

**GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students** 

is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization operating to inspire and provide leadership for a statewide movement on quality early learning and healthy development for all children ages birth through five.

GEEARS was established in 2010 to help business, civic and government leaders maximize the economic return on the state's investments in early care and learning.

# **OUR VISION FOR GEORGIA**

By 2020, all Georgia students enter kindergarten prepared to succeed and on a path to "read to learn" by third grade.

# **GEEARS' 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 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, and are 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 as much as \$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.

# HOW WE DRIVE CHANGE TO CREATE IMPACT

## 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.

## **CONTACT US**

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