










Opportunities for All Core Areas

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.

CORE AREA	ALERT! POLICY MISSING OR NEEDS IMMEDIATE ACTION	YIELD! PROCEED WITH CAUTION, MORE WORK TO BE DONE	GO! KEEP MOVING FORWARD: STRONG POLICIES IN PLACE
 <p>Foundations for Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
 <p>Quality Teaching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize teachers as professionals to attract and retain talent. Examine teacher compensation. Address teacher equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine the performance measure for teacher preparation programs. Strengthen induction programs. Allow time to evaluate the teacher effectiveness system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the rigorous teacher preparation program requirements. Continue the tiered certification ladder.
 <p>Quality Leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive, statewide plan to support the recruitment, training, and ongoing professional development of leaders. Address leadership turnover. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement and fully support the proposed recommendations concerning leader development in the Georgia Department of Education's Every Student Succeeds State Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the current leader training, certification, and professional development reforms.

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 <p>Supportive Learning Environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports for homeless and foster youth must be strengthened. • Georgia must take steps to increase the mental health workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
 <p>Advanced Instructional System</p>	<p>None noted at this time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the commitment to college- and career-ready standards. • Continue to uphold Georgia's high graduation standards.
 <p>Clear Pathways to Post-Secondary Success</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop and fully fund a needs-based aid program as described in HB 787, which passed the General Assembly in 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on nontraditional students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Georgia's Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs. • Support Dual Enrollment.
 <p>Adequate and Equitable Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a cost assessment. • Provide district resources to be able to uniformly track expenditures to the school level. • Evaluate district and school expenditures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass funding reform legislation that allows for greater flexibility to target resources to district need. • Consider both equity and adequacy in funding decisions. 	<p>None noted at this time.</p>