

2026 EdQuest State Policy Plan Highlights

Priority	Recommended Actions
<p>Birth to Age 8:</p> <p>Expand access to high-quality early care and learning options that leverage new state and corporate investments.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a new early care economic model focused on attracting state and corporate investment. 2. Provide incentives for communities to develop comprehensive early care plans.
<p>K-12 Education:</p> <p>Champion research-based strategies that improve student achievement and post-graduate outcomes, including often-overlooked factors such as student attendance, engagement, and wellness.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop attendance strategies focused on early identification and intervention. 2. Increase student engagement by implementing deeper learning approaches. 3. Support post-secondary readiness by expanding access to work-based learning.
<p>Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness:</p> <p>Leverage the “Top State for Talent” initiative to ensure more Georgians can achieve quality of life by earning credentials of value.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Affordability:</i> Redesign student aid and institutional funding strategies to ensure investments expand education opportunity and align with the state’s talent needs 2. <i>Alignment:</i> Fund initiatives that encourage businesses to hire apprentices and interns 3. <i>Acceleration:</i> Create an adult learner initiative that encourages residents with some college experience to earn credentials of value
<p>Educator Recruitment and Retention:</p> <p>Improve student achievement by focusing on the constellation of factors that support teacher growth and engagement, including professional autonomy, personal well-being, and strong school and district leadership.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver early-career experiences that prepare educators for excellence. 2. Leverage current professional growth strategies to help educators execute quality practices. 3. Create formal teacher leadership roles to support instructional excellence.
<p>Barriers to Learning and Well-Being:</p> <p>Address learning and wellness barriers by investing in shared infrastructure – community health hubs and networks, coordinated data and referral systems, and cross-sector partnerships.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tailor services to community needs. 2. Expand access through cost-share model. 3. Jump start efforts by providing core services to children and adolescents.