

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



Budget Overview 2016

by Dawn A. Randolph, MPA
January 21, 2016



State of the State

Governor Nathan Deal presented his sixth State of the State report to the General Assembly on Wednesday, January 13th. His theme was one of a ship sailing calmer waters than it did when he first took office. He emphasized that the economic winds were now in our favor and the budget was on a strong course with over \$1.4 billion restored to the Rainy Day fund. He highlighted three priorities for his FY 2017 Budget:

1. \$300 million additional funds for education to give teachers a 3% raise and reduce furloughs
2. \$170 million to give all state employees a 3% raise
3. Funds to increase provider fees and services for developmental disabilities to meet the requirements for community services & moving people out of institutions.

This is the largest state budget in state history since the crash of 2008 - \$23.7 billion in state revenue for a total of \$47.5 billion when federal funds and other fees are added.

You can view the Governor's Budgets online now [here](#).

Budget Hearings

This week we have been getting more information from Commissioners on the big ticket items in their budget. The state economist said all economic indicators are strong and the goal to rebuild the rainy day fund up to \$2 billion by the end of Governor Deal's term is on track. Today the fund is at \$1.4 billion so there is still a long way to go in the next two years to fully fund reserves, thus creating a higher priority than direct services and other state programs.

In This Issue

[Budget Overview](#)

Special
Announcements



State Use Council Meeting

Thursday
January 28, 2016

10:00 AM

Sloppy Floyd
Building, West
Tower, Conference
Room 1816-A

200 Piedmont Ave.
Atlanta, GA

GATES Board Meeting

Friday

Today the health and human services committees will be hearing more detail on the Amended FY 2016 budget items during a joint meeting of the House Human Resources and the Senate Human Development and Public Health Subcommittee hearing. You can view the subcommittee schedule today [here](#). You may be able to watch the House Broadcast [online](#) and click on the first Joint Appropriations Subcommittee Hearings in 341 CAP this afternoon. However, this is not always a perfect transmission and sometimes the online signal is weak.

Vocation Rehabilitation Budget

Currently there are lots of \$0.00 changes throughout the Vocational Rehabilitation Budget. The only item that has received increased funding is the 3% state employee raise and merit pay to attract and retain state employees. The good news is they took the money to fund the pay increases from the Warm Springs Budget and put it into the Voc Rehab Program line item to match federal funding. More details will be revealed today when Executive Director Greg Schmieg presents this afternoon at 2:35pm.

[Back To Top](#)

Call for Information

THE PORTAL is a communication tool for GATES and GATES members. If you have stories about your organization, staff announcements, program descriptions, or other information you want to share with other GATES members, please send the info to Charles Hall, chall@asginfo.net



February 5, 2016
10:00 AM
Center for the
Visually Impaired
739 West
Peachtree Street,
Atlanta, GA

THE PORTAL is a regular publication of GATES. If you have staff or others associated with your organization that you would like to receive THE PORTAL, please send their email address to:

*Charles Hall,
chall@asginfo.net*

GATES

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports

100 Edgewood Avenue
Suite 975
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-523-6674