

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR GEORGIA LOCAL UNITS OF ADMINISTRATION

Date Issued	Effective Date	Section	Title:
July 1, 1994	July 1, 1994	I	GAAP Accounting and Financial Reporting Principles
Revision No.	Date Revised	Chapter	Title:
4	April 2024	I-17	Capital Assets

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will cover accounting for capital assets. Capital assets have a useful life of greater than one reporting period and exceed dollar thresholds locally adopted by a LUA. *GASB Statement 34 Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments* provides guidance for accounting for capital assets in both governmental and proprietary funds.

Also discussed in this chapter are Intangible and Right to Use Assets. Intangible Assets are those assets that lack a physical substance, are non-financial in nature and have an initial useful life extending beyond a single reporting period. The 2021 Codification, Section 1400.124 states, that intangible assets are classified as capital assets (except those explicitly excluded, such investments and assets resulting from lease transactions). Right to Use assets are acquired through a lease agreement. GASB Codification L20.102 defines a lease as “a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity’s nonfinancial asset (the underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.” Likewise, GASB Codification S80.103 defines a Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs) as “a contract that conveys control of the right to use another party’s (a SBITA’s vendor’s) IT software, alone or in combination with tangible capital assets (the underlying IT assets), as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.” Relevant, authoritative guidance for capital assets should be applied to these assets.

ACCOUNTING ISSUES

The GASB provides specific guidance regarding various issues in accounting for general capital assets.

The capital asset system that the LUA uses will serve as the database for reporting their capital assets in the governmental fund activities column on the government-wide statement of net position. The LUA should add the capital assets it purchases from governmental fund types to its capital asset system.

Capital Asset Categories

Land – land purchased or otherwise acquired by the LUA.

Land Improvements – features added to land to increase its value or meet the needs of the LUA. Land Improvements include the cost of permanent attachments to land such as sidewalks, trees, drives, tunnels, sewers, etc.

Buildings- acquisition cost of permanent structures and permanent improvements thereto owned or held by an LUA. This account includes costs incurred in the acquisition of buildings (e.g., broker's fees).

Machinery and Equipment - Tangible property of a more or less permanent nature, other than land or buildings and improvements thereon (e.g., machinery, tools, trucks, and furnishings). This account includes costs incurred in the acquisition of machinery and equipment (e.g., transportation costs).

Right to Use – Asset - Lessee's right to use the underlying asset (a building, parking lot, truck, tools, etc.) which was created by the contractual agreement between the lessee and the lessor. This agreement conveys the right to use the asset (land, land improvement, building, or machinery and Equipment) to the lessee for a specific time period and under certain provisions. Applicable to Entity-wide Funds for Capital Assets (Funds 800, 801 & 859). Effective FY 2021

Right to Use – Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Lessee's right to use software, infrastructure, or platform services, as well as cloud-based software and cloud-based video conferencing which was created by the contractual agreement between the lessee and lessor. This agreement conveys the right to use the technology to the lessee for a specific time period and under certain provisions. Effective FY23.

Construction in Progress - The cost of construction work for projects not yet completed.

Infrastructure - An asset, network, or subsystem that has a useful life that is significantly longer than those of other capital assets. These assets may include water/sewer systems, roads, bridges, tunnels and other similar assets. Technology cabling between schools. Ex. fiber optics installed between the schools for technology connectivity, if the district owns the fiber and it is not a lease.

Works of Art and Historical Collections - Individual items or collections of items that are of artistic or cultural importance.

Intangible Assets - an asset that possesses all of the following characteristics:

- It lacks physical substance – in other words, you cannot touch it, except in cases where the intangible is carried on a tangible item (for example, software on a computer).
- It is nonfinancial in nature – that is, it has value, but is not in a monetary form like cash or securities, nor is it a claim or right to assets in a monetary form like receivables, nor a prepayment for goods or services.
- Its initial useful life extends beyond a single reporting period.
- Exceptions to Intangible Asset categories – Assets acquired or created primarily for the purpose of directly obtaining profit or income (these should be treated as investments) and Assets resulting from lease transactions, and goodwill created through combination of a government or other entity.

Valuation of Capital Assets

The 2021 *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards Part I* Sections 1400.102 and 1400.103 indicate that all purchased capital assets should be recorded at historical cost (i.e., original cost). The cost of a capital asset includes not only its purchase price or construction costs, but also any other reasonable and necessary costs incurred to place the asset in its intended location and use. Such costs could include the following:

- Freight and transportation charges
- Site preparation costs
- Professional fees

Section 1400.102 states “Interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period should not be capitalized as part of the asset's historical cost.”

If a LUA is establishing capital asset records for the first time, the LUA may value the purchased capital assets at estimated historical cost if the original cost is not available. Original cost is defined as the cost of capital assets in accordance with costs prevailing at the date the LUA first constructed or originally installed the capital asset.

LUAs should record donated or contributed capital assets at their acquisition value plus ancillary charges if applicable. Acquisition value is defined in the GASB Codification 1400.702-4 as “the price that would be paid to acquire an asset with equivalent service potential in an orderly market transaction at the acquisition date.” GASB 34 paragraph 18 defines ancillary costs to include “costs that are directly attributable to asset acquisition such as freight and transportation charges, site preparation costs, and professional fees. “Section IV, Chapter 7 provides specifics regarding valuing and costing capital assets.

Intangible Assets are recognized (capitalized) only if the asset is identifiable. According to Codification Section 1400.125, an asset is considered identifiable when it is:

- Separate, or is capable of being separated or divided from the LUA and sold, transferred, licensed, rented, or exchanged, either individually or together with a related contract, asset, or liability.
- The asset arises from contractual or other legal rights, regardless of whether those rights are transferable or separable from the entity or from other rights and obligations.

Acquisitions of Capital Assets

LUA's may acquire capital assets by purchase, construction, lease agreement, installment purchase contract, or through donation. Generally, general capital assets acquired by purchase or construction are valued in the capital asset records in the amount of the related governmental fund expenditure. At the fund level, the construction, or capital outlay, is an expenditure of current resources. At the district level, the expenditure is reclassified to a capital asset, as the asset is meant to benefit more than one reporting period. The capital asset is then expensed over the periods that are expected to benefit from the resource, through depreciation.

