



# Advocacy Training: Preparing for Afterschool Day at the Capitol

January 18, 2023

# Facilitators



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# Agenda

- 1 Logistics for Afterschool Day at the Capitol
- 2 Developing your Advocate Voice

- 3 Talking to Elected Officials
- 4 Resources

A collage of various hands and arms reaching towards the center, each holding or interacting with a different object. The hands are diverse in skin tone, age, and style. Some are holding coffee cups, some are holding glasses, some are holding a USB cable, and some are holding a small red and yellow object. The background is a light gray rectangle centered on a white background.

# Name, Organization, & Location

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# Logistics for Afterschool Day at the Capitol

# Agenda for the Afterschool Day at the Capitol

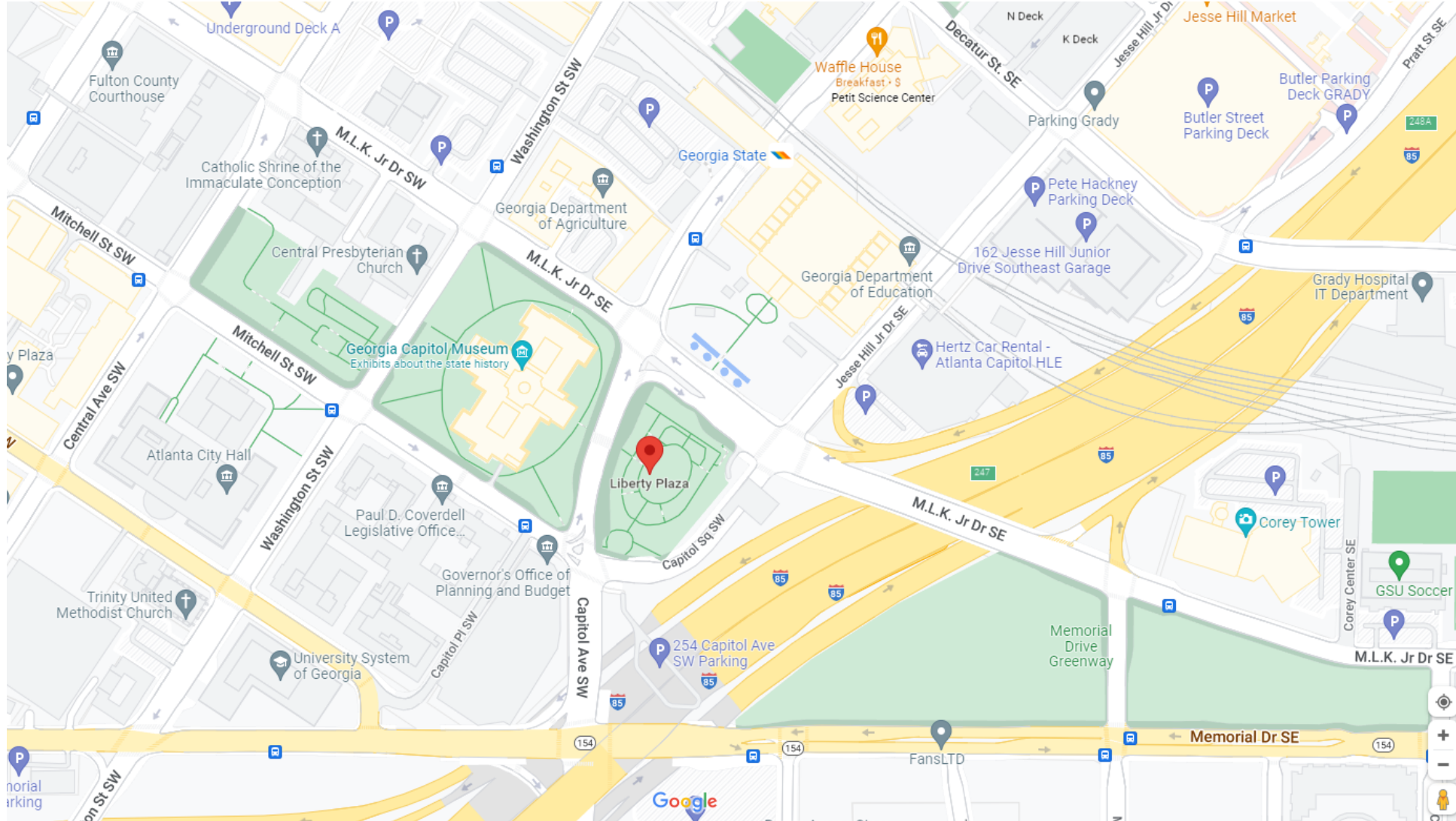
1 Group Picture at Liberty Plaza

2 Head inside the Capitol

3 Afterschool Day at the Capitol

- Meetings with Legislators
- Watch Resolution be Read in Senate
- Watch Resolution be Read in House
- Power of Us Workforce Survey
- Capitol Tour

# Group Picture at Liberty Plaza



Capitol Ave SW,  
Atlanta, GA 30334

# Parking Options

- Underground Atlanta Parking, 75 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303
- Pete Hackney Parking, 162 Jesse Hill Jr, Dr SE, Atlanta, GA 30303
- Steve Polk Plaza Parking, 65 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Atlanta, GA 30303
- 254 Capitol Ave SW, Atlanta, GA 30334
- Consider taking MARTA!

# Head inside the Capitol



# Getting in to the Capitol

- Enter Capitol at public entrance at intersection of Capitol Sq SW and Washington St SW
- Go through metal detector & empty pockets
- Bring a valid photo ID
- Head towards ROOM 230

# Meeting with Your Legislator

- Meetings in their offices/elsewhere

Some of you may have meetings in the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB), which is across the street from the Capitol (located at 18 Capitol Square SW, Atlanta, GA 30334). Look for the little red sign that says public entrance.

- House and Senate chambers are located on the 3rd floor if you want to call your Senator or Representative from the ropes

# Calling Someone From the Ropes

**... MESSAGE ...**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TO REPRESENTATIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATED WITH/HOME TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSE FROM MEMBER:

☐ CANNOT LEAVE AT THIS TIME — IMPORTANT LEGISLATION BEING DISCUSSED.

☐ I WILL CALL YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

☐ PLEASE WAIT — I WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.

☐ MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Developing Your Advocate Voice

