

BY 2020,  
ALL CHILDREN  
IN GEORGIA  
WILL BE ON A PATH TO  
READING  
PROFICIENTLY  
BY THE END OF  
3RD GRADE.



GET GEORGIA  
READING

CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING

MAKE YOUR PROMISE TO GET GEORGIA READING

[getgeorgiareading.org](http://getgeorgiareading.org)

THE FIRST MAJOR MILESTONE FOR ANY CHILD'S SUCCESS IN EDUCATION IS THE ABILITY TO READ BY THE END OF

# 3RD GRADE



Reading on grade level by third grade is the highest predictor of school success and graduation.

We are at a critical point in time when it comes to preparing Georgia's next generation of leaders.

Why? Because right now, two-thirds of Georgia's children are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade.



ONLY 1 IN 3  
3RD GRADERS  
CAN READ  
PROFICIENTLY

LEARNING TO READ → READING TO LEARN

Children who can't read by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers.

# 4X



Children born into low-income families arrive in kindergarten having heard

# 30 MILLION FEWER WORDS

within the first four years than their peers from more financially stable homes.

Why does this matter? Because third grade is when children make the shift from learning to read, to reading to learn.

However, children who cannot read proficiently cannot make this shift, which has serious implications for future learning as nearly half of the printed fourth grade curriculum in the US is incomprehensible to children who cannot read at grade level.

As a result, these children fall even further behind than children who can read.

According to a longitudinal study commissioned by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, children who can't read by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.

Individuals who do not complete high school are significantly more likely than high-school graduates to become incarcerated, become teen parents, be subjected to violence as either an aggressor or a victim, be unemployed, and be recipients of Medicaid and welfare.

In 2013, only 21% of fourth-grade children from low-income families in Georgia could read at or above grade level.



# OUR COMMON AGENDA

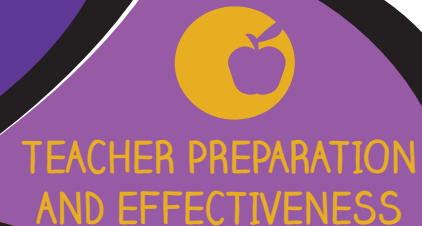
## THREE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Local Ownership  
& Innovation

Family Engagement  
& Involvement

Seamless Continuity  
& Alignment

## FOUR PILLARS



## SEVEN DRIVERS OF CHANGE

Strategic Communication

Data-Driven, Evidence-  
Informed Decision-Making

Scale Evidence-Based  
Approaches, Programs &  
Strategies

Family Engagement  
& Involvement

Aligned Outcomes, Policies  
& Investments

Smart Use of Technology

Solid Professional  
Learning

### LANGUAGE NUTRITION

All children receive 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.

### PRODUCTIVE LEARNING CLIMATE

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

### TEACHER PREPARATION AND EFFECTIVENESS

All teachers provide high-quality, evidence-informed instruction & effective learning experiences tailored to the needs of each child, regardless of the child's background.

## The Get Georgia Reading Campaign helps break barriers to third-grade reading by bridging unprecedented partnerships.

Each of Georgia's 159 counties faces its own diverse challenges. But the barriers to getting all children to read at grade level are common, from summer learning loss, to early language nutrition, access to quality materials and training, and teacher preparation.

A tremendous amount of resources and organizations already exist to support parents, educators, and kids. Our intent is to be a vehicle to promote these valuable resources.

Through this effort, the campaign has launched the [getgeorgiareading.org](http://getgeorgiareading.org) website, where teachers, parents, policy-makers, health-care providers, and other stakeholders can make their promise to get Georgia reading, and see relevant resources and success stories happening all over Georgia.

## MAKE YOUR PROMISE

- TALK, READ, SING, AND PLAY WITH KIDS—ESPECIALLY BABIES—ALL THE TIME
- FOSTER A SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM CLIMATE WHERE ALL KIDS FEEL SAFE, SECURE, CONNECTED, SUPPORTED, AND READY TO LEARN
- SHARE INFORMATION WITH MY COMMUNITY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF READING TO KIDS
- CREATE AN EXPECTATION THAT MY FAMILY WILL READ FOR AT LEAST 15 MINUTES EVERY DAY
- SUPPORT YEAR-ROUND ACCESS TO LEARNING AND NUTRITIONAL MEALS FOR ALL KIDS
- SUPPORT ACCESS TO TRAINING AND TOOLS FOR ALL TEACHERS

“Pre-K is really providing that foundation for your learning and your reading, so you can be prepared for kindergarten... I promise to continue to provide a strong foundation for learning and reading.”