Subsequently, the LUA should add this capital asset to its capital asset system. The journal entry to record a capital asset acquisition (e.g., machinery and equipment) in the general fund at a cost of \$19,000 is:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>DR</u>	<u>CR</u>
Expenditures - machinery and equipment (function)	730.xx	\$19,000	
Accounts payable	421		\$19,000

Note - the LUA must add this asset to its capital asset system; however, a journal entry is not required since the LUA does not report capital assets in the General Ledger.

If an LUA receives a donated capital asset, the LUA will simply add the donated asset to its capital asset system since the donation does not affect current financial resources.

Trade-Ins

GASBS 62, Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements, paragraphs 276 states, "An exchange of a productive asset not held for sale in the ordinary course of operations for a similar productive asset or an equivalent interest in the same or similar productive asset" should be based on the fair value of the assets involved.

For example, at the fund reporting level, an LUA's general fund purchases a capital asset (e.g., a truck) for \$19,000 (i.e., cost \$21,000 less trade-in of \$2,000 for a capital asset. The additional \$2,000 recorded as an expenditure resulting from the asset trade-in value would be a reconciling item in the budget to actual schedule included in the audited financial statement as it would not involve use of current financial resources.

General Fund:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>DR</u>	<u>CR</u>
Machinery and equipment	730.xx	\$21,000	
Cash in bank	0101		\$19,000
Sale or compensation for Loss of assets	5300		\$2,000

At the government-wide financial reporting level, the LUA would follow GASB No. 62, paragraphs 272-279 to report trade-ins. The guidance refers to exchange of nonmonetary assets and requires fair value of the asset involved. The section “Disposition of Capital Assets” presented later in this chapter explains how to report these transactions at the government-wide reporting level.

Construction in Progress

When an LUA is constructing a capital asset in a capital projects fund and it is not complete at June 30, the LUA reports the current year costs in its capital asset system as additions to “construction in progress.” The value of the construction-in-progress account on the government-wide statements is the total amount of expenditures incurred during the fiscal years during which the project is under construction. If an LUA has a building project completed in the current year, the LUA reclassifies the capital asset from the “construction in progress” account into the “buildings” account.

The 2021 Codification Section 1400.120 indicates interest cost under the economic resources measurement focus should be recognized as an expense in the period in which the cost is incurred. Codification Section 1400.121 indicates interest cost incurred during the construction project for financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus should be recognized as an expenditure at the time of occurrence.

Leases

LUAs routinely use capital assets in governmental fund activities under lease agreements with third parties covering one or more years. Right to use leases are addressed in GASB Codification Sections L20 and S80. Accounting guidance in Section L20 It defines a lease as “a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity’s nonfinancial asset as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.” Likewise, Section S80 defines a SBITA as “a contract that conveys control of the right to use another

party's (a SBITA's vendor's) IT software, alone or in combination with tangible capital assets (the underlying IT assets), as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction." Control of the underlying asset requires meeting two criteria, "the right to obtain the present service capacity from use of the underlying asset as specified in the contract" and "the right to determine the nature and manner of use of the underlying asset as specified in the contract."

Short-term leases have a lease term of twelve months or less with no option to extend the lease beyond twelve months and therefore, would not be recorded using lease accounting. The lease term is determined by "the period of time the lessee has a noncancelable right to use an underlying asset". Lessees should recognize short-term leases as an expense. Lessors should recognize lease payments as revenue.

Nonexchange transactions, such as leases for \$1 per year, are excluded since the asset would actually be leased on the open market for significantly more. Therefore, there must be an exchange of equal or close to equal value. Leases cancellable by both parties without permission from the other party or penalty, or there is an arrangement that is not legally binding by a signed lease agreement.

If the asset will transfer ownership at the end of the lease term, it is considered a finance purchase. GASB 51 clarifies treatment for software purchased under these terms.

Additional Exceptions for Right to Use Assets are:

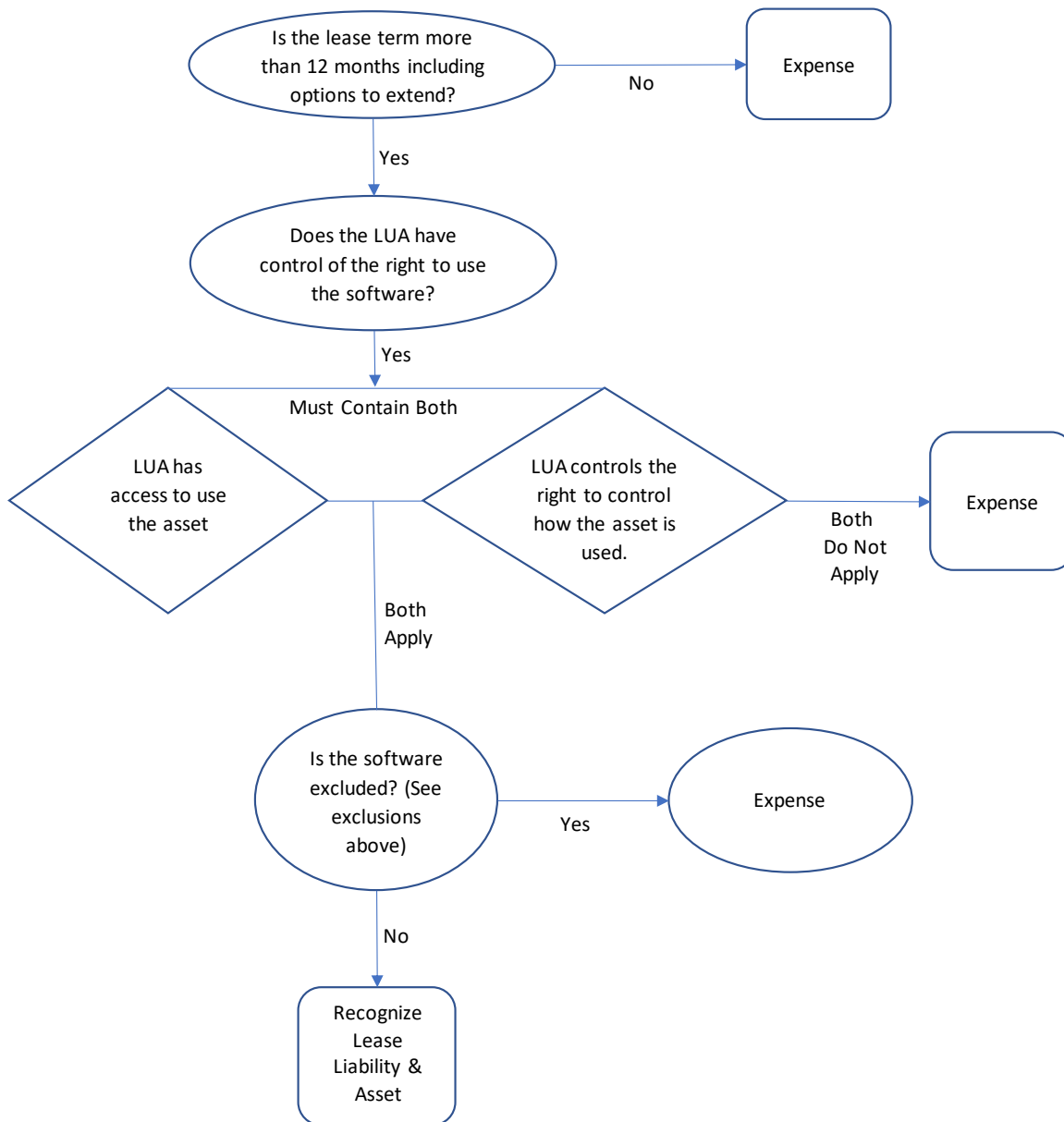
- Perpetual licenses with no set term, year-to-year, and auto-renewing
- Short-term contract with a term of 12 months or less, including renewal periods.
- Contracts with another governmental entity providing rights to use their IT software.
- Public-Private or Public-Public partnership. See GASB 94, paragraph 5.
- IT support and/or maintenance services, training, and warranty costs. (These should be expensed when incurred.)