# Advocacy

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## advocacy

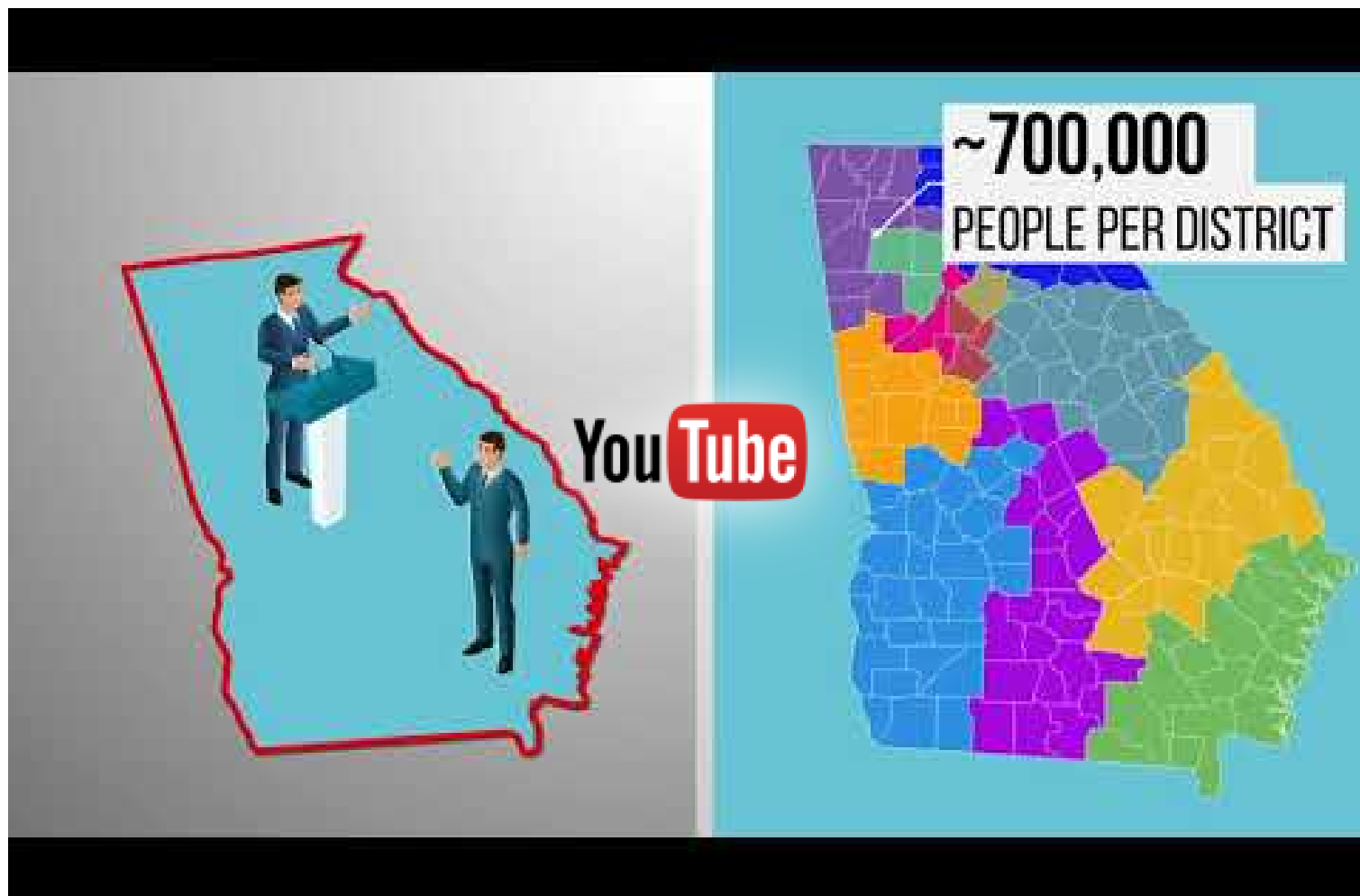
[ad•vo•ca•cy]

*noun*

Any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, or argues for a cause or pleads on behalf of others. Advocacy is speaking out on issues of concern to the public or special audiences.

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# Levels of Government



G·san

GEORGIA STATEWIDE AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

# Advocacy Opportunities

- Communicating with government officials should not be scary!
- They are in office to serve YOU, their constituent!



COMMUNICATION  
WITH GOV. OFFICIALS



IN-DISTRICT/ CAPITOL  
LEGISLATIVE VISITS

# Developing Your Advocate Voice

- Who are You?

Are you a constituent?

What should your legislator know about you?

- The Problem

What do you want them to know?

Why they should care?

- The Ask

What can they do?

What impacts do their decisions have?

# Talk About Your Program

- Emphasize how many students, parents, and partners you engage with.
- Be sure to discuss how your program meets the needs of your community.
- Share how your program has impacted students, families, partners, and the community.

# Sample Messages

- Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.
- For every child in a program, two are waiting to get in.
- Summer learning sets the stage for innovation, creativity, and leadership in every community.
- Afterschool programs play a major role in providing meaningful STEM learning experiences to diverse groups of youth.

# Talking to Elected Officials



# Where and How to Engage?

- Program site visits
- In-district/capitol visits
- Community events, meetings, and hearings
- Rally or advocacy day

# Top Ten Tips for Talking to Your Legislator



GEORGIA STATEWIDE AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

# Tips on Talking to a Legislator

- Stay on topic and convey the important benefits of afterschool for kids, families, and communities.
- “I don't know, and I'll get back to you.”
- Manage the time you are allotted properly.
- Give and receive business cards.
- Have fun and be polite!

