



FY 2009

Adopted Budget



**Prepared By
Budgeting Services**

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PREFACE

More than 50 years ago, the Nobel-Laureate-To-Be Herbert Simon began promulgating the eminently sensible idea that instead of just spending money because they have it, governments should decide what they want to accomplish and then keep track of whether their expenditures are helping them accomplish it. In 1949, at the federal level, the Hoover Commission recommended almost exactly the same thing, calling it *performance budgeting*.

In the 1990's, Herbert Simon's insight celebrated the beginning of its second half-century by returning to the stage as "*benchmarking*" – the identification of targets that a government wants to achieve and the continuous measurement of progress. It is a good idea. It just keeps getting renamed. Today, we call this process *objective-based budgeting*.

The objective-based budget process in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System begins with the development and approval of District's Goals and Priority Objectives by the Board of Education. Each activity uses these goals and objectives to develop supporting goals and objectives for their organization. Once sites decide what they want to accomplish, they then determine how to allocate their available resources to best meet their objectives. Once approved, each site's goals, objectives, and expenditure budgets become their plan of action for the upcoming year. At year's end, their actual expenditures will be measured to determine if these goals and objectives have been accomplished.

We have changed the organization of this book from previous editions to make the information easier to understand. Whether you are interested in the budgets of the entire district, a particular organization, or a specific fund or program, you should find this information readily accessible in this document. Graphs and narrative have been added, where appropriate, to clarify the data presented. We welcome any comments or suggestions on how we can improve on this document. Please address your comments to the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, Department of Budgeting Services, 208 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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