For those agreements that qualify as a capital lease, the lessee should recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset. The lease liability is the present value of payments expected to be made under the lease..

The lease asset should equal the amount of the initial lease liability, lease payments made to the lessor at or before the commencement of the lease term less any lease incentives, and the initial direct costs that are ancillary charges necessary to place the asset into service .

For leases paid in funds using the current financial resources measurement focus, an expenditure and other financing source should be reported in the period the lease is initially recognized. Lease payments should be accounted for consistently with the method used for debt service payments guidance for leased assets.

Right to Use Lease Capitalization Decision Tree



Internally Generated Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are considered internally generated if they are created or produced by the LUA or an entity the LUA contracted with, or acquired from a third party but require more than “minimal effort to begin to achieve the expected level of service capacity”. According to the Codification 1400.127, three circumstances must exist in order for outlays related to an internally generated intangible asset to begin to be reported as a capital asset:

- The government's specific *objective* for the project and the *service capacity* in which the asset is expected to be used upon the project's completion has been determined.
- The *feasibility* of completing the project so that it can be used in that capacity has been demonstrated.
- The government's *intention* to complete or to continue the development of the asset has been demonstrated.

Outlays incurred prior to meeting the above criteria should be expensed as incurred.

For internally generated computer software, the foregoing criteria should be considered to be met only when the activities in the preliminary project are completed, and management authorizes and commits to funding the software project.

Internally Generated Computer Software

Codification 1400.128-1400.129 states computer software should be considered internally generated if it is developed in-house or by a third-party contractor on behalf of the LUA. Commercially available software that is purchased or licensed by the LUA and modified using more than minimal incremental effort before being put into operation should be considered internally generated.

The activities involved in developing and installing internally generated software can be grouped into the following stages:

- a. *Preliminary Project Stage* – Activities here include conceptual formulation and evaluation of alternatives, the determination of the existence of needed technology, and the final selection of alternatives for the development of the software.
- b. *Application Development Stage* – Activities in this stage include the design of the chosen path, including software configuration and interfaces, coding, installation to hardware, and testing, including the parallel processing phase.
- c. *Post-Implementation/Operation Stage* – Activities in this stage include application training and software maintenance.

Data conversion should be considered an activity of the application development stage only to the extent it is determined to be necessary to make the software operational, or in condition for use. Otherwise, data conversion should be considered an activity of the post-implementation/operation stage.

Outlays associated with activities in the preliminary project stage should be expensed as incurred.

Outlays related to activities in the application development stage should be capitalized, if all requirements qualifying the expenses for recognition as an internally generated intangible asset are met. Capitalization of these outlays should cease when the software is substantially complete and operational.

Outlays associated with activities in the post-implementation stage should be expensed as incurred.

Outlays associated with an internally generated modification of software should be capitalized if any three of the following are met:

- a. An increase in the functionality (performance of tasks previously incapable of performing)
- b. An increase in the efficiency (level of service without the ability to perform additional tasks)
- c. An extension of the estimated useful life

Outlays not meeting any of the above outcomes should be considered maintenance, and expensed as incurred.

Illustration of Capitalization of Intangible Assets

Assumptions

In July 2020, the Somewhere School District identified the need for new enterprise management information software. A task force was identified with personnel from several of the departments in the financial services, student services, technology support, and human resource divisions. From July through October 2010, the task force performed numerous tasks relating to the project including the following:

- Determined the performance requirements with operators and users.
- Determined the system requirements including an assessment of existing hardware.
- Assessed the feasibility of developing internally generated software or seeking an outside provider.
- Issued a request for proposals to outside vendors and reviewed these proposals.

Based on the recommendation of the task force the board of education awarded a contract in the amount of \$15 million to RoadReady Software Corporation to acquire a perpetual license to use its integrated enterprise software. As a part of the contract, RoadReady agreed to modify, install, and implement the conversion. Three district employees were dedicated to the project. The district included \$16 million in the 2021 general fund budget to cover the cost of the project.

Installation occurred from January 2021 through July 2021. Modifications, data conversion, and testing of the software were completed in October 2021, at which time the software was considered substantially complete and operational.

The district determined that the aggregate outlays of the software project were \$17.15 million, composed of the following:

- Outlays associated with task force activities from July through October 2021: \$1.5 million
- Outlays for RoadReady software and installation: \$14.6 million
- Outlays for three employees dedicated to the installation and testing: \$.5 million.

- Outlays for training district operators and users: \$.55 million

Financial Reporting

The activities of the task force (\$1.5 million) should be considered preliminary project stage activities, expensed on the entity-wide statement of activities, and as an expenditure in the general fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances.

