



Critical Issues Forum: “Elections 2018”

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

August 15, 2018

EdQuest Georgia: A statewide blueprint for improving education



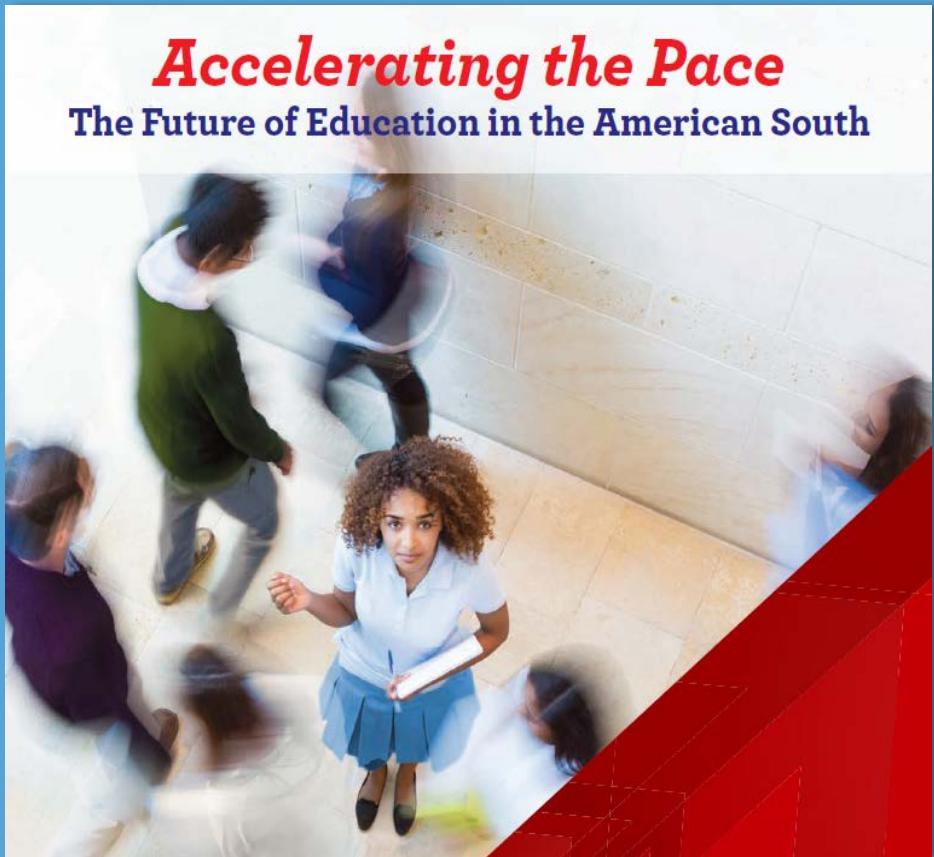
EDQUEST GEORGIA
Charting Educational Reform

Opportunities for All Core Areas

EdQuest Georgia is a map for the quest we are on to make Georgia one of the top performing states in the nation with regard to public education. This is a summary of opportunities identified in each core area of the Baseline Report of EdQuest Georgia. These highlight the state's strengths and opportunities for reform.

CORE AREA	ALERT! POLICY MISSING OR NEEDS IMMEDIATE ACTION	YIELD! PROCEED WITH CAUTION, MORE WORK TO BE DONE	GO! KEEP MOVING FORWARD: STRONG POLICIES IN PLACE
 Foundations for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgia must increase access to health supports for young children and their families, including access to insurance and providers as well as mental and oral health support. Increase access to high-quality early learning programs, especially for low-income children. Examine the state Earned Income Tax Credit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to high-quality early learning programs, especially for low-income children. Fully leverage the opportunities under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to strengthen and expand connections between early learning programs and elementary schools; improve instruction, and measure progress. Support the Department of Public Health's efforts to increase access to screenings, assessments, referrals, and mental health services for children from birth through age eight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support statewide coalitions that align the work being done across all policy areas, including health, education, and family well-being. Support and expand Georgia's Pre-K Program. Continue to support the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's work developed under the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant.
 Quality Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize teachers as professionals to attract and retain talent. Examine teacher compensation. Address teacher equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine the performance measure for teacher preparation programs. Strengthen induction programs. Allow time to evaluate the teacher effectiveness system. Implement and fully support the proposed recommendations concerning leader development in Georgia's current Every Student Succeeds Act proposed state plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the rigorous teacher preparation program requirements. Continue the tiered certification ladder. Continue the current leader training, certification, and professional development reforms.

