



Expand summer and after school programs

- Nearly 600,000 more children would enroll in afterschool programs if a program was available in their community.
- The majority of students who are at or below grade level reading do not have access to summer school.



Leverage housing authorities for literacy programs

- A reduction in housing turnover creates a better learning environment and increased achievement at all grade levels for neighboring schools.
- Close school, community and housing authority partnerships have yielded significant stability as well as literacy gains.



Expand adult education

- One in six adults in Georgia is low literate.
- 89% of children whose parents do not have a high school degree in Georgia live in low-income families.
- 820,000 jobs will remain unfilled due to people with a lack of a high school diploma.



Leverage libraries for literacy programs and wrap-around services

- Libraries have 9,353 public-access internet computers.
- Libraries help revitalize struggling or depressed neighborhoods and downtowns.
- Libraries serve as the “people’s university.”
- Free tutoring, homework help programs, and summer reading programs for kids and teens help bridge the economic divide that impacts students’ academic performance.



Expand health services at education sites

- One in four children in Georgia’s K-12 system have uncorrected vision problems.
- Low literacy is also correlated with poor health, lower income, behavioral problems and poverty.
- School-based health centers and mental health support are needed at all types of educational facilities.



Provide literacy training for community professionals

- In the U.S., a third of young children, and a half of children living in poverty, arrive in kindergarten without the skills that they need for success at school. Reading and talking to children in the earliest years of their lives gives them the foundation for learning later in life.
- All professionals who work with children and families, including nurses, physicians, dentists and social workers, can be trained to help parents understand the importance of reading and talking to their children from birth.



Develop an adult education early intervention system

- Individuals without a GED or high school diploma earn \$10K less per year (on average).
- To retain learners in programs without interruptions, develop an early intervention system to identify and address issues, many of which can be addressed with wrap-around services (e.g., childcare, transportation, flexible program schedule, access to internet).
- Georgia could be a leader in this space.





Recommendations Requiring Legislation and/or Funding Support



Community-based adult education access, capacity and needs assessment

- Technical College System of Georgia adult education program served 42,939 students out of 1.1 million in Georgia who do not have a high school diploma or GED.®
- 850,000 adults are underserved due to access.



Build capacity of Quality Rated childcare

- Children from lower-income families hear a staggering 30 million fewer words than children from higher-income families by the time they are four years old.
- Quality birth to three year-old childcare is scarce.
- Investment is needed to improve quality and access of childcare.



Formative, interim reading assessments for K-12

- Standardized reading assessments (NAEP) are currently administered at the end of third and eighth grades only.
- Students need to be assessed earlier than third grade and every year during K-12 to continue to identify issues and advance progress.



Evaluate tax credits and financial incentives for businesses that sponsor adult education programs

- Many employers can benefit from offering GED programs to employees, yet most businesses are not aware of the existing tax incentive.
- Gains in workforce readiness could be accomplished with additional financial incentives.



Support the mission and strategic plan of the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy.

- There is great need for literacy, digital literacy and digital citizenship training and ongoing learning for teachers.
- Support is needed for an online platform that allows for professional learning community engagement and networked improvement communities.
- Support P-20 partnerships between schools and higher education faculty to improve literacy outcomes.



Issues supported by the Commission but not in scope:

- Universal broadband access throughout the state.
- Positive learning climate.
- Alternative pathways to employment other than GED.