



# Advocacy Training: Preparing for Afterschool Day at the Capitol

February 2, 2024

# 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
- 5 Beyond School Bells Luncheon

A collage of various hands and arms reaching towards the center, surrounding the text. The hands are diverse in skin tone, age, and style. Some are holding objects like a coffee cup, a USB cable, glasses, and a small red cup. Others are gesturing or pointing. 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

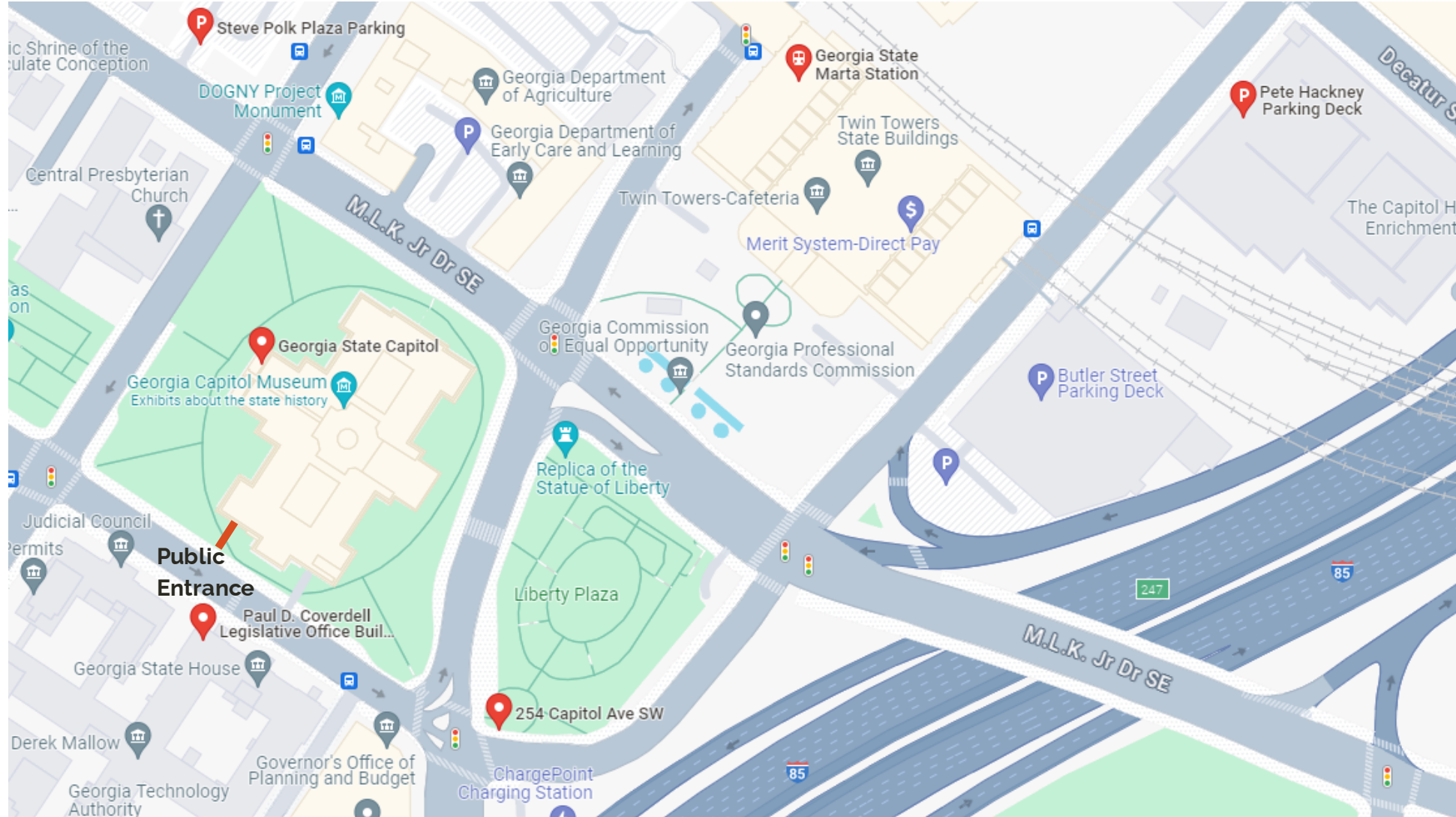
# Agenda for the Afterschool Day at the Capitol

- 1 Meet in South Wing of Capitol
- 2 Group Picture
- 3 Meetings with Legislators
- 4 Capitol Tour

