



The Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal, interest, and related costs. The debt service fund is divided into two components: debt service related to construction (financed through a combination of general obligation bonds and contractual obligations) and debt service related to capital leases (buses and technology infrastructure). The debt service for general obligation bonds is funded from the millage rate established on the bond digest, while the debt service for capital leases and for contractual obligations is funded from a general fund contribution. For Fiscal Year 2010, the debt service related to general obligation bonds totals \$14.7 million, while the debt service related to capital leases and contractual obligations totals \$4.2 million.

Relationship between current debt levels and legal debt limits:

The Constitution of the State of Georgia provides that a school district may not incur long-term obligations payable out of general property taxes without the approval of a majority of the qualified voters of the School District voting at an election called to approve the obligations. On June 13, 1990 and again on March 15, 1994, Chatham County voters overwhelmingly approved referendums that authorized the District to issue a total of \$169.07 million of general obligation bonds. The general obligation bonds issued by the District are payable from the proceeds of the ad valorem tax to be levied on all taxable property in the school district subject to taxation for school bond purposes, including real and personal property, privately owned public utilities, motor vehicles and mobile homes. The District, as required by law, will levy an ad valorem tax, unlimited as to rate, on the property described above in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest of the outstanding Bond debt as it becomes due and payable. For Fiscal Year 2010 (Calendar Year 2009), revenue from the recently adopted ESPLOST will cover general obligations bond expenses and a Bond millage rate will not be levied.

The Constitution further provides that a school district may not incur long-term obligations payable out of general property taxes in excess of ten percent of the assessed value of all taxable property within the District. Short-term obligations, leases, installment purchase obligations subject to annual appropriation, and intergovernmental obligations are not subject to these legal limitations.

