

# GEORGIA COUNCIL on LITERACY

October 2024 Newsletter



Thank you for making Georgia Reads Day and the Share the Magic Reading Rally a huge success!



Over 300 Atlanta Public Schools students attended the rally on September 30. Although many students impacted by Hurricane Helene could not tune in, Georgia Public Broadcasting reported that approximately 112,000 students participated in the livestreamed event.

Super Bowl champion, Share the Magic Foundation CEO, and Georgia Reads Coach Malcolm Mitchell led a press conference and provided copies of his book, *My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World*, to students attending the rally. Here are some [highlights](#) from the Reading Rally on September 30. If you were not able to join us that day, the entire [video](#) is available to view at any time.

Georgia Reads Day would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our partners. We extend our sincere appreciation to:

- Senator and Mrs. Billy Hickman
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Georgia Power
- Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia

And a special thank you to volunteers from Georgia Student Finance Commission, Governor's Office of Student Achievement, Georgia Department of Education, Omni Atlanta Hotel at Centennial Park, Office of Lt. Governor Burt Jones, Share the Magic Foundation, Technical College System of Georgia, and the University System of Georgia. We are grateful for their time and passion for improving literacy!





### **Become a Georgia Reads Partner**

Georgia Reads, a statewide initiative of the Georgia Council on Literacy, aims to boost the state's literacy ranking to first in the nation by 2030. Supported by the Georgia General Assembly, state, community, and school leaders, this effort unifies literacy programs and resources across Georgia. Improving reading outcomes will drive economic growth, reduce poverty, and strengthen communities, helping everyone turn the page to a brighter future.

Passionate and committed partners are essential to the Georgia Reads movement. Individual and corporate donors may qualify for a [dollar-for-dollar tax credit](#) and enjoy a prominent role in all Georgia Reads activities.

[Mrs. Dayle Burns and Georgia Reads Coach Malcolm Mitchell](#) discuss the growing need for literacy support and how to apply for the Peach Education Tax Credit.

Interested in becoming a [Georgia Reads Champion Sponsor](#)? Let's [connect!](#)

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### [Georgia Reads Community Award](#)

Are you part of a community that is making a difference in literacy outcomes? We want to hear from you! We're looking for innovative approaches that have shown measurable results. The Georgia Reads Community Award will recognize 10 community partnerships, that have shown success improving literacy, with a \$25,000 award to continue their efforts. Learn more and [apply](#) today! Applications are due by 5 p.m., Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

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### [READBowl Competition](#)

Sign up for Malcolm Mitchell's READBowl beginning November 4. Encourage elementary, middle, and high schools to join READBowl starting January 13, 2025. Classrooms with the highest average reading minutes will win state recognition, a visit to the State Capitol, and a READBowl state championship trophy in February 2025. Visit the [Share the Magic Foundation](#) website for details and registration information.

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### **Celebrating Literacy**



Governor Brian Kemp proclaimed September as Georgia Literacy Month. The Governor's proclamation highlights the urgent need to increase literacy levels throughout the state.

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### Pre-K Week

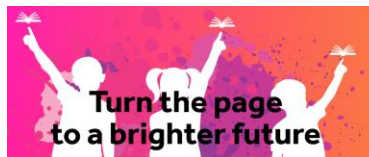
This year's Pre-K Week, held October 7–11, was a huge success! Now in its 14th year, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) and Voices for Georgia's Children partnered to coordinate over 150 Pre-K classroom visits. This year, DECAL suggested volunteers read *A Magnificent Field Trip to the Governor's Mansion*, written by Georgia Reads Coach, Malcolm Mitchell.



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### November 1 is Family Literacy Day

This day highlights the importance of reading and learning for the entire family while emphasizing the impact parents have on their children's education. Encourage family members and friends to read to their children during the Thanksgiving holidays.



### Georgia Reads Launches New Website

On Georgia Reads Day, the dedicated literacy website went live, along with the Georgia Reads Community Award application. Please visit [georgiareads.org](http://georgiareads.org) for resources, literacy data, and upcoming events.



### In the News this Month

["Savannah Mayor Johnson, football star Malcom Mitchell launch Georgia Reads campaign"](#)  
["State officials celebrate official "Georgia Reads Day"](#)

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### Did you know?

According to the most recent 2022 NAEP assessment, 68% of Georgia's fourth grade students are not reading on grade level. These students are more likely to drop out of high school, live in poverty, and have poor health. "The State of Literacy in Georgia," [Deloitte](#), 2023.



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Play your part in supporting Georgia Reads. Order a T-shirt today!

### Calendar



#### Upcoming Georgia Council on Literacy Meetings

- November 19, 2024, Lanier Technical College, Gainesville
- January 7, 2025 - Tentative virtual meeting
- April 15, 2025 - Valdosta State University
- July 22, 2025 - Dalton State College
- November 18, 2025 - West Georgia University

Public comment is reserved for the last 15 minutes of each Council meeting. Please email [Ann Rosenthal](#) if you would like to speak at the November Council meeting.

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**Stay connected. Click the links below to connect with us and share your experience using #GeorgiaReads.**

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