# End of Meeting

- Wrap up the meeting by thanking the legislator again for their time.
- Leave the Afterschool Day at the Capitol folder behind and reference the materials.
- Offer yourself or G·SAN as a resource any time they are looking for information or a program to visit.
- Invite them to visit your site to learn more.

# Follow Up

- Send your legislators, whether you met or not, a thank you email!
- Include any materials you referenced during the meeting, including those in your folder.
- Follow up on your request for them to visit your site after the last day of the legislative session (possibly during Summer Learning Week or Lights On Afterschool)!

# Resources



# GSAN's Resources

[www.afterschoolga.org/resources](http://www.afterschoolga.org/resources)

# Demand for Afterschool in Georgia



327,853 or

18%

of Georgia's school-aged children participated in afterschool programs in 2020<sup>1</sup>



but

633,481 or

42%

more children would enroll if a program was available in their community<sup>2</sup>



That's a  
16%

increase in the demand for afterschool programs since 2004<sup>3</sup>

238,265

of Georgia's children are alone and unsupervised between the hours of



3pm



and 6pm<sup>5</sup>

33%

of children in afterschool are from low-income households<sup>4</sup>

## THE TOP THREE ROADBLOCKS TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



Programs are too expensive

55%



No safe way to get their child to and from programs

Percentage of parents reporting they did not enroll their child

## GSAN Fact Sheets

- Demand for Afterschool in Georgia
- Support for Afterschool in Georgia
- The Landscape of Afterschool in Georgia
- A Snapshot of 21st CCLC in Georgia
- Summer by the Numbers



## Addressing the Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and school closures impacted the lives of 10 million Georgians, including Georgia's over 1.7 million students.<sup>1,2</sup> Despite facing challenges to their own sustainability, afterschool and summer programs stepped up and found innovative solutions to provide quality programming to youth, while also playing a greater role than ever in supporting families and communities.



### The Effects of COVID-19

Since the onset of the pandemic, learning has been disrupted and life has looked very different for students across the nation. For much of 2020 and 2021, academic classes, social and extracurricular activities, and essential services were facilitated through virtual or hybrid (a mix of virtual and in-person) models. For many youth, out-of-school time became all the time. **COVID-19 related closures, restrictions and social isolation have impacted learning, as well as the mental, emotional and social health of young people.**

#### Impact on Student Learning

By May 2020, 79% of classes in Georgia were being administered through distance learning and using online resources.<sup>3</sup> A study by RedefinED, which focused on Metro Atlanta students, predicted the difficulties with non-traditional learning to cause a decline of crucial learning markers such as **3rd grade reading proficiency to fall 3.5% and 8th grade math proficiency to fall 4.8%.** In addition, about 21,000 fewer students in ELA and 29,000 fewer in math are on track for grade-level proficiency compared to years prior to the pandemic.<sup>4</sup> A recent Georgia State University study measured substantial reduction in average student achievement and recommended implementing extended learning time during the school day and learning opportunities during the summer targeted to student needs.<sup>5</sup> Now more than ever, students require the

In Metro Atlanta, about 21,000 fewer students in ELA and 29,000 fewer in math are on track for grade-level proficiency.

## Afterschool Issues

- Supporting Healthy Lifestyles
- Building STEM Workforce
- Improving Literacy
- The Impact of COVID-19
- Building Safer Communities



Behavioral Health Needs in  
Afterschool & Summer Programming:  
Equipping Programs to Support Georgia's Youth

## Reports

- Recommendations from the Summer Learning Council
- Equipping Youth Development Providers to Better Support the Behavioral Health Needs of Georgia's Youth
- Investing in Georgia's Youth: Why Afterschool Makes "Cents"





## Summer Planning Toolkit

# Toolkits

- Summer Planning
- Behavioral Health
- Lights On Afterschool
- Summer Learning Week
- How to Host a Successful Legislative Site Visit