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.
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.

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**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.

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**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 geears.org