EdQuest Georgia is a map for the quest we are on to make Georgia one of the top performing states in the nation with regard to public education. This is a summary of opportunities identified in each core area of the Baseline Report of EdQuest Georgia. These highlight the state's strengths and opportunities for reform.

### Foundations for Learning

**CORE AREA**

- Georgia must increase access to health supports for young children and their families, including access to insurance and providers as well as mental and oral health support.
- Increase access to family supporting policies, such as work supports and family leave.
- Examine the state Earned Income Tax Credit.

**ALERT! POLICY MISSING OR NEEDS IMMEDIATE ACTION**

- Increase access to high-quality early learning programs, especially for low-income children.
- Fully leverage the opportunities under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to strengthen and expand connections between early learning programs and elementary schools, improve instruction, and measure progress.
- Support the Department of Public Health’s efforts to increase access to screenings, assessments, referrals, and mental health services for children from birth through age eight.

**YIELD! PROCEED WITH CAUTION, MORE WORK TO BE DONE**

- Refine the performance measure for teacher preparation programs.
- Strengthen induction programs.
- Allow time to evaluate the teacher effectiveness system.

**GO! KEEP MOVING FORWARD: STRONG POLICIES IN PLACE**

- Continue to support statewide coalitions that align the work being done across all policy areas, including health, education, and family well-being.
- Support and expand Georgia’s Pre-K Program.
- Continue to support the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning’s work developed under the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant.

### Quality Teaching

**CORE AREA**

- Recognize teachers as professionals to attract and retain talent.
- Examine teacher compensation.
- Address teacher equity.

**ALERT! POLICY MISSING OR NEEDS IMMEDIATE ACTION**

- Continue the rigorous teacher preparation program requirements.
- Continue the tiered certification ladder.

**YIELD! PROCEED WITH CAUTION, MORE WORK TO BE DONE**

- Develop a comprehensive, statewide plan to support the recruitment, training, and ongoing professional development of leaders.
- Address leadership turnover.

**GO! KEEP MOVING FORWARD: STRONG POLICIES IN PLACE**

- Implement and fully support the proposed recommendations concerning leader development in the Georgia Department of Education’s Every Student Succeeds State Plan.
- Continue the current leader training, certification, and professional development reforms.

### Quality Leadership

**CORE AREA**

- Address teacher equity.
- Address leadership turnover.

**ALERT! POLICY MISSING OR NEEDS IMMEDIATE ACTION**

- Address leadership turnover.

**YIELD! PROCEED WITH CAUTION, MORE WORK TO BE DONE**

- Continue the current leader training, certification, and professional development reforms.

**GO! KEEP MOVING FORWARD: STRONG POLICIES IN PLACE**

- Continue to support state wide coalitions that align the work being done across all policy areas, including health, education, and family well-being.
- Support and expand Georgia’s Pre-K Program.
- Continue to support the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning’s work developed under the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant.
## Opportunities for All Core Areas

### Supportive Learning Environments
- Supports for homeless and foster youth must be strengthened.
- Georgia must take steps to increase the mental health workforce.
- Support the Georgia Milestones Assessment System.
- Increase the use of formative assessments to inform instruction.
- Incorporate benchmarks to measure Georgia's progress.
- Ensure the accountability system holds schools and districts responsible for the success of all students.
- Support district use of technology.
- Support the Innovation Fund, research, and evaluation.
- Continue the commitment to college- and career-ready standards.
- Continue to uphold Georgia's high graduation standards.
- Support Georgia's Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs.
- Support Dual Enrollment.

### Advanced Instructional System
- None noted at this time.
- Focus on nontraditional students.
- Support Georgia's Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs.
- Support Dual Enrollment.

### Clear Pathways to Post-Secondary Success
- Continue to develop and fully fund a needs-based aid program as described in HB 787, which passed the General Assembly in 2018.
- Conduct a cost assessment.
- Provide district resources to be able to uniformly track expenditures to the school level.
- Evaluate district and school expenditures.
- Pass funding reform legislation that allows for greater flexibility to target resources to district need.
- Consider both equity and adequacy in funding decisions.
- None noted at this time.

### Adequate and Equitable Funding
- Governor Deal's Commission on Children's Mental Health is a positive step in planning further supports for vulnerable, underserved children.
- Health supports should be expanded and made available for all Georgia students in the areas of physical health, mental health, and nutrition, and programs like telemedicine and school-based health centers.
- Georgia should increase support for out-of-school time programs.
- GaDOE's School Climate Rating system and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program provide strong, ongoing supports for students.
- Governor Deal's Childhood Obesity Initiative, Georgia Shape, continues to make statewide progress in improving the physical health and nutritional wellness of children from birth to age 18.
- For more information see: EdQuestGa.org

**For more information see: EdQuestGa.org**