



CHILDREN IN GWINNETT ARE NOT READY FOR KINDERGARTEN.

To solve this problem, we need to

work together & think bigger!

"The first 5 years have so much to do with how the next 80 turn out."

-BILL GATES, SR.



EARLY LEARNING CRISIS

by the numbers

Children in Gwinnett are not arriving ready for kindergarten. The problem is apparent throughout the county, with EVERY GCPS school reporting a percentage of students entering kindergarten without the skills they need for success.



**LEARNING
BEGINS
AT BIRTH**

80%

of a child's brain is developed by **age 3**



90%

of a child's brain is developed by **age 5**

48%

of students enter kindergarten ready to learn the curriculum



In fact,

100%

of Gwinnett's public elementary schools have students entering without the skills needed for kindergarten

Children who do not read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade are

4-6X

more likely to leave school without a diploma



Changing a student's course, from **dropout risk to graduate**, yields **higher tax revenue and lower government expenditures** over their lifetime, leading to more productive, invested community members



Our strategic goal is this:

**CHILDREN IN GWINNETT
COUNTY WILL BE READY TO
THRIVE IN KINDERGARTEN.**

THRIVE: /THrīv/

To grow or develop well or vigorously;
To prosper or flourish.

If Gwinnett County can ensure that each child has the opportunity to thrive in kindergarten, then every child can have a fair shot at becoming an educated and productive citizen.



While the ultimate goal of thriving in kindergarten is the same for every student, children and families will want and need different types of support to reach that goal. In order to see progress on a county-wide scale, three key levers have been identified.

LEV•ER: /ˈlevər,ˈlēvər/

A rigid bar used to help move a heavy or firmly fixed load with one end when pressure is applied to the other.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS:

In Gwinnett, we all recognize the importance of early learning and development and understand how to support it.

Children in the county will succeed when the entire community rallies behind them to support their learning and development. This means everyone— families, faith communities, non-profits, business owners, schools, government agencies and more.

OUR ACTION AREAS:

- Create an Early Learning Awareness Campaign
- Provide community support
- Establish an Engagement Ambassadors program

HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING RESOURCES & PROGRAMS:

In Gwinnett, our families have local access to high-quality books, materials, resources, and programs that they need and want.

Community awareness must be supported by early learning resources and programs that are available to families when and where they're needed.

OUR ACTION AREAS:

- Ensure there are locally accessible, high-quality resources and programs
- Create a platform that increases access to and participation in high-quality professional development programs for early learning providers
- Expand access to high-quality early learning programs and services

COLLECTIVE APPROACH TO SUCCESS:

In Gwinnett, our organizations and institutions collaborate, share resources, and provide collective support with broader, bolder resources for early learning.

To make a notable impact in the county, a network of organizations, institutions, and individuals will need to come together, with a focus on improving school readiness.

OUR ACTION AREAS:

- Develop a shared operational resources network to expand effective and accessible early learning opportunities
- Design and implement support structures to assist organizations in measuring and increasing their effectiveness
- Enhance the effective use of all available resources
- Secure funding and support for optimization of high-quality early learning programs and infrastructure

HOW WILL WE MEASURE PROGRESS

for Gwinnett's youngest learners?



By utilizing the promising measurement tool--the Kindergarten Readiness Entry Profile (KREP). Developed, piloted, and used by GCPS for over 3 years, KREP allows comparison of data across multiple years so the impact of programs and initiatives can be measured over time and analyzed for success.

Think about it: In someone's home or preschool classroom, somewhere playing on a playground, or walking to the store with family members, you will find Gwinnett County's next mayors, business leaders, educators—the next great thinkers. Now is the time to prepare them and to prepare our county for a great future.



KINDERGARTEN READY:

When a child is developmentally, behaviorally, socially and academically prepared to explore and engage with teachers, adults and peers in an organized setting, that child is Kindergarten Ready.

HOW CAN YOU

Get Involved?



TIME

Share this information with a co-worker, colleague, or organization that may not be aware of the current needs surrounding Kindergarten readiness in Gwinnett.



TREASURE

Contribute, as we will rely heavily on grants and donations to fund initiatives and campaigns to increase awareness and distribute support materials for children and their families.



TALENT

Contact us via our website, if you believe you can help out with any areas of our strategy, we'd love to hear from you!

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE TO FIND OUR HOW TO GET INVOLVED

