

Presentation for the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

The Columbia Group, 2018

The Columbia Group members

- **Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education**
- A+ Education Partnership, Alabama
- Education's Next Horizon, Louisiana
- Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, Kentucky
- Mississippi First
- Public School Forum of North Carolina
- SCORE, Tennessee

The 3 main parts of our project:

I. **Landmark report** on how our states need to set new direction for improving education, closing gaps in opportunity and achievement

II. **Education Poll of the South** and focus groups to gauge public support/interest in a new vision for education

III. **Engage policymakers/stakeholders** using the report, poll findings, events, news media coverage and more

I. Landmark report

- Interviews and school/community visits in each state (couldn't do all stakeholders in every state, but sampling of these groups across the region)
- State policymakers, teachers and school/district leaders, business leaders, civil rights and minority advocates, education policy experts, voters, parents and students
- Found considerable consensus across the region on major education issues we need to address

Landmark report: 4 main findings

- Draw better talent to **teaching** and provide educators with stronger support
- New types of academic and nonacademic **support for today's students**
- Much **stronger bridge between high school and postsecondary** opportunities—including work, technical training and college
- Ensure the right **resources** to fix inequalities and better address issues at state and local levels

II. The Education Poll of the South

- First of its kind to our knowledge
- 2,200 registered voters across 10 states and portions of FL, VA—evenly divided by state
- Generally matched region in terms of gender, age, race/ethnicity

Voters polled

- In the South
 - 36% Republican
 - 39% Democrat
 - 22% Independent or other
 - 4% Unsure/don't know
- In Georgia
 - 34% Republican
 - 41% Democrat
 - 21% Independent or other
 - 4% Don't know

How would you describe yourself politically on most issues?

- In the South
 - 43% Somewhat or very conservative
 - 31% Moderate
 - 23% Somewhat or very liberal
- In Georgia
 - 40% Somewhat or very conservative
 - 35% Moderate
 - 25% Somewhat or very liberal

Racial/ethnic background of voters polled

- In the South
 - 73% white
 - 22% black
 - 2% Hispanic or Latino American
 - 4% Other
- In Georgia
 - 60% white
 - 30% black
 - 5% Hispanic or Latino American
 - 4% Asian American

Quality of public schools across state in last few years:

- In the South
 - 18% Gotten better
 - 34% Gotten worse
 - **39% Stayed about the same**
- In Georgia
 - 18% Gotten better
 - **37% Gotten worse**
 - 35% Stayed about the same

Do public schools do an adequate job educating all students in schools across the state, or do differences exist in how well students are educated?

- In the South

- 13% All schools do adequate job
- **74% Differences exist**
- 13% Don't know

- In Georgia

- 10% All schools do adequate job
- **73% Differences exist**
- 17% Don't know

Would you support or oppose your state improving public schools by addressing differences in the quality of education across all schools in the state?

- In the South
 - **87% Strongly or somewhat support**
 - 6% Strongly or somewhat oppose
 - 7% Don't know
- In Georgia
 - **79% Strongly or somewhat support**
 - 10% Strongly or somewhat oppose

Would you support adjusting the school funding system to ensure greater fairness among poor and wealthier communities?

- In the South

- **84% Strongly or somewhat support**
- 9% Strongly or somewhat oppose
- 9% Don't know

- In Georgia

- **78% Strongly or somewhat support**
- 13% Strongly or somewhat oppose

If necessary, would you support or oppose **increasing state taxes** to pay for more K-12 education funding?

- In the South
 - **57% Strongly or somewhat support**
 - 35% strongly or somewhat oppose
 - 8% Don't know
- In Georgia
 - **67% Strongly or somewhat support**
 - 27% Strongly or somewhat oppose

If necessary, would you support or oppose your **local government** increasing taxes to pay for more K-12 public education funding?

- In the South
 - **58% Strongly or somewhat support**
 - 35% Strongly or somewhat oppose
 - 8% Don't know
- In Georgia
 - **61% Strongly or somewhat support**
 - 31% Strongly or somewhat oppose

If necessary, would you support or oppose cutting government spending on other issues to **make K-12 public education funding a higher priority?**

- In the South
 - **71% Strongly or somewhat support**
 - 19% Strongly or somewhat oppose
 - 10% Don't know
- In Georgia
 - **78% Strongly or somewhat support**
 - 15% Strongly or somewhat oppose

Key takeaways and questions

- Most of us agree educational opportunities are uneven across our states—for all political views, backgrounds
- Most recognize the urgent need to do something about it—to help our economy and prepare disadvantaged students better for the future
- Consensus on issues to address. We can raise the bar for every child while evening the playing field for every child.
- Let the future for our children—and our states—bring us together, for this purpose.

III. Public release of report—and post-release—to engage policymakers, stakeholders by leveraging report, poll findings

- Release of report and poll results tentatively scheduled for January 30
- We'll need your help!
- How can you and your network engage with us to move the conversation forward?

Questions? Thoughts?

- Stay in touch.
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