The acquisition of the license to use RoadReady software and the installation and testing should be considered application development stage activities. \$15.1 million should be capitalized in the entity-wide statement of net assets, evidenced by the completion of the preliminary project stage and the appropriation of \$17.15 million in the general fund budget.

The training activities (\$.55 million) occurring in 2023 should be considered post-implementation/operation stage activities and expensed as incurred in the entity-wide statement of activities and as an expenditure in its general fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances.

Capitalization Policy

Capital Asset Threshold. Typically, two criteria are used to determine the LUAs capitalization policy: the cost of the asset and its estimated useful life. Determining the dollar threshold level for capital assets is a very important element in an LUA's capital asset system.

There is a direct relationship between the number of assets and the dollar threshold. Typically, the largest percentage of total dollar value can be attributed to land, buildings, and vehicles that are not affected by the lower capitalization threshold. It is better to control the big dollar items than to spend time and effort in attempting to track low-cost equipment.

LUAs should consider two threshold levels:

- GAAP reporting
- Control purposes.

Because GASBS 34 requires LUAs to depreciate their capital assets and recognize gains and losses on their disposition of capital assets, an LUA should consider a higher threshold for GAAP reporting. The national Government Finance Officers Association recommends that governments use a \$5,000 threshold for GAAP reporting. This level would substantially reduce the number of assets that the LUA would have to account for in financial statement reporting. It is common for a LUA to have different thresholds for different categories of capital assets. Buildings may be capitalized at \$100,000 and land will always be capitalized, regardless of cost.

The GASB 2021-1 Implementation Guide clarified that governmental entities should capitalize bulk purchases that are individually below the capitalization threshold but significant in the aggregate. Examples of bulk purchases that may not meet the individual threshold for

capitalizing but are significant to the capital asset balance include computers, classroom furniture, and library books. Whether or not the bulk purchase is significant should be determined by considering the overall capital asset balance. Each LUA should update their capital asset policy to indicate that bulk purchases of small value items that individually do not meet the capitalization threshold will be considered and capitalized if determined to be significant. The LUA will also establish an estimated useful life based on the specific items purchased that is reasonable and is consistent with the LUA's plan to purchase replacements.

Each LEA should consider the cost/benefit relationship to establishing capitalization thresholds. When determining what dollar amount of assets should be capitalized and maintained, the LEA should set a level of capitalization that will enable the district to reflect at least 80 percent of its total assets as capitalized on the financial statements.

Once a capitalization threshold is established, the LEA should further consider inventory procedures necessary to track small, pilferable, "walkable" items. Examples of such items that may not individually meet a capitalization threshold are iPads, laptops, furniture, and library books. While these items generally do not meet a capitalization threshold individually, the cost of maintaining technology, furniture, and library collections for all users in a school system, including employees and students, is generally significant to the financial statements. GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 recommends capitalizing aggregately significant, similar assets purchased in a single group. These groups of assets should also have approximately the same useful lives. For example, an LEA may adopt a General Fund budget of \$20M for one fiscal year. Of that \$20M, any purchases exceeding 1% of budgeted expenditures, or \$200,000, is considered significant for financial reporting purposes. GaDOE recommends LEAs determine a level of significance for such circumstances.

The primary advantage of a higher threshold for capitalization is a decrease in the burden on the accounting office for tracking, recording, and depreciating the assets on an annual basis. However, even if a capitalization threshold is set high, small value items such as technology devices should be inventoried and tracked per the LEA's local policy. See Inventoried Assets Section below.

Another consideration of a higher capitalization threshold is the effect on the Net Position reported by the LEA on the District-wide Statement of Net Position. Capitalized assets are not expended in the year of purchase but are expended over the estimated useful life of the asset by means of depreciation expense. If an asset is fully expensed in the year the asset is acquired, that entire expense will reduce the Unrestricted Net Position of the district. If the asset is capitalized, the cost of the asset increases the Net Investment of Capital Assets, and the Unrestricted Net Position is reduced only by the amount of the current year depreciation cost. The primary advantage of a lower threshold for capitalization is the assets will be tracked in one inventory system regardless of funding source (i.e., state, local, or federal), and the cost of the assets will be allocated among the fiscal years that benefit from the use of the asset. Additionally, setting the same capitalization threshold for all assets reduces the burden of two sets of criteria when complying with the Uniform Administrative Regulations, 2 CFR §200.439 – Equipment and other capital expenditures. 2 CFR §200.1 Definitions defines equipment as tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year

and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000.

Effective October 1, 2024, Uniform Grant Guidance will change the definition of items to be considered as equipment. 2 CFR §200.313 (e) and 2 CFR §200.439 thresholds for items purchased with Federal Funds will be increased to \$10,000.

The GaDOE Financial Review Division recommends setting a capitalizable threshold of not more than \$10,000 for equipment, vehicles, and technology related purchases that have an estimated useful life of more than one year. If, based on the size of the LEA and the resources available, the LEA sets a capitalizable threshold greater than \$10,000, the LEA should ensure that procedures are in place to tag, track, and monitor small value items such as iPads, laptops, other mobile devices, furniture and library books.

Inventoried Inconsequential Assets

Setting the capital assets threshold at \$5,000 for equipment does not preclude providing accountability for lower-cost inconsequential items such as laptops, portable electronic devices (such as tablets), printers, furniture, and library books.. The nature of these items makes them more susceptible to theft. Therefore, when setting a capital asset policy, it is recommended that even if these items are not aggregately or individually significant, an inventory be maintained to track these items. These inventoried items will not be depreciated. However, they will be subject to periodic inventory.

Depreciating Capital Assets

In the governmental funds, LUAs do not depreciate their capital assets as these funds use a “current financial resources” measurement focus. This non-recognition of depreciation is a result of the current financial resources measurement focus applied to governmental funds (i.e., governmental fund types are intended to account for and report the sources and uses of current financial resources). At the government-wide reporting level, the GASB requires LUAs to depreciate all capital assets. In order to depreciate capital assets, the LUA needs to consider the following items:

- The capital asset cost
- The depreciation method
- The estimated useful life
- A residual value (i.e., a salvage value)

Section I, Chapter 1-17 provides a discussion on valuing capital assets.

Depreciation Methods. LUAs may use any established depreciation method, however, only the straight-line method is recommended.

