



Role: Statewide Engagement Manager

Application Date: Applications will be accepted until August 12, 2024

Reports To: Director of Research and Policy

Location: While GEEARS' office is in Atlanta, the bulk of this hybrid role will be outside of metro Atlanta

Salary Range: \$65,000-\$75,000 depending on qualifications. Applicants can usually expect to start at the lower end of this salary range.

Job Type: Full time, exempt

About GEEARS

[GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students](#) inspires and provides leadership for a statewide movement on quality early learning and healthy development for all children ages birth through five and their families. We work to influence policy, conduct and share research, and increase public awareness of the importance of early childhood.

Position Summary

GEEARS seeks a Statewide Engagement Manager who will identify, train, and support early childhood champions throughout the State of Georgia. The Manager will engage community leaders (e.g., school district leadership, city council members, and business leaders) and elevate the leadership of stakeholders with lived experience on issues that impact young children and their families. The Manager will help develop a statewide strategy that will promote strong early childhood policy, develop a network of motivated, trained, and engaged early childhood advocates, and build long-lasting and deep community partnerships to support our issues across the state.

Working at GEEARS is a uniquely rewarding experience. Candidates who are passionate about community engagement, advocacy, and child and family well-being are encouraged to apply to join a dynamic team committed to bolstering Georgia's investment in its youngest learners.

This is a new position that may evolve over time. Some key responsibilities are:

- Work to expand GEEARS' statewide reach by identifying and engaging potential champions outside of the metro Atlanta area.
- Collaborate with all GEEARS team members to cultivate and maintain strong relationships statewide with a broad range of stakeholders including community leaders, local officials, families, early educators, and other caregivers.
- Organize and host meetings, workshops, town halls, and other events that foster collaboration, build skills, and encourage knowledge sharing aligned with GEEARS' strategic goals.
- Serve as an ambassador for GEEARS, promoting our work and educating others about the importance of early childhood education, health, and family well-being.



- Plan and execute an annual statewide Summit that will convene partners and advocates to learn together.
- In collaboration with other GEEARS team members and partners, help formulate community input and feedback processes to identify family, child, caregiver, and educator priorities.
- Mobilize support for critical issues based on strategies set collectively with the Policy Team.
- Ensure timely communication of achievements, challenges, and needs to GEEARS' leadership and partners.
- Serve as an engaged member of the GEEARS Policy and Research Team and participate in other GEEARS activities as assigned.
- Collaborate with other GEEARS programs and projects as appropriate for statewide work.

Why GEEARS is a Great Place to Work

GEEARS has repeatedly been named a “Best Place to Work” by the Atlanta Business Chronicle due to our workplace benefits, flexible work practices, and collaborative, mission-oriented environment. While you’ll have a unique position on our 16-member team, you’ll also be well-integrated with our entire staff, which is a supportive, all-hands-on-deck crew. As a team, we are laser-focused on our mission to make Georgia the best place in the country to raise a young child. If you love policy, geek out on data and research, are a passionate advocate, or consider yourself a natural connector, you’ll feel right at home here. We’re also a team who regularly celebrate one another; who occasionally bring our children and dogs to work; who care for one another. We’re confident you’ll love being a part of the GEEARS team.

Qualifications and Experience

This position provides a unique opportunity to help make progress on some of the most pressing issues facing Georgia’s families, economy, and future by helping build a statewide movement to increase access to high-quality early education, early childhood health, and family well-being.

The Statewide Engagement Manager should be a natural at relationship-building and an eager learner. They should bring an equity focus to the work and be highly collaborative. For this position, we seek an individual who can make complex policy issues understandable to a wide range of people. They’ll also help *others* share their stories and ideas with decision-makers.



More specifically, we seek an individual with the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in public policy, education, communications, or a related field.
- At least five years' experience working in community organizing, education, coalition-building, government, public policy, or nonprofits.
- Experience in training, facilitation, or community outreach (strongly preferred).
- Understanding of advocacy and legislative processes.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills and strong interpersonal skills with the ability to engage and mobilize diverse groups and individuals.
- Proven organizational and project management skills.
- Knowledge of and/or experience living in Georgia communities outside of Metro Atlanta preferred.
- Commitment to advancing early childhood issues.
- Experience with social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter).
- Your own, reliable, transportation is essential.
- GEEARS currently has a hybrid work environment and a flexible schedule. This role requires extensive travel throughout the state. In addition, the statewide engagement manager should anticipate the need to work nontraditional hours to reach various constituencies.

Successful GEEARS Team Members also possess the following competencies:

- Dedication to working effectively in collaboration with team members, funders, and stakeholders as well as independently.
- Desire to continue developing professionally and embrace a learning culture.
- Demonstrated commitment to understanding equity and championing programs and policies to transform systems.

This is a full-time position. GEEARS provides benefits including health insurance, dental and vision care, life and disability insurance, parking, and vacation leave and holiday schedules. We have a hybrid work environment and flexible schedules.

GEEARS is an equal opportunity employer and will not discriminate against applicants or employee due to race, color, sex, gender, age, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability,



sexual orientation, creed, citizenship, HIV status, marital status, veteran status, or based on any other federal, state or local protected class. We value diversity in the workplace and strongly urge people in protected groups to apply for employment.

Application: To apply, visit <https://geears.org/about-us/careers/apply/>.

No phone calls, please. Applications will be reviewed as they arrive and accepted until August 12, 2024.