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## Lee Co addresses poverty in schools

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By Dave Miller - email

LEESBURG, GA (WALB) - Teachers in Lee County are learning how to educate students of poverty- a problem that's widespread in South Georgia, and growing.

Today Ruby Payne, a world renowned speaker spent the day with educators. She held discussions on the lack of resources that many students of poverty have and how to handle certain situations.

Payne says it's possible to educate students from all backgrounds, you just have to understand the child's reality. She says many children stuck in poverty don't have the resources or the knowledge base that other students may have.

School leaders says that Lee County has seen the economically disadvantaged student population rise for several years, and they want to be sure they are meeting the needs of all groups.

That's what prompted them to bring in Payne, a world renowned speaker for educating students of poverty.

Some of Lee County's teachers have read her book, **A Framework for Understanding Poverty**, and used it as a book study.

"We have schools based on the concept that children will have a certain number of resources and they'll have a certain knowledge base. And I'm showing them how you augment that, what needs to be included," Payne said.

Payne talked about the varying vocabulary and resource base between students of different backgrounds and how teachers can adjust to those children in the classroom.

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