



# Thomaston-Upson School System

## Points of Pride

1. The Thomaston-Upson School System is the largest employer in Upson County with **631 full-time employees** and 84 temporary employees (substitute teachers).
2. Upson-Lee High School's 2017 high school graduation rate is **87.4%**, which exceeds the state average of 80.6%. (The 2016 ULHS rate was 84.5%, which also exceeded the state average of 79.2%.)
3. For the third consecutive year, the Thomaston-Upson School System has exceeded the state average and has posted the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest College and Career Ready Performance Indicators (CCRPI) scores among the eight school systems in the Griffin RESA. Fayette County was the only school system that scored higher than Thomaston-Upson's 76.5, posting a score of 89.8. State average was 75.0%. Griffin RESA school district scores in descending order are:

Fayette:	89.8
<b>Thomaston-Upson:</b>	<b>76.5</b>
Henry:	71.6
Lamar:	71.2
Pike:	70.9
Newton:	70.6 (tie)
Butts:	70.6 (tie)
Griffin/Spalding:	65.4

4. Thomaston-Upson's middle and high school scores also topped state and Griffin RESA averages. T-U Middle School score was 79.1, which is 6.1 points above the state average of 73 and second best in the Griffin RESA region. T-U High School score was 81.2, which is 4.1 points above the state average of 77 and also second best in the Griffin RESA region. Individual school scores were slightly higher than the T-U district scores, due to the fact that the state eliminates any "Exceeding the Bar" (ETB) points earned by the schools when calculating district scores. Individual school scores are: ULHS: 81.7; ULMS: 80.6; ULES: 73.2.
5. The Thomaston-Upson School System has the lowest millage rate of all school systems in our Griffin RESA district:

<b>Thomaston-Upson:</b>	<b>15.11</b>
Pike:	18.669 plus 1.674 Bond
Lamar:	16.716 plus 1.5 Bond
Spalding:	18.204
Butts:	17.764
Fayette:	19.5 plus 1.35 Bond
Henry:	20.0 plus 3.628 Bond
Newton:	20.0

6. The Thomaston-Upson School System has great community support. Voters have passed 4 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for education: in 2002, 2006, 2009, and most recently in 2015. SPLOST has allowed our school system to eliminate all bond indebtedness; equip our schools with state of the art technology, to include Google classrooms and a 1:1 computing initiative; improve school safety with controlled access equipment and surveillance

For more information about the Thomaston-Upson School System, visit our website at [www.upson.k12.ga.us](http://www.upson.k12.ga.us).

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cameras at all schools; build a new transportation and maintenance facility that is EPA compliant; build a 900-seat, state of the art fine arts center; and provide ongoing renovation and maintenance projects, such as roofing, paving, HVAC, and athletic field improvements.

7. The Upson-Lee Fine Arts Center opened in May of 2013 and includes a 900-seat auditorium with a full production stage, fly loft, catwalk, lower level and balcony seating, gallery-style front lobby, green lobby, dressing rooms, and storage. This is a state-of-the-art facility and a point of pride for our school system and our community.
  - a. This facility was built/paid in full with SPLOST pennies for education.
  - b. During the 2016-17 school year, the Upson-Lee Fine Arts Center hosted over 100 student events and over 70 rental events.
8. T-U faculty, staff, and students are active in the community and participate in charitable/service learning opportunities annually.
  - a. Over 5,500 non-perishable food items were donated to the Empty Stocking Fund in 2016 by T-U students and staff.
  - b. In 2016-17, students and staff also provided donations to the Upson County Cancer Car, SUPPORT, Toys for Tots, St. Jude Research Hospital, Bowen Story Fund to Cure Childhood Cancer, Upson County Foster Families, and more.
9. The Thomaston-Upson Board of Education achieved Exemplary Board status in 2015 and again in 2016, as awarded by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). Out of 181 school districts in the state, the T-U School Board is currently one of only 39 Exemplary Boards.
10. Superintendent Dr. Maggie Shook was the winner of the Georgia School Superintendents Association's 2014 Bill Barr Leadership Award, a coveted award in public education that is given to only one Georgia superintendent each year.
11. During the 2016-17 school year, the T-U School System completed implementation of their 1:1 computer initiative, which provides every K-12 student in the district with a Google Chromebook. Funding for this important tech initiative was made possible by SPLOST pennies for education and the Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program. The T-U System was notified in December 2016 that they had received a grant for \$303,116.27 to complete the purchase of computers for this 1:1 initiative. Goals of this program are to increase student engagement and student motivation; enhance student-teacher interaction; support differentiated instruction; enhance student-centered learning; and improve 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
12. Upson-Lee High School has very competitive sports programs for boys and girls every year; but, 2016-2017 marked a phenomenal season for the Boys Basketball Team. The team, under the coaching expertise of Darrell Lockhart, went 32-0 for a perfect season and a perfect post-season, winning the GHSA 2017 Class AAAA State Basketball Championship. The team played their championship game to a sold-out, max-capacity crowd at GA Tech's McCamish Pavilion and ended the season as the state's only undefeated team.
13. The Thomaston-Upson School System has an active Partners In Education program with over 50 local business and industry partners.
  - a. West Central Georgia Bank holds the record for the longest partnership. Now in its 25th year, the West Central Georgia Bank GOAL Card program for all "A" students was implemented in 1992 in support of the new Thomaston-Upson School System and in support of academic achievement for all Upson-Lee High School students.
  - b. Dart Industries' Dart Foundation Grants have allowed ULHS to implement a robotics program within the CTAE department.
  - c. ULHS has a Graphics Communications Pathway, which is implemented in partnership with Quad/Graphics.