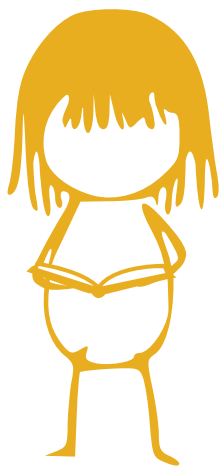


ALL
GETTING CHILDREN
ON THE PATH TO
LITERACY

WHAT CAN
I DO?



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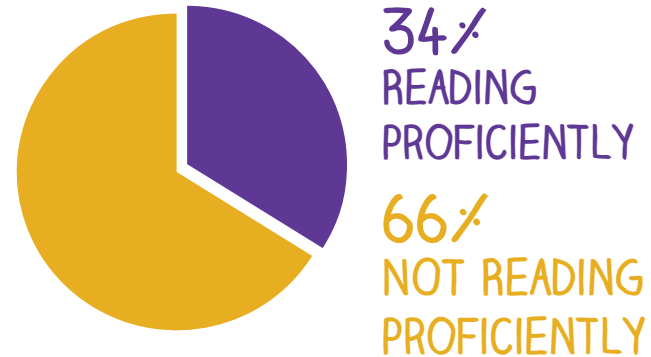
WHAT CAN
I DO?



“The charge to society is to blend the skepticism of a scientist, the passion of an advocate, the pragmatism of a policy maker, the creativity of a practitioner, and the devotion of a parent—and to use existing knowledge to ensure both a decent quality of life for all of our children and a productive future for the nation.”

Jack P. Shonkoff and Deborah A. Phillips

Neurons to Neighborhoods,
Committee on Integrating the Science of Early
Childhood Development



Two-thirds of Georgia’s children are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade. That has significant and long-term consequences for all Georgians, because low achievement in reading affects our economy, our safety, and our health.

Children who can’t read proficiently by the end of third grade are more likely to experience poor health, have discipline problems, and become teen parents. They are also four times more likely to drop out of high school. As adults they’re more likely to spend time in prison, struggle with unemployment, and face shorter life expectancies.

Getting all of Georgia’s children to read takes more than good schools, more than great teachers, and more than loving parents. It takes all of us working together. We hope you and your community partners will use this guidance to better support children in achieving reading proficiency and work to Get Georgia Reading.

PARENTS



Find a medical home for your family and ensure your child gets all well-child checkups and recommended immunizations.

- Determine your eligibility for Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, WIC, and other programs that support your own health and your children's health.
- Take advantage of developmental screenings for your children and seek services such as Babies Can't Wait for support.



Talk with your children, tell them stories, and read to them at all ages, beginning before birth.

- Access programs like Talk With Me Baby, Reach Out and Read, Get Ready to Read, Raising A Reader, and First Books that help you effectively do these activities with your children.
- Visit your local library and participate in fun reading and storytelling programs with your children.



Find quality child care centers for your children.

- Choose a Quality Rated child care program, and find one that meets your needs.
- Explore your eligibility for Head Start and Early Head Start and find programs in your community.
- Don't miss the deadline to register your 4 year old for the free Georgia Pre-K program, and get help finding the programs in your community.

Visit allgakids.org or call **877-ALL-GA-KIDS**.



Enroll your child in a high-quality preschool program that supports you and your child.

- Check into evidence-based and Quality Rated programs, including Sheltering Arms, Educare Atlanta, Early Head Start, Head Start, and Georgia Pre-K that prepare children for success in school.
- Check into the Pre-K Summer Transition Program if your child did not attend a quality preschool or Pre-K program and needs additional academic support to enter kindergarten.

EDUCATORS



Participate in technical assistance and educational opportunities designed to enhance your early learning and literacy development skills.

- Take advantage of educational opportunities available from the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy and online professional development via the Cox Campus portal.
- Participate in a Better Brains for Babies workshop to learn more about the importance of early brain development in the healthy growth and development of infants and young children.
- Contact Quality Care for Children or your local Child Care Resource & Referral for free training and technical assistance.



Utilize best practice curricula and high-quality practices in your classroom.

- Seek more information on evidenced-based and evidenced-informed practices.
- Join and support state and national professional organizations, including Georgia Association on Young Children, Georgia PTA, Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, and the National Center for Families Learning.



Engage parents in their children's educational process.

- Learn more about system efforts such as Great Start Georgia, Strengthening Families, and United Way's PACE strategies that engage, partner with, and equip parents to better support their children's development and learning.
- Coach and empower your students' parents on the best ways for them to participate in their children's education.



