and corporations can support Georgia’s K-12 public education students at no additional cost by securing a PEACH Education Tax Credit. Contributing to the PEACH Education Tax Credit provides taxpayers with a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your Georgia state income taxes, meaning you are able to apply your tax dollars to support innovation in Georgia’s K-12 public schools. The tax credit is capped at $5 million and is approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

As the GFPE looks to reach the cap of $5 million, there is an exciting opportunity for schools to participate and in turn, receive the funds they have raised to be used for Innovative\* programs. The process is simple:

1. Follow the process on pages 3 and 4 of this guide for Receiving Funds.
2. Market the PEACH Education Tax Credit to your school community.
3. Raise a minimum of $10,000 dollars.
4. Funds received from your families will go back to your school district (but may not benefit any one child specifically as well as parents may not knowingly donate to the benefit of their child.)
5. Report back to the GFPE how funds were used and what outcomes were reached.

The GFPE provides:

* An online portal for easy access for taxpayers to request and pay for the PEACH Education Tax Credit from the Georgia Department of Revenue;
* Tracking by school district of both requested PEACH Education Tax Credit and donation once credits have been received;
* Marketing materials, language, FAQs, etc., to make the fundraising part as painless as possible;
* A fundraising webinar to help school districts approach both individuals and corporations in their community for tax credit gifts;
* An annual report distributed to all members of the state legislature as well as to all donors and tax payer contributors;
* Upon request as needed, one-on-one consultation with school district in strategy creation for specific tax payer donors.

The GFPE is the independent philanthropic arm of the Georgia Department of Education created by state law in 2010. As such, we have an independent Board of Directors made up of eleven diverse leaders from across the state. Responsible for our own budget, we use no more than10% of all donations to cover the expenses of our modest budget operating as efficiently and effectively as possible.

\*The GFPE includes the six following features in our definition of innovation: targets the root cause of a problem, is inclusive, is disruptive and transformative, is contextualized, is a breakthrough approach, and finally is collaborative.

##### **Tax Credit Limits Based on Filing Status**

* A **single individual or head of household** is eligible to receive a Georgia state income tax credit up to $1,000.
* For **married couples that file separately**, you are eligible to receive a Georgia state income tax credit up to $1,250.
* A **married couple filing jointly** is eligible to receive a Georgia state income tax credit up to $2,500.
* An **S-corporation shareholder, LLC member or partnership partner** is eligible to receive a Georgia state income tax credit up to $10,000.
* A **C-corporation or trust**is eligible to receive up to 75% of annual Georgia income tax liability.

##### **How to Contribute to PEACH**

To properly complete your Georgia Foundation for Public Education PEACH Education Tax Credit donation and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on you or your corporation’s Georgia state income taxes, please follow these simple steps:

1. **Apply Now**
Complete your [2022 PEACH Education Tax Credit application](https://www.gfpe.org/tax_credit/) today (it takes less than a minute!). GFPE will submit your application to the Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR) on your behalf.
2. **Receive Approval**
GFPE and DOR will notify you of your approved tax credit amount and payment deadline to take part in PEACH.
3. **Make your Donation**
[Submit your payment](https://www.gfpe.org/tax_credit/page/make-your-peach-payment) to GFPE before the payment deadline, which is 60 days after receiving pre-approval from the DOR. Within one week of receiving your donation, the GFPE will send you the Form IT-QED-FUND1, which serves as the receipt for the donation. If you prefer to make a donation via check, please contact GFPE for details at 678-590-7047.
4. **Claim your Tax Credit**
To claim the tax credit on your state income taxes, you will need to complete [Form IT-QED-TP2](https://dor.georgia.gov/it-qed-tp2) and attach it to your income tax return when it is filed. You may download the form here.  (Note: you will take the credit when you file your taxes in the year following your contribution).

It is a simple and rewarding way to improve our state, as you increase educational opportunities for our 1.7 million publicly schooled children. And the tax credit that you earn allows you to know that your dollars will go to work exactly where you want them.

If you have any questions, please contact Karma Jordan at 678-590-7047 or

kjordan@doe.k12.ga.us.

**Process for Schools/School District to Apply for Peach Tax Credit Funds**

Step-by-Step Guide for Receiving Funds

1. The school/school district must submit an application to the GFPE indicating the projects for which the funds will be used. The school/school district will be allowed to apply the funding to three priority projects. The school/school district must set a fundraising goal for each priority project. The projects must be indicated on the application in order of priority (i.e., the order in which the school/school district would like to implement the projects). Projects must have an innovation focus in alignment with [GFPE’s definition of innovation](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pAwrXhhqKck47W_vNNNCaAeuORWLux8v/view?usp=sharing).
2. The GFPE will send the school/school district monthly updates regarding their fundraising goal.
3. The applicant must select whether they prefer to receive funds incrementally (monthly) or once it reaches a fundraising goal for each priority project.
4. The school/school district will be responsible for tracking the outcomes of each project using the GFPE Evaluation Template.

Notes

* Parents can’t knowingly make a donation that would benefit their child.
* Schools/school districts may not use funds to reimburse for projects that are already being implemented.
* The priority projects must have a focus on innovation ([as defined by the GFPE](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pAwrXhhqKck47W_vNNNCaAeuORWLux8v/view?usp=sharing)).
* Applicants must include the Peach Tax Credit fundraising plan and donor strategy in their application.
* If a school/school district does not meet the fundraising goal for the priority project(s), the school/school district must redistribute any raised funds to schools as innovation grants.

Application

1. What is your fundraising goal?
2. How many priority projects will you use Peach Tax Credit funds for? You may apply Peach Tax Credit dollars to a maximum of three priority projects.
3. In 300 words or less, please explain in detail your fundraising plan and donor strategy.
4. Please select whether the school/school district prefers to receive funds incrementally (i.e., on a monthly basis) or in a lump sum once a fundraising goal is met.