Amy Jacobs, Interim Commissioner  
Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of  
Early Care and Learning

“Never before in this country has a group this size, this diverse, focused on a shared common expectation—to have all children reading to learn, reading to grow, reading to thrive.”

Arianne Weldon, Director  
Get Georgia Reading—Campaign for  
Grade-Level Reading

“Language is food for our brain... Good language nutrition is not just hearing something. Not just listening to a cell phone your mama's talking on, or not just listening to television, but back and forth. Good nutrition is me talking with my baby, and my baby talking back to me.”

Brenda Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Public Health

“If you want to get better at reading, what do you have to do? Practice. Nothing is easy the first time you try, is it? But when you do it a few times it gets easier and easier... Can we read in the grocery store? Yes we can. We can read cereal boxes, we can read products in the grocery store, and we can help our parents find things.”

Sandra Deal  
First Lady of Georgia

“All of us should pause today and reflect on this moment, because this is another step toward something very special in Georgia. We're on a journey to create schools where students preschool to 12th grade feel safe, secure, encouraged, and nurtured. It's not a naïve expectation; it's a quality of life necessity.”

Garry W. McGiboney, Ph.D.  
Deputy Superintendent  
Georgia Department of Education

“When your friend says, ‘I hate reading,’ look at him and say, ‘But, have you read this book?’ and maybe show him the books you're reading.”

Amanda Miliner  
2015 Georgia Teacher of the Year

“When my three daughters used to read to me it was music to my ears. And I'm certain, and I'm sure, that when you read to your parents it's music to their ears.”

Emmett Shaffer  
Vice President for Education  
United Way of Greater Atlanta

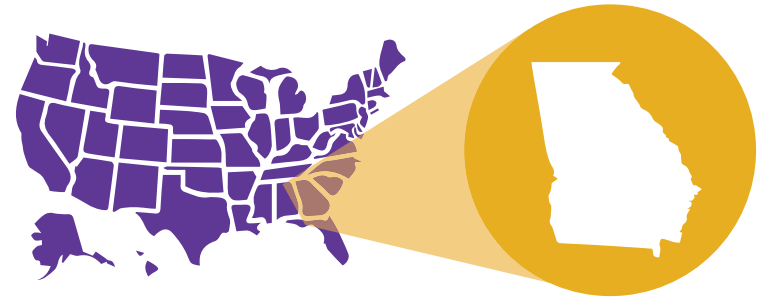
“You children are our future. You may be our next governor. You may be our next state superintendent. You may be the head of a Fortune 500 company. But in order to do any of those things, you have to be able to read to lead.”

Rita Erves, Georgia PTA President

# WHAT IF IN GEORGIA...

90%

OF STUDENTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2014 HAD EARNED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA?



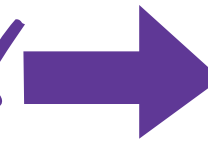
ACTUAL

70%



GOAL

90%



AN INCREASE OF  
**31,620**  
GRADUATES

## THE BENEFITS WOULD BE HUGE



**\$370**  
MILLION

IN INCREASED  
ANNUAL EARNINGS



**\$277**  
MILLION

IN INCREASED  
ANNUAL SPENDING



**\$668**  
MILLION

IN INCREASED  
HOME SALES



**3,120**  
NEW JOBS



**\$491**  
MILLION

IN INCREASED  
GROSS STATE  
PRODUCT



**\$34**  
MILLION

IN INCREASED  
STATE/LOCAL  
TAX REVENUE

THE BEST STIMULUS PACKAGE IS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

**Dear** *parent,*  
**Dear** *family,*  
**Dear** *teacher,*  
**Dear** *student,*  
**Dear** *policy-maker,*  
**Dear** *principal,*  
**Dear** *concerned citizen,*  
**Dear** *business leader,*  
**Dear** *community leader,*

you're not alone.

We hope you join us  
on this journey, to  
**Get Georgia Reading.**



GET GEORGIA  
READING

**CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING**

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