

LITERACY FOR ALL.

The State of Literacy in Georgia

Action Needed for Georgia's Thriving
Workforce and Economy

At the request of Literacy For All, Deloitte provided pro bono work and conducted a study to determine the impact of low literacy on the state's workforce and economy. The study states that a crisis is looming...

**1.7
million**

adults in Georgia
have low literacy
skills—that's

1 in 6

88%

of all jobs in Georgia require a high school
diploma or post-secondary credential

Over 820,000 Georgians do not qualify for these
jobs due to a lack of a high school diploma

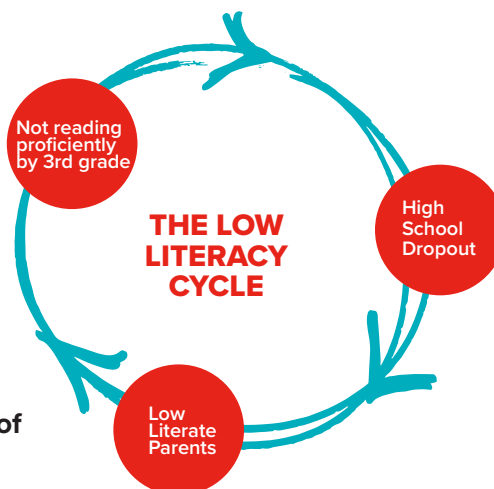
Low literacy costs
Georgia

**\$1.3
billion**

annually in
social services,
incarceration costs
and lost revenues

65% of the state's 3rd grade
students are not reading at
grade level, making these
students four times more likely
to drop out of high school

Children whose parents have low
literacy levels have a 72% chance of
being at the lowest reading level



The poverty rate for high
school dropouts is over
twice as high as adults with
a high school diploma (26%
vs. 13%)

Deloitte.

Literacy is foundational to education and self-sufficiency. While Georgia is the best place to do business, education is not keeping pace with workforce needs.

Responding to the Deloitte study, Literacy For All partnered with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education and convened a business-led commission, the Georgia Literacy Commission, to review best practices for changing the trajectory of low literacy in Georgia. An advisory committee of experienced literacy and education stakeholders provided guidance, input and research to the Commission.

Georgia Literacy Commission

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



Together, the Commission and Advisory Committee conducted 11 public meetings during which state and private experts shared data-driven content relating to every age learner to explore the lifecycle of low literacy, understand root causes and motivation for positive change, and identify a blueprint for sustainable and actionable solutions that can be executed at the state and local levels.

Thus far, the process has resulted in a framework for ongoing convening and exploration of the topic, as well as immediately actionable recommendations. The attached page shows initiatives being implemented in 2018 and policy and funding items that the Commission continues to develop for the 2019 legislative session. **Help us connect to your community partners to implement these recommendations.**

Commission Co-Chairs:

Sandra Deal
First Lady, State of Georgia

Wendell Dallas
Vice President, Operations
Atlanta Gas Light

Phil Jacobs
Retired President AT&T Georgia

Teya Ryan
President and CEO
Georgia Public Broadcasting

Ben Hames
Deputy Commissioner, Workforce
Georgia Dept. of Economic
Development

Jaimie Hebert
President
Georgia Southern University

Patrise Perkins-Hooker
Fulton County Attorney

Amy Hutchins
Education and Workforce Development
Manager
Georgia Power

Jose Perez
President
Target Market Trends

Tunisia L. Poole
Counsel – Employment Law Team
AFLAC

Valencia Stovall
State Representative

Martha Ann Todd
Director
Governor's Office of Student
Achievement

Commission Members:

Gretchen Corbin
Commissioner
Technical College System of
Georgia

Steve Dorman
President
Georgia College and State
University

Mark Elgart
President & CEO
AdvancED

Ariel Esteves
Director, Care4U Georgia Market
CareSource

Buster Evans
President
Teacher's Retirement System of
Georgia

Amy Jacobs
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Early Care and
Learning

Rick Jasperse, Chair
House Higher Education Committee

Tracie Kambies
U.S. Retail Sector Technology Lead
Deloitte

Helene Lollis
President
Pathbuilders, Inc.

Fran Millar, Chair
Senate Higher Education Committee

Frank "Chunk" Newman
Project Executive
Batson-Cook

Chuck Williams
State Representative

Steve Wrigley
Chancellor
University System of Georgia

Joe Yarbrough
President & CEO
Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI)

www.galiteracycomm.org