Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

Voter Survey Results

January 2014
Methodology

- Scientific telephone survey of 400 registered voters in Georgia, both landline and cell-only
- Topics included:
  - Importance of issues facing Georgia
  - Strategies for funding early education
  - Opinions on early education in Georgia
- Fielded November 2013
- Margin of sampling error: ±4.9%
Using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means not at all important and 5 means very important, please tell me how important each issue is to you.

- Increasing jobs and economic growth: 4.72
- Improving the quality of our public schools: 4.54
- Reducing tax burdens on families: 4.35
- Improving early childhood education: 4.24
- Improving access to healthcare: 4.17
Which of the two following statements do you agree with MOST?

- We need to make sure that funding for early childhood development, education, and well-being programs are available to all children, regardless of means (68%)

- We need to target funding for early childhood education programs to families who are struggling to make ends meet in today’s economy, because their children are the ones most in need of assistance (28%)

- Don’t know/Refused (4%)
Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

The state should ensure that all Georgia children have access to early childhood education opportunities.

A child that receives early childhood education services before age 5 is more likely to succeed in grade school, high school, and beyond.

All Georgians have a shared responsibility in helping Georgia children grow up healthy and ready to learn.

The state should put the same level of priority on education for children age 0 to 5 as it does on K-12 education.

I would be open to paying higher taxes if I knew the money would be used to make the necessary investments to ensure that all children arrive at school ready to learn and succeed.
Summary

❖ Voters consider improving early childhood education to be an important issue facing the state, though it ranks lower than several other issues.

❖ By a wide margin, voters believe that early education funding should be available to all children, not targeted toward those most in need of assistance.

❖ Voters are most likely to agree that the state should ensure access to early education, that early education has strong positive effects, and that everyone in the state shares the responsibility for helping children grow up well.

❖ They are somewhat less likely to agree that the state should place the same priority on early education as it does on K-12, and that they would be willing to pay more in taxes to ensure students are ready to learn.
Demographics
Do you have any children ages 18 or under in your household?

- Yes: 64%
- No: 36%

Are any of them under age 6?

- Yes: 67%
- No: 33%
The Race

- White: 61%
- Black: 32%
- Other: 4%
- Don’t know/Refused: 3%

Legend:
- White
- Black
- Other
- Don’t know/Refused
Gender

54% Female
46% Male
Household Income

- Less than $45,000: 33%
- $45,000-$75,000: 24%
- More than $75,000: 25%
- Don’t know/Refused: 17%
Political Party

- Democratic: 34%
- Republican: 36%
- Independent: 26%
- Don’t know/Refused: 3%