

Issue 1 – EdQuest Georgia: Charting Education Reform

Issue Overview

In 2017 Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education focused its research on the policies that high performing states, countries, and school systems share, and based on the results of this best practice review, created a framework to ensure that those same policies that enable and accelerate strong public education are in place in Georgia.

This framework, called EdQuest Georgia, includes seven core policy areas that – when fully implemented and working together – produce optimum outcomes for students.



1. *Foundations for learning*, which include supports from birth for families, schools, and communities as well as access to high-quality early learning
2. *Quality teaching* for all students ensured by providing supports for teachers across recruitment, retention, and professional development and learning
3. *Quality leadership* within schools — such as teacher-leaders, counselors, and principals — and those outside the school building, such as district and state leaders
4. *Supportive learning environments* that promote positive conditions for learning within schools through fostering positive school climate and social and emotional learning for students, and outside of school in the home and throughout the community
5. *Advanced instructional systems* that support high standards, personalized learning, innovation, a strong accountability system, and aligned curricula
6. *Clear pathways to post-secondary success* that support the transition from high school into post-secondary education, and ensure post-secondary education access and success
7. *Adequate and equitable funding* to support the achievement of all students

Working as a holistic approach, and not as individual silos, these integrated policy gears can drive education improvement. These policy supports identified in each of the seven identified areas create the foundation needed for individual schools and districts to focus on teaching and learning.

Significance for Georgia

Each of the areas addressed by EdQuest impacts education policy makers and stakeholders in different ways. To those with young children, foundations for learning are likely of immediate importance, but not only parents are impacted by the outcomes of the state’s early learning system. Each of these areas has an impact that reaches far beyond the students currently in Georgia’s schools. The state’s workforce, crime rate, and healthcare system are just a few examples of sectors outside of education that are deeply connected and affected by the condition of the public education system in Georgia. By examining each area, one can see how they are part of a broader policy framework that impacts the entire state.

Action Steps for Georgia

Opportunities to protect great work already being done and to change or implement policies that need improvement to put the state on the path to having a top performing education system are identified for all seven of the core policy areas of EdQuest. These opportunities are the action steps that should be taken to improve or sustain success in each core area of education policy in Georgia. It is the goal of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education that EdQuest Georgia serves as a tool for the education advocacy community and all public education stakeholders to show where opportunities for progress exist. We hope that you will join us on this quest to make Georgia a top-performing state in public education.