Accelerating the Pace: A regional blueprint for improving education





The Columbia Group members:

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

The Education Poll of the South

- First of its kind to our knowledge
- 2,200 registered voters across 12 states
- Generally matched region in terms of gender, age, race/ethnicity



How would you describe yourself politically on most issues?

- In the South
 - 43% Somewhat or very conservative
 - 31% Moderate
 - 23% Somewhat or very liberal

Quality of public schools across your 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 students are educated?

- In the South

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

- In Georgia

- **73% Differences exist**

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
 - 85% Strongly or somewhat support
 - 6% Strongly or somewhat oppose
 - 7% Don't know
- In Georgia
 - 79% Strongly or somewhat support state action to address differences

Would you support adjusting the state's school funding system for greater fairness among poor and wealthier communities?

- In the South
 - 83% Strongly or somewhat support
 - 9% Strongly or somewhat oppose
 - 8% Don't know
- In Georgia
 - 78% Strongly or somewhat support adjusting school funding

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
 - **66% Strongly or somewhat support** increasing state taxes for education

If necessary, would you support or oppose higher local taxes for more K-12 education funding?

- In the South
 - 58% Strongly or somewhat support
 - 35% Strongly or somewhat oppose
 - 8% Don't know
- In Georgia
 - 62% Strongly or somewhat support increasing local taxes for education

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
 - 77% Strongly or somewhat support prioritizing education spending

Top issues on Georgia voters' minds:

- Voters' 1st priority: **Economy/jobs**, 45%
- 2nd: **Improving K-12 education**, 40%
- 3rd: **Improving higher education**
- These 3 choices polled higher than infrastructure, cutting government spending, or holding down taxes

Which priorities in K-12 education do state, local officials in Georgia need to address?

- Voters' 1st priority: Ensure **effective teachers in classroom**, 57%
- 2nd: Help high school students **prepare for real world/teach life skills**, 56%
- 3rd: Make sure **all children have equal opportunity for a good education**, no matter their circumstance, 53%

Accelerating the Pace report:

- Interviews and school/community visits in each state
- Policymakers, teachers and school/district leaders, business leaders, education advocates, civil rights advocates, policy experts, parents, students
- Much consensus on major education issues to address

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Accelerating the Pace report: 4 main priorities for states

1. More talent, stronger support for educators
2. New types of academic, nonacademic support for today's students
3. Stronger bridge between high school, postsecondary opportunities
4. Resources to meet these goals

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1. More talent, stronger support for educators

- Teacher recruitment
- Teacher, principal preparation
- Continued professional development/support
- 44% of Ga. teachers leave field in first 5 years

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More talent, support for educators

- Ga. ranks 28th in starting teacher salary: \$33,424
- Increase base salary, introduce alternative compensation models
- Ensure access to quality teachers for ALL Georgia students
- High-minority schools have nearly 3 times the rate of first-year teachers

2. New types of academic, nonacademic support for today's students

- Goal of college/career training for all requires more academic support
- Nearly 1/2 of Ga. counties: No licensed psychologist
- Marietta High students wanted college-preparation workshops, mental health counseling, job help for parents, suicide prevention, grief support, more

3. Stronger bridge between high school, postsecondary opportunities

- Students must have a seamless path into some type of postsecondary. Many still don't.
- 51% of Ga. students finish high school with career certification
- **Only 63% of those enrolled in college still enrolled or earned a credential after 2 years**
- Expand need-based college aid. HOPE is merit-based. Most states do more.

4. Resources to meet these goals

- 28 states add per-student funding for low-income students, but Ga. does not
- 34% difference in student spending from highest- to lowest-funded Ga. districts
- Ranked 35th in per-student spending in 2014 (\$9,403) and behind SC, AL
- Inequities apparent in South, rural/urban
- No major school funding overhaul in decades
- As a state, we don't know cost of providing the education students need

Key takeaways from the report

- Most agree educational opportunities are uneven across our states—for all political views, backgrounds
- Most recognize the urgent need to do something about this issue. Will help our economy, quality of life.
- Consensus on priorities to address. We can raise the bar, even the playing field for all children.
- Let our states' and children's future—bring us together for this purpose



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What is the most important education issue on your mind?

Our Panelists

- Duke Bradley, Principal, Banneker High School in Fulton County
- Genesis Castro, University of Georgia and Peachtree Ridge High School graduate
- Chris Clark, President and CEO, Georgia Chamber of Commerce
- Allison Townsend, 2019 Georgia Teacher of the Year



Candidates for State Education Superintendent

- Richard Woods, current State Superintendent, Republican
- Otha Thornton, Democrat, former national PTA president