Priority Project 1

1. What is the cost for this project?
2. In 250 words or less, provide a brief description of the project you would like to implement. In your summary, please include:
	1. The total budget for the project;
	2. A description of the need;
	3. How you will use the Peach Tax Credit funds to address the need;
	4. An overview of who will be impacted by the program; and
	5. A description of any partners/partner organizations and how they will support the project, if applicable.
3. In 200 words or less, provide a description of the program activities. In you answer, please include:
	1. How can you ensure that, if awarded, you can implement the project immediately?
	2. Please describe the steps you will take during the grant year and how these steps will ensure your project is successfully implemented.
4. In 100 words or less, provide a description of the program outputs.
	1. Specifically, provide information on the type (grade level(s), subject area(s), etc.) and number of students, parents, faculty, and/or administrators the project will serve.
	2. Please explain why you selected the population the program will serve.
5. In200 words or less:
	1. Please tell us how this grant will produce measurable changes in the target population’s lives.
	2. Name at least two goals that will show measurable impacts to the target population (for example, 70% of third grader participating in the program will score 80% or higher on the science district benchmark).
	3. Provide a description of how you will evaluate the project’s effectiveness.
6. In 200 words or less, please explain how this program aligns with the GFPE’s [definition of innovation](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pAwrXhhqKck47W_vNNNCaAeuORWLux8v/view?usp=sharing).
7. In 150 words or less, please describe a brief sustainability plan for how to you expand the program beyond Peach Tax Credit funding.
8. With which of the following Georgia Foundation for Public Education Priority Areas does your program align?
	1. Equitable opportunities for children in every community
	2. Students prepared for local workforce opportunities
	3. Students mastering grade-level literacy and numeracy
	4. Safe and healthy students
	5. In 150 words or less, please summarize how your program aligns with the GFPE Priority Area you selected above.

(Applicant must answer application questions for priority projects two and three, if applicable.)

Priority Project 2

1. What is the cost for this project?
2. In 250 words or less, provide a brief description of the project you would like to implement. In your summary, please include:
	1. The total budget for the project;
	2. A description of the need;
	3. How you will use the Peach Tax Credit funds to address the need;
	4. An overview of who will be impacted by the program; and
	5. A description of any partners/partner organizations and how they will support the project, if applicable.
3. In 200 words or less, provide a description of the program activities. In you answer, please include:
	1. How can you ensure that, if awarded, you can implement the project immediately?
	2. Please describe the steps you will take during the grant year and how these steps will ensure your project is successfully implemented.
4. In 100 words or less, provide a description of the program outputs.
	1. Specifically, provide information on the type (grade level(s), subject area(s), etc.) and number of students, parents, faculty, and/or administrators the project will serve.
	2. Please explain why you selected the population the program will serve.
5. In200 words or less:
	1. Please tell us how this grant will produce measurable changes in the target population’s lives.
	2. Name at least two goals that will show measurable impacts to the target population (for example, 70% of third grader participating in the program will score 80% or higher on the science district benchmark).
	3. Provide a description of how you will evaluate the project’s effectiveness.
6. In 200 words or less, please explain how this program aligns with the GFPE’s [definition of innovation](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pAwrXhhqKck47W_vNNNCaAeuORWLux8v/view?usp=sharing).
7. In 150 words or less, please describe a brief sustainability plan for how to you expand the program beyond Peach Tax Credit funding.
8. With which of the following Georgia Foundation for Public Education Priority Areas does your program align?
	1. Equitable opportunities for children in every community
	2. Students prepared for local workforce opportunities
	3. Students mastering grade-level literacy and numeracy
	4. Safe and healthy students
	5. In 150 words or less, please summarize how your program aligns with the GFPE Priority Area you selected above.

Priority Project 3

1. What is the cost for this project?
2. In 250 words or less, provide a brief description of the project you would like to implement. In your summary, please include:
	1. The total budget for the project;
	2. A description of the need;
	3. How you will use the Peach Tax Credit funds to address the need;
	4. An overview of who will be impacted by the program; and
	5. A description of any partners/partner organizations and how they will support the project, if applicable.
3. In 200 words or less, provide a description of the program activities. In you answer, please include:
	1. How can you ensure that, if awarded, you can implement the project immediately?
	2. Please describe the steps you will take during the grant year and how these steps will ensure your project is successfully implemented.
4. In 100 words or less, provide a description of the program outputs.
	1. Specifically, provide information on the type (grade level(s), subject area(s), etc.) and number of students, parents, faculty, and/or administrators the project will serve.
	2. Please explain why you selected the population the program will serve.
5. In200 words or less:
	1. Please tell us how this grant will produce measurable changes in the target population’s lives.
	2. Name at least two goals that will show measurable impacts to the target population (for example, 70% of third grader participating in the program will score 80% or higher on the science district benchmark).
	3. Provide a description of how you will evaluate the project’s effectiveness.
6. In 200 words or less, please explain how this program aligns with the GFPE’s [definition of innovation](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pAwrXhhqKck47W_vNNNCaAeuORWLux8v/view?usp=sharing).
7. In 150 words or less, please describe a brief sustainability plan for how to you expand the program beyond Peach Tax Credit funding.
8. With which of the following Georgia Foundation for Public Education Priority Areas does your program align?
	1. Equitable opportunities for children in every community
	2. Students prepared for local workforce opportunities
	3. Students mastering grade-level literacy and numeracy
	4. Safe and healthy students
	5. In 150 words or less, please summarize how your program aligns with the GFPE Priority Area you selected above.