Estimated Useful Lives. In determining estimated useful life, an LUA should consider an asset's:

- Present condition
- The intended use of the asset
- Construction type
- The maintenance policy used.
- How long the LUA expects the capital asset to meet service and technology demands.

LUAs should base their useful lives upon lease terms, their own experience and plans for the assets. Although comparisons with other LUAs may provide some guidance, property management practices, asset usage, and other variables (such as weather) may vary significantly between LUAs.

Schedules of useful lives recommended by professional organizations may be a helpful starting point. However, schedules of depreciable lives established by federal, or state tax regulations are generally not intended to represent useful lives, particularly those that include accelerated lives.

Once the LUA estimates its depreciable asset's useful life, it is necessary for LUAs to review these estimates in later years. Since depreciation is a method of allocating an asset's cost over its useful life, a periodic review of this useful life is necessary for depreciation to reflect that allocation. The LUA should apply any change in useful life prospectively in accordance with paragraph 83 of GASB 62. As many factors may affect the useful life of an asset, periodic reassessment of estimated useful lives may be appropriate. For example, an LUA may not replace equipment according to property management policies if the school board does not make appropriations for the replacement costs available. Planned preventative maintenance may not be performed, resulting in a reduction in the useful life of an asset. The use of the asset may have changed, or the asset may have been damaged or impaired by weather or other circumstances.

A Right to Use asset should be amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the subscription term or the useful life of the underlying asset. The amortization of the Right to Use asset should be reported as an outflow of resources (amortization expense), which may be combined with depreciation expense related to other capital assets for financial reporting purposes.

Residual Values. Since most LUAs use their capital assets for long periods, the use of residual values is limited. For example, an LUA might only use a residual value when the LUA estimates the residual value to be at least 15% of the original cost. LUAs report residual values most commonly with their buildings.

The calculation for straight-line depreciation is as follows.

$$\frac{(\text{Purchase Price of the Asset} - \text{Residual Value})}{\text{Estimated Useful Life}} = \text{Annual Depreciation Expense}$$

Classifying Depreciation Expense (Codification 2200.132) - At the government-wide financial reporting level, LUAs should charge depreciation as a direct expense of its functions on the

statement of activities. In other words, an LUA needs to classify its capital assets by reporting function that uses the asset.

The GASB indicates that if a capital asset is used by a few functions, the depreciation expense should be allocated appropriately. If an LUA reports a capital asset that essentially serves all functions, it need not allocate the depreciation expense to each function, rather it may be reported as a separate line item on the statement of activities as “unallocated”. If the LUA utilizes the GADOE portal’s spreadsheets for its external financial reporting, depreciation is allocated to each function through formulas (based on the LUA’s reporting of the depreciation expense by function) in these spreadsheets.

In determining whether to charge depreciation as a direct expense of an LUA’s functions, the LUA needs to distinguish between a “shared” capital asset and one that “essentially serves all functions.” The difference is generally in the number of functions that share the asset. As the number of functions increases, the ease, practicality, and usefulness of assigning depreciation to those functions decreases. Therefore, depreciation of assets that serve many, or “essentially all,” functions is not required to be included in the direct expenses of those many functions. A shared capital asset is generally used by only a few functions, and its use can be specifically identified to those functions. Usage of a shared asset is generally such that an objective measurement can be made for the assignment of costs—based on square footage for a building or mileage for a vehicle, for example.

Generally, LUAs should allocate the depreciation expense on school buildings to the appropriate functions since the majority of the expense relates to instructional functions.

Amortization of Intangible Assets

The useful life of an intangible asset should not exceed the period that its service capacity is limited by contractual or legal provisions (Codification 1400.135)

If there are no legal, contractual, regulatory, technological, or other factors limiting the useful life, an intangible asset should be considered to have an indefinite useful life (Codification 1400.136). Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life should *not* be amortized. Should changes in factors and conditions render an intangible asset’s useful life as no longer being indefinite, the asset should be tested for impairment as a change in the expected duration of use has occurred. The carrying value of the asset, if any, should be amortized in subsequent reporting periods over the remaining estimated useful life of the asset. A common indicator of impairment for internally generated intangible assets is development stoppage, such as computer software, due to a change in management. Internally generated intangible assets impaired from development stoppage should be reported at the lower of carrying value or fair value.

Changes in Carrying Values

A change in the carrying value of capital assets which results from a revaluation of the estimated historical cost occurring during the year should be adjusted within the LUA’s

capital asset system. At the fund reporting level, the operating statements should not include any results of this transaction since it is not classified as an "exchange transaction." In the notes to the financial statements, the changes in any asset values may be presented in the "changes in capital assets" disclosure as a separate column with a narrative explaining the nature and purpose of the change. Codification 2250.146 states a change in accounting estimate should be accounted for in the period of change and future periods if both are affected. This change should not result in restating prior period financial statements.

The change in accounting estimates treatment also applies to an increase in the capital asset threshold (e.g., increasing the amount from \$2,000 to \$5,000). The LUA would not remove or restate items previously capitalized under the lower threshold. The change would be reported prospectively by recognizing the increased threshold in the period of the change and future periods.

Dispositions of Capital Assets

The accounting for the disposition of general capital assets often is overlooked. Capital assets are disposed for the following reasons:

- To replace them with assets of similar function but with longer lives and greater value.
- The asset no longer may be needed and may be declared surplus.
- It may wear out or become obsolete.
- A governmental fund may sell or transfer the asset to a proprietary fund.
- Trade the asset to another government for a similar or dissimilar asset.

When an LUA disposes of assets, the LUA should remove the capital asset from its capital asset system. No reporting would be made at the governmental fund reporting level unless the asset is sold. If the capital asset was a normal disposal and the amount the LUA received was immaterial, they could simply report the proceeds as miscellaneous revenues. If the amounts are material, GASBS 34 requires LUAs to report the proceeds as an "other financing source" (Codification 2200.167). If the sale meets the following criteria for a special item, the LUA would report the proceeds as a special item on its governmental fund type operating statement:

- Unusual in nature
- Or infrequent in occurrence
- And within the control of management

For example, if an LUA sells land that they previously purchased for a government site, the LUA will classify the sale as a special item as it would be unusual and infrequent, but within the LUA management control.

