



CAMPAIGN UPDATES



JANUARY 2022

From the Director

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education's [Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2022](#) underscores how the pandemic worsened the underlying educational and economic challenges confronting our most vulnerable Georgians.

This year's report reflects the importance of engagement and a positive learning climate that extends from the home into early learning and grade school settings and across the community. Community members can play a vital role in addressing the factors that affect children's learning outcomes, including food insecurity; vision and hearing problems; and mental, dental, and physical health issues. Meanwhile, we call on our partners in communities across the state to promote family and child engagement, reinforcing the efforts of educators and school leaders.

Together let's take hold of the new opportunities that emerge in 2022 to ensure that all children in Georgia thrive.

With gratitude,
Arianne

#GetGAReading this Month

Please share these posts on your own social media platforms this month.



"A Vision for Child & Family Well-Being" conversations on preventing child abuse and neglect provide a place to learn, share ideas, and find your role in supporting Georgia's children and families. It's free to anyone living in Georgia. Together we can create a better future for Georgia's children and families. Join the conversation: <https://bit.ly/3GKAXdu>



The “A Vision for Child & Family Well-Being” conversation series aims to deliver equitable, actionable solutions to preventing abuse and neglect. It's free to all Georgians. Together we can create a better future for Georgia's children and families. <https://bit.ly/3GKAXdu>



THE FAMILY & CHILD WELL-BEING SERIES

We all play a part in helping families thrive. What's your role?

Introducing a series of Inklusivv conversations in partnership with DFCS (The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services) on preventing child abuse and neglect. This is the place to learn, share ideas and find your role in supporting Georgia's children and families. If you're a parent, friend, family member, professional, volunteer or anyone concerned about keeping children safe and helping families thrive, please join us for any or all of these conversations! Learn how to get involved at about.inklusivv.co/family-wellbeing-series



The Big Picture of Child Well-Being



Early Learning for Lifelong Success



Building Resilience for Brighter Futures



Family Health and Child Well-Being



Economic Opportunities for Promising Futures



Advocating for Family and Child Well-Being



PREVENTION AND
COMMUNITY SUPPORT SECTION



YOUR STORIES



Paving the Way to Fines-Free Library Access Statewide

The Coastal Plain Regional Library System (CPRLS) has joined the fine-free movement to increase access to books and resources. CPRLS, one of 51 library systems in Georgia Library PINES, also wiped away 20,000 patrons' old debt with the "clean slate"

project. The fine-free pilot will test out the impact of this policy change on the larger PINES network.



Cobb Collaborative Achieves "21 in 2021" Little Free Library Goal

Driven by the motivation of increasing access to books to improve reading achievement, Cobb Collaborative placed 21 Little Free Libraries in schools, apartment complexes,

churches, and early learning centers across Cobb County. Supporters donated new and gently used books to help fill and maintain the libraries.



Second Round of POWER Payments Kicks Off

Applications opened on Jan. 18 for the second round of Bright from the Start: Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)'s POWER (Providing Our Workforce Essential Recognition) supplemental payments. Funded by the American Rescue Plan

Act of 2021, \$1,000 bonuses will be provided to 35,000 early learning

professionals and staff in Georgia. [The latest DECAL Download podcast offers more details.](#)

RESOURCES

Visit getgeorgiareading.org/coronavirus for vaccine updates and a list of timely resources.

Implementing Trauma-Informed Practices in Rural Schools

Nearly 1 in 5 students in the U.S. attend a rural school, and half of those students live at or below the poverty line. This [research brief](#) from the National Comprehensive Center outlines the need for implementing trauma-informed approaches in rural school communities, offering recommendations for planning and implementation by schools and districts.

Kid Talks: Georgia Leaders Discuss Child Policy

Voices for Georgia's Children is producing a [series of short videos](#) throughout the 2022 state legislative session that invites elected officials to share their insights and perspectives on issues that impact Georgia's children, including education, physical and mental health, and juvenile justice.

Supporting Working Parents, Building a Stable Labor Force

Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) created a [toolkit](#) to provide businesses with resources, data, and useful tips to help employers maintain a family friendly work environment, including strategies for increasing families' access to quality early care and learning.

\$4.7M Available to Help Stem Learning Loss

The Georgia legislature allocated \$4.7 million in state funds to the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to reduce learning loss for Georgia's youth. Georgia DFCS is partnering with the United Way of Greater Atlanta to create a grant opportunity that will support community-based organizations who are serving Georgia's most vulnerable young people. [Proposals](#) are due by Feb. 2.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Strolling Thunder 2022

Saturday, Jan. 29, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m.

GEEARS, in partnership with ZERO TO THREE, is hosting virtual advocacy

trainings for families with young children across Georgia. Families with young children that register and attend this event will receive a gift card for their participation. [Register Now](#)

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars

Jan. 25 and Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; 3 p.m.

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR) hosts weekly sessions that lift the best science, ideas, and programs to inform local efforts. The Jan. 25 session is called "Families on Shaky Ground: Uncloaking and Addressing the Realities of Persistent Instability," and the Feb. 1 session is called "Big Bets Part III: Community Schools Accelerating Equitable Recovery." [Register Now](#)

Crucible of Practice Salons

Feb. 8, 12:30 p.m.

This monthly CGLR webinar series provides a deep-dive exploration of how community coalitions are approaching and moving the work to improve the early school success prospects of children from economically challenged families, neighborhoods, and communities. [Register Now](#)

We Want to Hear from You

Our partners are the heroes in this work. We want to help connect you to each other and to resources that can help you get even greater results. Please share your stories with us so we can post them to getgeorgiareading.org. Send your stories—or any questions about the Campaign—to Arianne Weldon at arianne@gafcp.org.