SS8CG5 The student will analyze the role of local governments in the state of Georgia.

1. Explain the origins, functions, purposes, and differences of county and city governments in Georgia.

d. Evaluate the role of local government working with state agencies to administer state programs.

County & City Government

1. GA has 159 counties – each one has a government
2. Almost 600 cities in GA- each one has a government

Counties- subdivisions of the state

1. State constitution gives counties power
2. Power to tax to cover cost of county expenses
   1. County administration
   2. Police/sheriff/legal systems
   3. Construction and maintenance of roads/bridges
   4. Public health
   5. Medical care for people who cannot afford to pay
   6. Assistance to dependent children
   7. Parks and libraries
   8. Public education
3. State constitution requires that all county governments must be organized the same way
4. Headed by Boards of Commissioners (elected)
   1. Elected for four years
   2. Authority to establish policies
   3. Adopt county ordinances (laws)
   4. Establish the county budget
   5. Establish tax rates
   6. Provide services for the citizens
5. Based on population, each county has a different number of officials. Most counties have the following:
   1. Commissioners
   2. Clerk of the superior court
   3. Judge of the probate court
   4. Tax commissioner
   5. Sheriff
   6. Coroner

City Government

1. Municipality- A city with its own government
2. A city exists when it receives a charter from the state legislature
3. To be chartered, a city must meet three requirements:
   1. Must have at least 200 residents
   2. Must be located at least three miles from the boundaries of the nearest city
   3. Must have 60% of land divided for residential, business, industrial, institutional, or government purposes.
4. Cities can only do what the charter allows. For example, most cities are allowed to:
   1. provide police protection,
   2. license businesses,
   3. maintain streets & sidewalks,
   4. control traffic,
   5. provide water and sewerage services.

Consolidated Government