At the government-wide financial reporting level, an LUA would follow GASB 62, paragraphs

272 – 281.

In general, accounting for nonmonetary transactions should be based on the fair values of the assets (or services) involved, which is the same basis as that used in monetary transactions. Therefore, the cost of a nonmonetary asset acquired in exchange for another nonmonetary asset is the fair value of the asset surrendered to obtain it, and a gain or loss should be recognized on the exchange. The fair value of the asset received should be used to measure the cost if it is more clearly evident than the fair value of the asset surrendered.

Fair value of a nonmonetary asset transferred to or from a government in a nonmonetary transaction should be determined by referring to estimated realizable values in cash transactions of the same or similar assets, quoted market prices, independent appraisals, estimated fair values of assets or services received in exchange, and other available evidence. If one of the parties in a nonmonetary transaction could have elected to receive cash instead of the nonmonetary asset, the amount of cash that could have been received may be evidence of the fair value of the nonmonetary assets exchanged.

Fair value should be regarded as not determinable within reasonable limits if major uncertainties exist about the realizability of the value that would be assigned to an asset received in a nonmonetary transaction accounted for at fair value. An exchange involving parties with essentially opposing interests is not considered a prerequisite to determining a fair value of a nonmonetary asset transferred; nor does an exchange ensure that a fair value for accounting purposes can be ascertained within reasonable limits. If neither the fair value of a nonmonetary asset transferred nor the fair value of a nonmonetary asset received in exchange is determinable within reasonable limits, the recorded amount of the nonmonetary asset transferred from the government may be the only available measure of the transaction.

Disposal of individual assets capitalized within a group of assets considered aggregately significant will take special treatment. These can be difficult to track, especially when there is uncertainty as to which group the individual asset was assigned to. LUAs are strongly encouraged to have a methodical and traceable system to track individual items capitalized within a group to appropriately dispose of the correct amount when the time arises.

There may be specific disposal requirements, based on the asset or certain grant restrictions. Ensure all disposals are documented as to the method of disposal.

Asset Transfers

Often, activities accounted for in proprietary fund types are discontinued or transferred to a governmental fund type (e.g., the general fund). In these instances, any capital assets transferred should be reported at gross (i.e., original cost) in the capital asset system since 2021 Codification Section 1400.102 requires capital assets to be valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost. At the governmental fund reporting level, no entry is necessary in the governmental fund type operating statement using the flow of current financial resources measurement focus. The lack of reporting is consistent with the receipt of

donated capital assets, which LUAs normally do not report in a governmental fund type operating statement.

At the government-wide financial reporting level, the LUA would recognize the book value of the capital asset they received as a contribution on the statement of activities.

Impaired Assets

According to the 2021 Codification 1400.165, a capital asset impairment is a significant, unexpected decline in the service utility of a capital asset.

Annually, Georgia LUAs are required to evaluate prominent events or changes in circumstances affecting capital assets to determine whether the impairment of a capital asset has occurred. Such events or changes in circumstances that may be indicative of impairment include:

- Evidence of physical damage,
- Enactment or approval of laws or regulations or other changes in environmental factors,
- Technological changes or evidence of obsolescence,
- Changes in the manner or duration of use of a capital asset, and
- Construction stoppage.

A capital asset generally should be considered impaired if both (a) the magnitude of the decline in service utility is significant (b) the decline in service utility is unexpected.

Impaired capital assets that will no longer be used by the school district should be reported at the lower of carrying value or fair value. Impairment losses on capital assets that will continue to be used by the district should be measured using the method that best reflects the diminished service utility of the capital asset. Impairment of capital assets with physical damage generally should be measured using a restoration cost approach, an approach that uses the estimated cost to restore the capital asset to identify the portion of the historical cost of the capital asset that should be written off. Impairment of capital assets that are affected by enactment or approval of laws or regulations or other changes in environmental factors or are subject to technological changes or obsolescence generally should be measured using a service units approach, an approach that compares the service units provided by the capital asset before and after the impairment event or change in circumstance. Impairment of capital assets that are subject to a change in manner or duration of use generally should be measured using a service units approach, as described above, or using deflated depreciated replacement cost, an approach that quantifies the cost of the service currently being provided by the capital asset and converts that cost to historical cost. (Codification 1400.172 - 1400.175).

If not otherwise apparent from the face of the financial statements, the description, amount, and financial statement classification of impairment losses should be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements and discussed in the management discussion and analysis. If

evidence is available to demonstrate that the impairment will be temporary, the capital asset should not be written down.

Impaired capital assets that are idle should be disclosed, regardless of whether the impairment is considered permanent or temporary.

