

FOCUS AREA: K-12 Education

PRIORITY: Champion research-based strategies that improve student achievement and post-graduate outcomes, including often overlooked factors such as student attendance, engagement, and wellness.

Framework 2033 Big Bet

Increasing district and community capacity to accelerate student learning and to expand access to post-secondary and work-based learning opportunities.

How the 2026 Priority Ensures More Graduates Are Ready to Succeed	Recommended Actions
<p>School systems have revamped instructional strategies and student support services since the onset of the pandemic. For example, districts have partnered with nonprofits and community health providers to improve student wellness.</p> <p>Many districts have created new initiatives to address chronic absenteeism and student disengagement, two factors that threaten student success and long-term well-being.</p> <p>When healthy students attend school regularly, educators can model the social, emotional, and academic mindsets that contribute to high student engagement.</p> <p>Georgia’s leaders should pursue deeper learning approaches that prepare today’s graduates for tomorrow’s careers.</p>	<p><i>Develop attendance strategies focused on early identification and intervention</i></p> <p>The pandemic underscored the need for school and community leaders to develop comprehensive strategies that match the depth and severity of the challenges arising from chronic absenteeism.</p> <p><i>Increase student curiosity and engagement by implementing deeper learning approaches</i></p> <p>Districts should reimagine learning in Grade six to 12 classrooms, encouraging students to take ownership of their learning.</p> <p><i>Support post-secondary readiness by expanding access to work-based learning</i></p> <p>Career pathways should prepare graduates for what they need: mastery of in-demand skills, access to high-wage employment, and the opportunity to continue their training.</p>
Key Outcome	
<p><i>Increase the percentage of high school graduates who meet all four ACT college readiness benchmarks to 40% by 2033, up from the current rate of 31%.</i></p> <p>84% of ACT test takers who met all four college readiness benchmarks earned post-secondary credentials within six years, compared to 38% that met none. Investments in career-themed learning should close the post-secondary readiness gap.</p>	
EdQuest Resources	
Advanced Instructional System	Leading Indicators