# 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!**

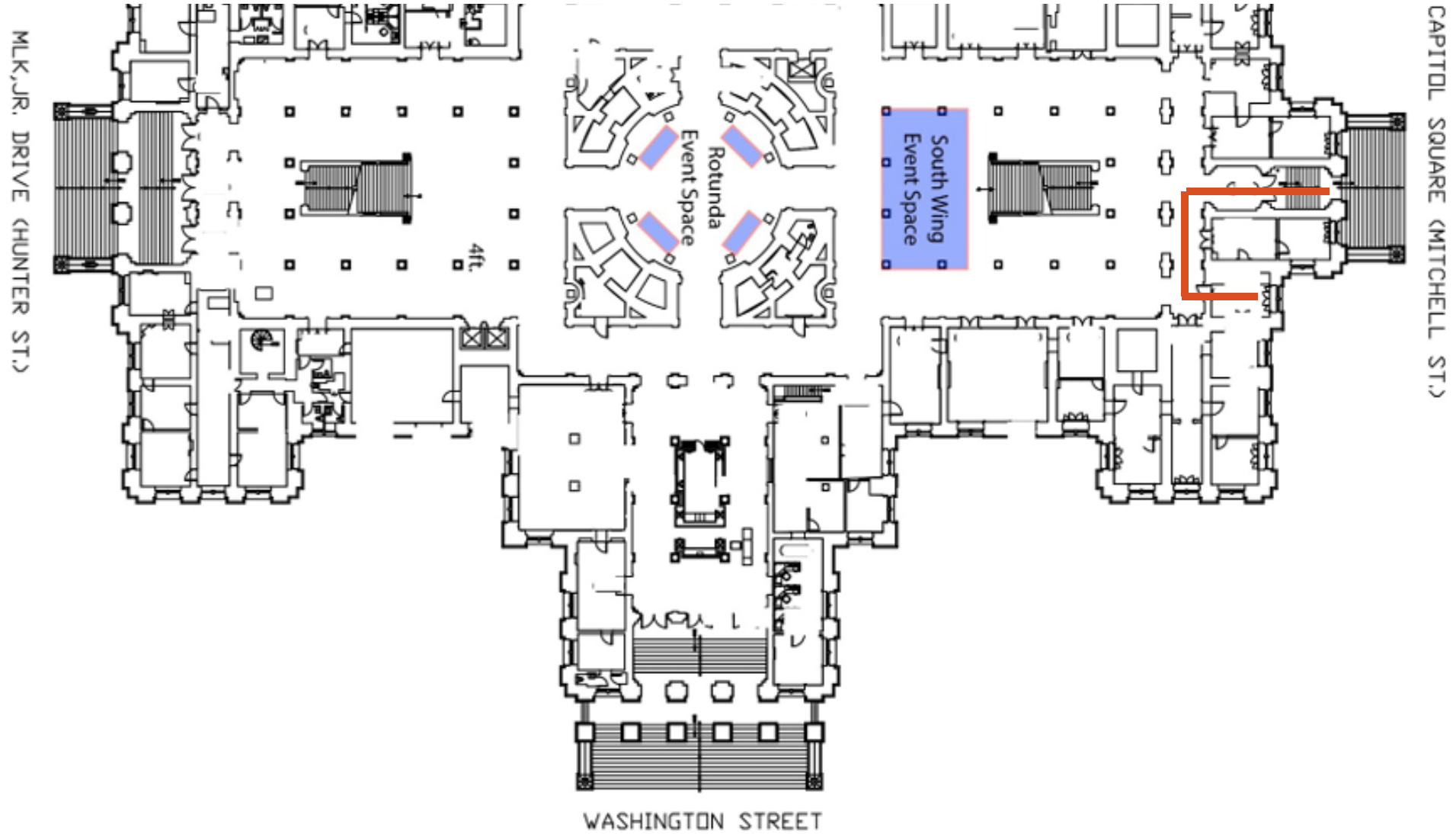
# Parking Locations Near the Capitol



# Getting in to the Capitol

- Enter Capitol at public entrance on Mitchell St
- Go through metal detector & empty pockets
- Bring a valid photo ID
- Turn right and head up the stairs and turn right or left to head towards the South Wing

# South Wing



# Meeting with Your Legislator

- State Capitol Building
- Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB)  
Located across the street from the Capitol at 18 Capitol Square SW, Atlanta, GA 30334.  
Look for the little red sign that says public entrance.
- If you don't have a meeting scheduled, visit your legislators' offices to see if they are available and leave a folder with information for them.