Nurture a culture of school attendance and a climate of school safety.

- Learn about Attendance Works and how you can help parents better understand the importance of their children coming to school on time every day, especially in the early grades.
- Partner with parents, school systems, and community organizations to implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) that create a safe school environment and encourage optimal learning and teaching.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



Simplify access and expand outreach, training, and data use that will maximize participation of low-income, at-risk families and their children in health care services.

- Support and participate in health-related associations like the Georgia Perinatal Association, Georgia Public Health Association, Georgia Rural Health Association, and Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia that are working across the state to improve access and better health outcomes.
- Educate families about the necessity of timely and ongoing prenatal, physical, and dental health care for themselves and their children.
- Partner with families and help them access health services.



Teach families and children at every age about nutrition and healthy eating habits—and provide resources.

- Suggest proven models for teaching and training mothers during pregnancy and after the birth of their children such as Centering Pregnancy to help them form good health and nutritional habits.
- Recommend supplemental nutrition programs like WIC and SNAP as well as library summer reading and meals programs that can provide the healthy nutrition necessary to support learning and reading.



Provide screening, assessment, and appropriate follow-up for social-emotional development, developmental delays, and disabilities.

- Work with early learning, home visiting, and child care programs, including Early Head Start and Head Start, to provide a key access point for conducting health and dental screenings, evaluations, and referrals for conditions such as impaired vision, hearing, and developmental delays.
- Share data and resources, particularly the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, regarding the associations between child maltreatment and the likelihood of developmental delays, and the impact of childhood stress on lifelong health and well-being.



Partner with community organizations to identify and deliver health care services and remove financial barriers.

- Support the expansion of high-quality, school-based health centers that provide access to primary and preventive health care, improve nutrition and health outcomes, and increase school attendance.
- Participate in collaborative efforts, local health fairs, and other health-related activities that your local Georgia Family Connection Collaborative or community health centers host to promote better nutrition, healthy living, and fitness.

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS LEADERS



Connect and foster relationships between local community, business, education, and government leaders.

- Bring partners together to address community system-level changes regarding chronic school absence, school environment, child safety and protection, and economic well-being of families.
- Make a commitment to work with other counties over time for long-term sustainable changes.
- Connect partners with local and state data, and align the resources they need to support change.
- Partner with families throughout these system-change efforts.



Learn more about volunteering or getting your corporation or organization involved to help get all Georgia children reading proficiently.

- Support affordable educational opportunities for parents of all backgrounds to help equip them as their child's first teacher.
- Employ evidenced-based practices and approaches to coach and mentor children, especially low-income, minority, and special-needs children, who are struggling to learn to read.
- Explore competitive federal-level grant programs to fund state-level initiatives that close reading achievement gaps.



Communicate the impact of your community efforts to improve early care and learning.

- Share data, research, stories, and evaluation findings with local representatives and the media.
- Use social media to start conversations by sharing your community's powerful stories about successes and challenges.

LEGISLATORS & FUNDERS



Continue to invest in—and expand—quality, evidenced-based early-care and childhood programs, including Quality Rated, universal Pre-K, and summer learning opportunities.

- Request community- and state-level research, data, and evaluation findings of early care and learning's impact on citizens and the economy to help guide policy decisions.
- Continue to fund and support proven approaches to quality care, including family, friend, and neighbor care, family child care homes, and child care centers.
- Continue to invest in and support proven approaches to family literacy, particularly for low-income children, including two-generation approaches to literacy and job readiness.



Promote a seamless system that supports the pathway of learning from early childhood through high school to postsecondary education.

- Continue to support organizations like Georgia Early-Education Alliance for Ready Students, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, Georgia Head Start Association, Georgia Family Connection Partnership, and other organizations that are working with business, education, community, and government leaders to ensure that all children grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school and work.

- Support a research-based framework with professional development standards and guidelines for the provision of training to early child care and education staff that provides service to the birth-to-age-8 population.

