These are the economic terms used in the Economic Understandings of the Georgia Standards of Excellence for Social Studies (Grades K-5). These definitions are intended to provide clarity to teachers regarding the specific economic meanings.

**ALLOCATE** - to distribute goods, services, and resources. Because all resources are scarce, we must make decisions about using them.

**AUTHORITY** (allocation method) - someone receives a good, service, or resource because a person in power says they will receive it

**BANKS** - businesses that accept deposits and make loans

**BARTER** - the direct exchange of goods or services without the use of money

**BENEFIT** - something favorable to a decision-maker

**BUDGET** - a spending-and-savings plan, based on estimated income and expenditures (money spent), covering a specific period of time

**CAPITAL** - man-made good used to produce other goods and services; examples include buildings, machinery, tools, and equipment

**CHOICE** - an act of selecting or making a decision when faced with two or more alternatives

**COMPETITION** - the effort of two or more individuals or organizations to get the business of others by offering the best deal. Consumers compete with other consumers for goods and services. Producers compete with other producers for sales to consumers.
**CONSUMER** - someone who buys and uses goods and services

**CONTEST** (allocation method) - a type of activity where the winner receives the goods and services

**COST** - things that are unfavorable to the decision-maker; what is given up

**CURRENCY** - money in circulation in any country

**EARNED INCOME** - money received for work performed; may include salary, wages, tips, professional fees, commissions, etc.

**ECONOMY** - the way in which a group of people living in a country decide to produce and distribute goods, services, and resources

**ENTREPRENEUR** - an individual willing to take risks in order to develop new products and start new businesses

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP** - a characteristic of people who assume the risk of organizing productive resources to produce goods and services

**EXPENDITURE** - a payment made to purchase goods or services

**FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED** (allocation method) - when a good, service, or resource goes to the first person who wants it and meets the requirements; often combined with other methods like price

**GOOD** - object that satisfies people’s wants
**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES** - the use of tax dollars to provide public goods and services. Federal government expenditures include national defense and a system of justice. State and local government expenditures include police, roads and public education.

**GOVERNMENT REVENUES** - funds raised through taxing and borrowing to pay for government expenditures

**HOUSEHOLDS** - individuals and family units that buy goods and services (as consumers) and sell or rent productive resources (as resource owners)

**INCOME** - money received for work performed or from investments; may include salaries, wages, interest, dividends, etc.

**INTERDEPENDENCE** - a situation in which decisions made by one person affect decisions made by other people, or events in one part of the world or sector of the economy affect other parts of the world or other sectors of the economy

**LABOR** - the quantity and quality of human effort available to produce goods and services; also known as human resources

**LOTTERY** (allocation method) - when a good, service, or resource goes to a person who is randomly selected

**MAJORITY RULE** (allocation method) - when people vote to decide who gets a good, service, or resource; majority rule implies that someone has to get 50% plus one of the votes in order to win the vote
**MARKET ECONOMY** - an economy that relies on a system of interdependent market prices to allocate goods, services, and productive resources and to coordinate the diverse plans of consumers and producers, all of them acting according their self-interest

**MARKET** - buyers and sellers coming together to exchange goods, services, and/or resources

**MONEY** - anything widely accepted in exchange for goods and services

**NATURAL RESOURCE** - something that occurs naturally in or on the earth that is used to produce goods and services; sometimes referred to as “land”

**OPPORTUNITY COST** - the value of the next-best alternative when a decision is made; the value of what is given up in a choice

**PERSONAL BUDGET** - statement that depicts the income and expenses of an individual; may also include savings

**PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS** (allocation method) - when people are selected to receive (or excluded from receiving) goods, services, or resources based on certain traits, such as gender, race, or age

**PRICE** - the amount of money, determined by the interaction of buyers and sellers, that a buyer must pay to acquire a good, service, or resource

**PRICE** (allocation method) - when a good, service, or resource goes to someone able to pay for it at an agreed upon price; often combined with other strategies like first-come-first-served
PRICE INCENTIVE - a change in price that leads to a change in producer and consumer behavior. Consumers are inclined to buy when the price of a good or service is lower, and producers are inclined to make goods and services when their cost is higher.

PRIVATE BUSINESS - organization that produces or exchanges goods or services for a profit

PRODUCER - a firm or a person who uses resources to make goods and services

PRODUCTIVE RESOURCE - the natural, human, and capital resources that are available to make goods and services; also known as factors of production.

PRODUCTIVITY - a measure of output per unit of input

PUBLIC GOOD/SERVICE - a good or service typically provided by Government that anyone may use; examples include public education, roads, public parks, and military protection

PURCHASE - to acquire by the payment of money or its equivalent; buy

RISK - the chance of loss

SAVE - to keep money for future use

SCARCITY - when unlimited wants are greater than limited resources

SERVICE - action that can satisfy people’s wants
**SHARING** (allocation method) - when a good, service, or resource is distributed equally with all or shared equally among people who want it

**SPECIALIZATION** - working in a specific job producing a specific good or service while relying on other workers to produce other goods and services; focusing productive efforts on a specific or small range of goods and services rather than trying to produce everything

**SPEND** - to use money now to buy goods and services

**STANDARD OF LIVING** - the quantity and quality of material goods and services available to a given population. Standard of living focuses on basic factors such as income, gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy, and economic opportunity.

**TAXATION** - the process in which a charge is imposed upon a taxpayer by a state or a legal equivalent of a state

**TAXES** - mandatory fees charged on business and individual income, activities, property, or products by governments

**TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT** - an attempt at extending or further understanding the underlying science used to develop current materials, devices, products or processes

**TRADE** - the exchange of goods and services for money or other goods and services

**VOLUNTARY EXCHANGE** - trading goods and services with other people because both parties expect to benefit from the trade
**WANT** - desire that can be satisfied by consuming goods and services

**WORK** - effort applied to achieve a purpose or result, often for pay; skills and knowledge put to use to get something done
Resources used for these definitions:

- [https://www.federalreserveeducation.org](https://www.federalreserveeducation.org)
- [https://www.econedlink.org/glossary](https://www.econedlink.org/glossary)
- [https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/knowledge/accounting/expenditure/](https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/knowledge/accounting/expenditure/)
- [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)
- [https://www.investopedia.com](https://www.investopedia.com)

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