



Georgia Partnership
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

19TH EDITION
**TOP TEN
ISSUES TO
WATCH
IN 2023**



2023 Top Ten Issues

1. EdQuest Georgia Framework: Starting the Journey Toward the North Star
2. Early Childhood Supports: Toward a Seamless State Child Development Strategy
3. Post-Secondary Readiness: Closing the Gap
4. Post-Secondary Promise: Rethinking the Pathway to Economic Prosperity
5. Educator Burnout: Creating Conditions for Success
6. School Safety: A Multidimensional Approach
7. School-Community Engagement: Redefining Relationships
8. Out-of-School Learning: Expanding Student Opportunities
9. Local Leadership: A Blueprint for Reconfiguring State Strategies
10. Funding & Accountability: Two Sides of the Same Coin

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How is Georgia Trending?

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Low-Birthweight Babies | ≈ |
| Early Education Enrollment | ✘ |
| Children in Poverty | ≈ |
| 4 th Grade Reading | ≈ |

| | |
|--|---|
| 8 th Grade Math | ✘ |
| Students Earning AP Credit | ✘ |
| High School Graduation Rate | ≈ |
| Adults with Associate Degree or Higher | ☑ |

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ISSUE

1

**The EdQuest Georgia Framework:
Starting the Journey Toward the
North Star**

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The North Star Goal

- 65% of Georgians aged 25 to 64 have earned a post-secondary credential by 2033.



The Goal Is Bold and Achievable

- Annualized growth in post-secondary attainment: c. 1.0-1.5%
- Headwinds
 - Generation of skilled and credentialed workers reaching retirement age
 - Growing share of youth population lacks access to high-quality educational opportunities
- Tailwinds
 - Net-positive migration of skilled and talented professionals from other states
 - Business-friendly policies spur economic development investments and job creation in high-demand industries

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A Framework for Action

The EdQuest Georgia Framework identifies opportunities for leaders at all levels to enhance existing systems and redesign strategies to expand education and workforce opportunities for all Georgians.

The *Top Ten Issues to Watch* highlights the goals, strategies, and recommendations outlined in the EdQuest Georgia Framework.

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Long-Range Planning Is Critical

| EdQuest Core Area | |
|--|---|
| Foundations for Learning | Promote child development and family well-being through integrated early education, health, and family supports |
| Quality Teaching | Prioritize professional growth and career advancement strategies |
| Quality Leadership | Identify, recruit, and retain highly effective leaders within schools as well as those outside the school building, such as district and school board leaders |
| Supportive Learning Environments | Develop comprehensive school plans that address student health, school safety, and school culture and climate |
| Advanced Instructional Systems | Maintain rigorous instructional standards, accelerated learning for all students, and accountability systems that support school and district improvement |
| Clear Pathways to Post-Secondary Success | Ensure multiple pathways for youth and working adults to enroll in post-secondary programs and complete credentials of value |
| Adequate & Equitable Funding | Fund a birth-to-work strategy that closes opportunity and resource gaps and prepares all Georgians for educational and economic success |

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People-Centered Systems

- The EdQuest Georgia Framework encourages state policymakers, educators, and corporate and community leaders to bust structures and mindsets that stand in the way of improved individual well-being, resilient communities, and a securer economic future.



ISSUE

2

**Early Childhood Supports:
Toward a Seamless State Child
Development Strategy**

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Big Bet on Georgia's Youngest

- Develop and execute a unified delivery plan that provides greater assurance that vulnerable children receive the education, health, and family services and supports necessary to be ready for school and life.



What Does A Unified Delivery Plan Entail?

- State agencies tasked with delivering services and supports to young children coordinate systems and investments.
- A unified plan would:
 - Address access, affordability, and quality concerns
 - Leverage resources across all levels, especially as federal investments dwindle
 - Better serve the children, families, and communities that will contribute to the state's economic future



Building on Strong Foundation

- The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's strategic plan outlines a vision for a comprehensive child development plan.
- The Mental Health Parity Act encourages cross-agency and cross-sector collaboration that could inspire similar coordination in the child development space.



Moving Georgia Forward

- The plan would serve as a unifying strategy for a group of agencies that all serve young children but may have different missions, funding levels, and governance arrangements.
- The plan would put the focus where it should be – on infants, toddlers, young children, and their families.
- A unified plan also has two other underemphasized benefits: (1) expanding access to underserved groups and (2) ensuring greater transparency, accountability, and shared responsibility around child development and school readiness.

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ISSUE

4

**Post-Secondary Promise:
Rethinking the Pathway to
Economic Prosperity**

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Big Bet for Georgia's Adults

- State leaders should ensure young adults and working adults have multiple pathways to enroll in post-secondary programs and complete credentials of value.



What Is the Multiple Pathways Approach?

- Goal: Residents earn post-secondary credentials that support livable-wage employment.
- Objective: Expand access to short-term credentials and ensure that program offerings align with two- and four-year degrees
- Mechanism: Create seamless transfer of credit and experiences across Georgia's K-12, post-secondary, and workforce development systems.



Building on Strong Foundation

- Create skill and credential maps to show how knowledge, skills, and abilities progress from short-term credentials to doctoral degrees
- Communicate the value of short-term credential programs as a means of accelerating economic opportunity for Georgians, especially those residents that are not recent high school graduates



Moving Georgia Forward

- State and system leaders should encourage business and industry representatives to co-develop rigorous pathways and curricula for high-demand career areas.
- The Georgia General Assembly should consider expanding incentives for the private sector to offer “learn and earn” opportunities for Georgians enrolled in post-secondary programs.
- State, system, and corporate leaders should develop a more inclusive narrative for post-secondary opportunities that uses labor market data to demonstrate that four-year credentials are not the only pathway to family-sustaining employment.

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