

# The Power of the Partnership – Partnering with Us

The Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that works diligently to improve student achievement and workforce development in Georgia.

We strengthen our power to do so when various groups of stakeholders engage with us in efforts to provide all students the opportunity to succeed, particularly those students from low-income homes in which they are the first to graduate high school and attend college. An important intended result of our work of increasing the number of college and career ready graduates is supporting and spurring the much needed economic growth of our state.

Partnering with us allows partners to join our engaged state's business, education and government leaders in strengthening our power to improve student achievement.

Highlights of our diligent work – our award winning publications and programs, viewed as valued resources by our numerous stakeholders, include:



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## Top Ten Issues to Watch

15th Edition (Launched in 2004)



The Partnership's *Top Ten Issues to Watch* publication is an award winning annual report highlighting and providing recommendations on critical educational issues in Georgia. The report, based on thorough and non-partisan research, is widely disseminated to inform and influence policy, business, community, and advocacy leaders to make sound decisions.

More than 3,500 copies are distributed annually to a wide cross-section of education stakeholders throughout the state with hundreds more readers being reached through digital downloads.

The report is presented annually in the joint Georgia House Education Committee and Georgia Senate Education & Youth Committee meeting; has been featured on Georgia Public Broadcasting's Lawmakers program; "Georgia Focus," a Georgia News Network public affairs radio show broadcast on more than 130 stations statewide; the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives newsletter, in James magazine, and used as curriculum material in Georgia colleges of education.

### What our stakeholders say...

"The Top Ten Issues to Watch publication should be mandatory reading for every legislator serving the people of Georgia. As elected representatives, our charge is to make informed decisions. This one report provides a wealth of information in almost every key area of education policy. I wouldn't think of addressing legislation without first reviewing my Top Ten."

– Sen. Fran Millar, Chair, Georgia Senate Higher Education Committee

## EdQuest Georgia

Launched in 2017



EdQuest Georgia is a framework designed to help stakeholders understand Georgia's system of education and to provide a concept of how the parts and pieces of the system fit together and reinforce each other.

Based in best-practice research, EdQuest highlights seven core policy areas that are common across high-performing states and countries. The baseline report examines where Georgia is strong and should continue the great work being done, as well as opportunities that need to be addressed to move the state forward.

### What our stakeholders say...

"I am so proud to have been part of the EdQuest development. And with the EdQuest Coalition working to create opportunities for sustained support and ensuring the strategic changes found in this report are implemented in a meaningful way, I believe we will make great progress towards our EdQuest goal of making Georgia a national and global education leader."

– Stephanie Blank, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students Chair, EdQuest Steering Committee member

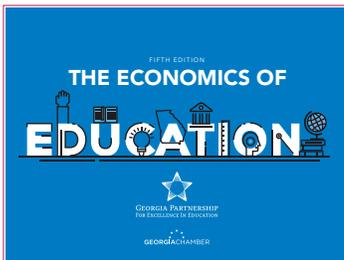


Our Critical Issues Forums are public programs offered three times a year that examine important topics in education (such as improving teacher quality, early learning, STEM education, changing student demographics, etc.) to inform and influence leaders to make sound education policy decisions. Drawing large audiences from the business, government, education and civic communities, each Forum features subject matter experts who take a hard look at important education issues, as well as panel discussions and opportunities for audience engagement. Each Forum is recorded and featured on our website to reach broader audiences.

*What our stakeholders say...*

“The Critical Issues Forums are perfect examples of how the Georgia Partnership raises public awareness of key education issues. The forums always address front-burner topics with analysis and expert commentary. Attendees always leave empowered with new information and ideas, as well as a renewed energy to positively impact Georgia’s public education system.”

– Mike Donnelly, Atlanta Region President, Wells Fargo, Georgia Partnership Board Vice Chair



Since the release of the first edition in 2004, the Partnership has made approximately 350 *Economics of Education* presentations and reached 10,000 individuals from business, education, and government agencies. Audiences include community organizations, economic developers, leadership development programs, and business groups, and each presentation is tailored to reflect local situations.

*What our stakeholders say...*

“Education is a high-leverage economic development strategy that can pay tremendous long-term dividends for counties or regions. The Partnership’s Economics of Education report really spotlights that fact in an accessible way and illuminates how building the capacity of community and business leaders across Georgia is key to improving the education and workforce development pipeline.”

– Kevin Greiner, President & CEO, Gas South, Georgia Partnership Board Past Chair



The Education Policy Fellowship Program is a critical resource not only for individuals and organizations, but also the state of Georgia, as it deepens Georgia leaders’ understanding of the policy process and equips them to be change agents in their communities. Since its inception, the program has trained 200 Fellows across ten cohorts and is one of 17 states affiliated with the national umbrella organization, Institute for Educational Leadership.

*What our stakeholders say...*

“EPFP provided me an extraordinary learning experience. The program broadened my grasp of complex education policy issues and the many factors affecting them – from budget concerns to changing demographics to rural versus urban districts. It increased my capacity to better engage communities in understanding the fierce competitive environment that exists for top talent around the world and the urgency

that must be placed on improving our systems so Georgia’s students can compete. EPFP, undoubtedly, better equipped me to be a strong advocate for improving public education.”

– Diane McClearen, Director, Community & External Relations, Oglethorpe Power Corporation

**Senate Resolution 362-2017** – The Partnership was honored to have the quality and impact of its work recognized by the Georgia Senate in its 2017 Resolution, which cited the Partnership as a “well-respected, nonpartisan organization with a long and distinguished record of promoting public education in Georgia...which has had a strong impact on our state’s public education progress over the past 25 years.” The Senate Resolution commended the Georgia Partnership for “its service to the people of this state by providing solid, research-based analysis to policy and decision makers which has had a strong impact on our state’s public education progress over the past 25 years.”

**Communications** – Communications is a key aspect of the Partnership’s work, consistently recognized as being produced at the highest professional level. In 2018, the Partnership received four gold awards and one best-in-class award from the Georgia School Public Relations Association. The organization earned gold honors for the Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2018, the Economics of Education, 5th edition, EdQuest Georgia, and an op-ed on school funding that was published in the Atlanta Journal Constitution. The op-ed was also recognized as best-in-class.

Most particularly, at the Partnership, we are pleased and proud that our work received a 95 percent approval rating from our stakeholders (via our 2018 biannual stakeholder survey).



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