

# OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2017-2020

**Our vision for Georgia:** By 2020, all Georgia students will enter kindergarten prepared to succeed and on a path to read to learn by third grade.

**Our mission:** To support high-quality early learning and healthy development for Georgia's youngest children, from birth to five, by championing policies, promoting innovative and evidence-based practices, and building public will.

## What it takes

- All of Georgia's children birth to five are in high-quality environments that support learning and development.
- Families have the information, skills and supports needed to create safe, nurturing and language-rich environments that support children's early learning and healthy development.
- Business and community leaders champion and public officials implement equitable public policies and practices that support families with the greatest needs.
- The research community works together to identify and share innovative practices related to early brain development.
- Data systems are accessible and used to inform policies and practices as well as measure progress.
- Public systems are interconnected and aligned to provide effective support for families and children.

## What we know

### Brain Development



The first three years of life represent the most rapid period of brain development, and experiences during these years critically shape future development.

### Effects of High-Quality Early Learning

Children who attend high-quality early learning programs are:

- More likely to graduate high school, have a job and earn higher wages.
  - Less likely to drop out of school, depend on social services or be arrested.
- 

### Economic Impact of Early Education

- Every \$1 invested in high-quality early learning yields \$13 in savings.
  - In Georgia, the early care and education industry generates \$4.7 billion in economic activity each year.
  - A conservative estimate of the level of parents' annual earnings supported by the availability of child care in Georgia is \$24 billion.
- 

# DRIVE CHANGE » CREATE IMPACT

We are focused on driving positive change through the following three methods.

## Communicate, Convene, and Collaborate

We educate, inform and mobilize stakeholders for collective action and impact to ensure all Georgia families achieve the economic, community and health benefits of setting a strong foundation prenatally and in the first five (5) years of a child's life.

## Advocate

We advocate for effective policies that support access to high-quality early learning and encourage healthy development.

## Research and Innovate

We are a trusted source who brings the most promising innovation and evidence-based practices and research to the state on behalf of Georgia's youngest children.

## Our 2017-2019 goals

Identify and communicate gaps in early learning quality and access.

Ensure policy makers and partners have the data and resources needed to improve policy and practice.

Identify and develop a diverse group of business and community leaders across the state to champion early learning.

Increase funding for high-quality and accessible early learning.

In anticipation of upcoming elections, cultivate relationships with emerging state and local leaders.

## Our strategies

### CONVENE

Be a catalyst to ensure stakeholders work together to improve early childhood policy, practice, and research.

### EDUCATE

Provide opportunities for business and philanthropic leaders, policy makers, and parents to deepen their understanding of current issues.

### ADVOCATE

Advocate for child care quality, accessibility, and affordability.

### ANALYZE

Analyze data, conduct research, and champion policies designed to close the opportunity gap and eliminate the disparities in educational outcomes among Georgia's children.

### COLLABORATE

Foster collaboration, joint planning, and alignment between early education providers and public schools.

### FACILITATE

Facilitate the development and adoption of a statewide definition of success benchmarks for "kindergarten readiness."

### SUPPORT

Support Georgia-specific research projects to improve social-emotional health for children and influence public policy development.



To learn more, visit [gears.org](http://gears.org)