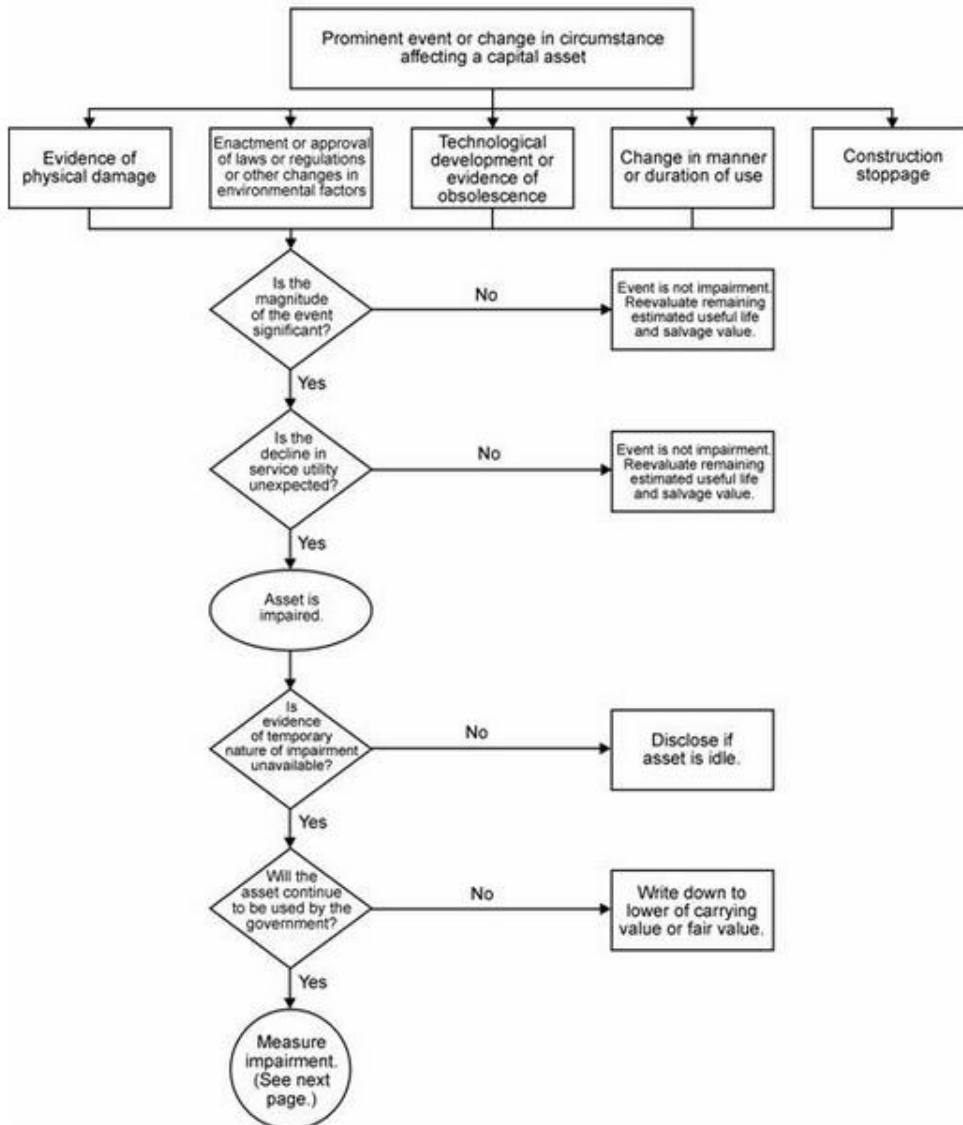
Restoration or replacement of the capital asset using the insurance recovery should be reported as a separate transaction, as an Other Financing Source for governmental fund financial statements. In governmental and business-type activities in government-wide financial statements and in proprietary fund financial statements, restoration or replacement of an impaired capital asset should be reported as a separate transaction from the impairment loss and associated insurance recovery.

Insurance recoveries should be disclosed if not apparent from the face of the financial statements. Insurance recoveries for circumstances other than impairment of capital assets should be reported in the same manner.

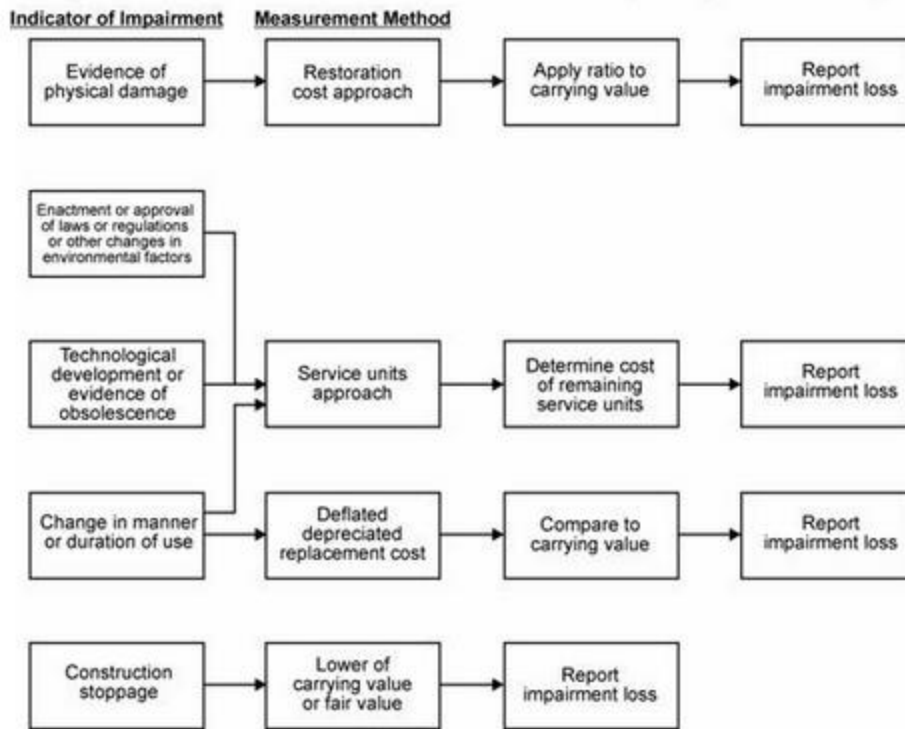
The following decision tree should be utilized to determine if an asset impairment exists:

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 42, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Impairment of Capital Assets and for Insurance Recoveries, Appendix D

ASSET IMPAIRMENT DECISION PROCESS



MEASUREMENT OF ASSET IMPAIRMENT
(for assets that will continue to be used by the government)



The following flowchart should assist the user in selecting a method of measuring an impairment: GASBS 42, Appendix E

Selection of Methods of Measuring Impairment	
Indicator of Impairment	Method Generally Used in Measuring Impairment
Evidence of physical damage	If the capital asset will continue to be used by the government (or will be upon restoration of the capital asset), use the restoration cost approach. If the capital asset will no longer be used by the government, use lower of carrying value or fair value.
Enactment or approval of laws or regulations or other changes in environmental factors	If the capital asset will continue to be used by the government, use service units approach. If the capital asset will no longer be used by the government, use lower of carrying value or fair value.
Technological development or evidence of obsolescence	If the capital asset will continue to be used by the government, use service units approach. If the capital asset will no longer be used by the government, use lower of carrying value or fair value.
Change in manner or duration of use	If the capital asset will continue to be used by the government, use deflated depreciated replacement cost or service units approach. If the capital asset will no longer be used by the government, use lower of carrying value or fair value.
Construction stoppage	Use lower of carrying value or fair value.