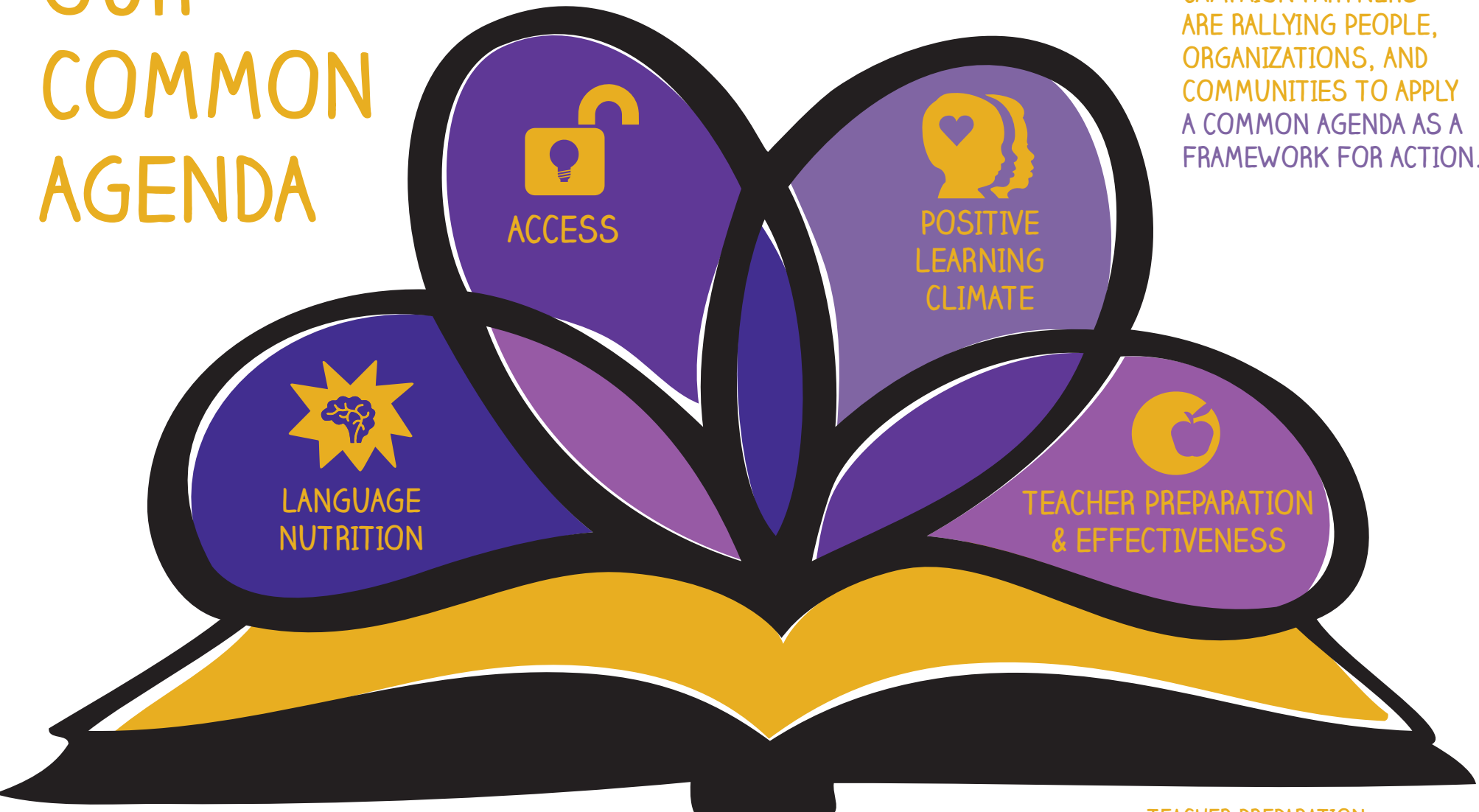


Support policies that increase access for young children and their families to medical insurance, nutrition, and health education and care.

- Support and expand health and related services to all children, including those with special needs.
- Support school-based and community-based health care as a means to provide affordable, quality care for children and families.
- Create opportunities for health care providers to be available in medically underserved areas through loan forgiveness and scholarships for professionals, provision of licensed telemedicine services, and recruitment and provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate services to women.

OUR COMMON AGENDA

GET GEORGIA READING
CAMPAIGN PARTNERS
ARE RALLYING PEOPLE,
ORGANIZATIONS, AND
COMMUNITIES TO APPLY
A COMMON AGENDA AS A
FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION.



LANGUAGE NUTRITION

All children receive abundant, language-rich adult-child interactions, which are as critical for brain development as healthy food is for physical growth.

ACCESS

All children and their families have access to, and supportive services for, healthy development and success in high-quality early childhood and elementary education.

POSITIVE LEARNING CLIMATE

All educators, families, and policy-makers understand and address the impact of learning climate on social-emotional development, attendance, engagement, and, ultimately, student success.

TEACHER PREPARATION & EFFECTIVENESS

All teachers of children ages 8 and under are equipped with evidence-informed skills, knowledge, and resources that effectively meet the literacy needs of each child in a developmentally appropriate manner.



GET GEORGIA READING

CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING

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