The Appendix to the Financial Management Handbook includes flowcharts for determining the valuation of impaired assets. Below are two illustrations of accounting for an impaired asset:

GASBS 42, Appendix C, Illustration 1

Assumptions

The ABC School District has identified extensive mold contamination at one of its elementary schools. Management considers this event to be unusual in nature but not infrequent in occurrence, as defined by APB Opinion 30, and does not consider the event to be within control of management. The elementary school was constructed in 1973 at a cost of \$1.3 million, including \$100,000 for acquisition of the building site. The school had an expected useful life of sixty years. During its life a few improvements were made: a small renovation costing \$135,000 in 1988 and a classroom addition and air conditioning \$1.1 million in 1993. These improvements did not extend the useful life of the building. In 2003, the district became aware of extensive mold contamination in the walls of the school, and

closed the school due to concerns for the health of the students. The mold remediation involves removal and rebuilding of the interior walls and site drainage improvements costing \$4 million. In accordance with the capitalization policies of the ABC School District, 40 percent of the remediation cost is allocable to demolition and mold removal, and 60% is allocable to rebuilding the walls of the school. The estimated replacement cost of the school is \$6.2 million.

Evaluation of Impairment

The mold contamination is the evidence of the physical damage providing the indication of impairment. The magnitude of the event would be evaluated as significant. The ongoing costs of the school, especially depreciation and operating costs, would be viewed as significant in relation to the zero utility it was providing. The circumstance is not part of the normal life cycle of a school. Impairment loss using the restoration cost approach is determined as follows:

	Historical Cost	Estimated Useful Life	Accumulated Depreciation, 2003	Carrying Amount, 2003
Land	\$100,000			
Building acquisition, 1973	\$1,200,000	60	\$600,000	\$600,000
Renovation, 1988	\$135,000	45	\$45,000	\$90,000
Classroom addition/air conditioning, 1993	<u>\$1,100,000</u>	40	<u>\$275,000</u>	<u>\$825,000</u>
Total buildings	<u>\$2,435,000</u>		<u>\$920,000</u>	<u>\$1,515,000</u>
Total mold remediation cost	\$4,000,000			
Percentage rebuilding cost	60%			
Restoration Cost	<u>\$2,400,000</u>			
Restoration cost (current dollars)	\$2,400,000			
Replacement cost (current dollars)	<u>\$6,200,000</u>			
Restoration cost ratio	38.7097%			
Carrying amount (historical cost)	<u>\$1,515,000</u>			
Impairment loss	<u>\$ 586,452</u>			

Reporting

The impairment loss and mold remediation expenses would be allocated to the applicable programs and be reported as program expenses in the statement of activities. The following disclosure would be presented in the notes to the financial statements:

Program expenses include an impairment loss of \$586,452 due to mold contamination at an elementary school and also include \$1,600,000 in mold remediation costs as follows:

	Impairment Loss	Mold Remediation
Regular instruction	\$322,550	\$ 880,000
Special education instruction	87,967	240,000
Pupil support services	58,645	160,000
Instructional staff services	58,645	160,000
School administration services	<u>58,645</u>	<u>160,000</u>
	<u>\$586,452</u>	<u>\$1,600,000</u>

GASBS 42, Appendix C, Illustration 5: Change in Manner or Duration of Use – School Used for Storage

Assumptions

In 2003, XYZ School District closed an elementary school because enrollments in the district declined unexpectedly due to bankruptcy of the major employer in the area. The closed school has been converted to use as storage. Management does not consider this event to be unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence, as defined by APB Opinion 30. This elementary school was constructed in 1991 at a cost of \$10 million. The estimated useful life of the school is fifty years. XYZ School District has no evidence that enrollments will increase in the future such that the building would be reopened for use as a school. The current replacement cost for a warehouse of the same size is \$4.2 million. A commercial construction index was at 100 and 150 in 1991 and 2003, respectively.

Evaluation of impairment

Impairment is indicated because the manner of use of the school has changed from educating students to storage. The situation passes the magnitude test because the ongoing costs of the school – depreciation, insurance, utilities, security – would likely be considered high in relation to the benefit it is providing – storage. The circumstance also passes the test of not being predicted because it seems likely that if management had known that they needed space for students for only twelve years, they would have selected a less expensive method of providing classrooms for those twelve years. Impairment loss using deflated depreciation replacement cost would be determined as follows:

Historical cost	\$10,000,000
Accumulated depreciation (12/50 years)	<u>2,400,000</u>
<i>a</i> Carrying amount, 2003	<u>\$ 7,600,000</u>
Replacement cost of warehouse	\$ 4,200,000
Accumulated depreciation (12/50 years)	<u>1,008,000</u>
<i>b</i> Depreciated replacement cost	<u>\$ 3,192,000</u>
<i>c</i> Commercial construction index, 1991	100
<i>d</i> Commercial construction index, 2003	<u>150</u>
<i>e</i> Deflation factor (<i>c</i> / <i>d</i>)	<u>0.667</u>
<i>f</i> Deflated depreciated replacement cost (<i>b</i> x <i>e</i>)	<u>\$ 2,128,000</u>
Impairment loss (<i>a</i> – <i>f</i>)	<u>\$ 5,472,000</u>

Reporting

The impairment loss of \$5,472,000 would be allocated to the applicable programs and reported as program expenses in the statement of activities. The following disclosure would be presented in the notes to the financial statements.

Program expenses include an impairment loss of \$5,472,000 due to the change in use of an elementary school from education to storage as follows:

	<u>Impairment Loss</u>
Regular instruction	\$3,009,600
Special education instruction	820,800
Pupil support services	547,200
Instructional staff services	547,200
School administration services	<u>547,200</u>
	<u>\$5,472,000</u>

SUMMARY

1. Categories of capital assets included land and land improvements, right to use land, right to use – leased land improvements, buildings, right to use – leased buildings and improvements, machinery and equipment, construction in progress, infrastructure, works of art and historical collections, and intangible assets.
2. All purchased capital assets should be recorded at historical cost (i.e., original cost). The cost of a capital asset includes not only its purchase price or construction costs, but also any other reasonable and necessary costs incurred to place the asset in its intended location and use.
3. Typically, two criteria are used to determine the LUAs capitalization policy: the cost of the asset and its estimated useful life. Once a capitalization threshold is established, the LEA should further consider inventory procedures necessary to track small, pilferable, “walkable” items.
4. At the government-wide reporting level, the GASB requires LUAs to depreciate all capital assets. LUAs may use any rational and systematic method.
5. A capital asset is considered impaired when its service utility has declined significantly and unexpectedly. Annually, Georgia LUAs are required to evaluate prominent events or changes in circumstances affecting capital assets to determine whether the impairment of a capital asset has occurred.