# Developing Your Advocate Voice

# Advocacy

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## advocacy

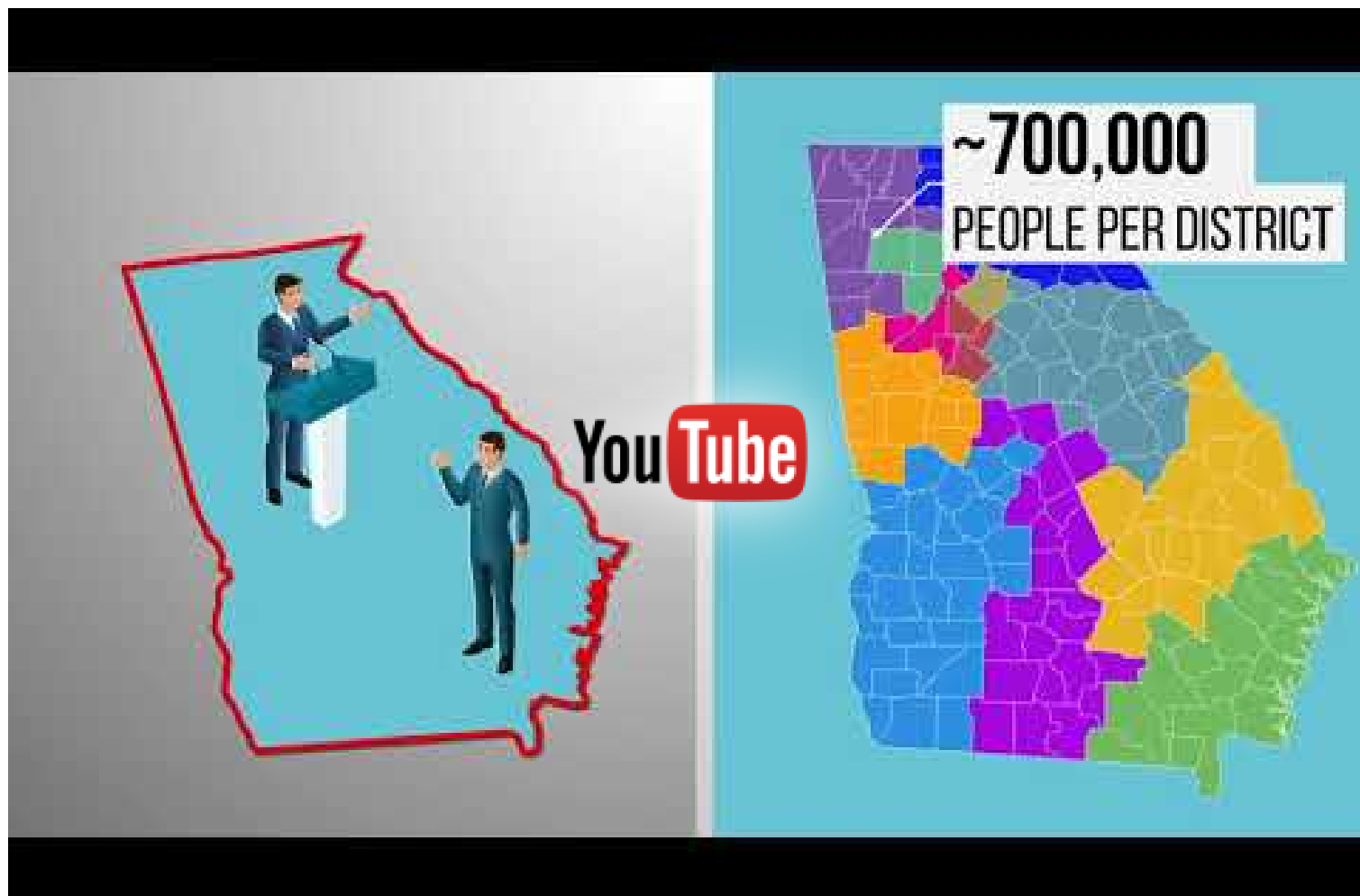
[ad•vo•ca•cy]

*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



# 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.
- Share if you receive government funds (BOOST, 21st CCLC, DFCS Out-of-School Services, and Learning Loss) and the impact of those funds on your program

# 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.



# The Ask(s)

- **BOOST 2.0:** Fund afterschool and summer enrichment programs by re-upping the Georgia Dept. of Education's BOOST grants funding (suggested funding \$20 million a year).
- **Interagency Liaison:** Create an Out-of-School Time liaison position, preferably in the GaDOE to coordinate OST policy across the three state agencies that handle OST programs: GaDOE, Dept. of Human Services, and Dept. of Early Care and Learning.

# The Why: BOOST 2.0

- Build off the existing infrastructure and partnerships of BOOST.
- Create a statewide framework that expands access to and assures quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities.
- Prioritize funding support to OST programs that serve vulnerable youth, such as those who are economically disadvantaged, have a disability, and English language learners.
- Use existing state infrastructure to provide training and technical assistance to OST providers fiscal administration, quality measurement, program effectiveness, and provider leadership.
- Leverage program evaluation and evidence collection strategies embedded within the BOOST grant to determine how to best serve current and prospective afterschool and summer learning providers in the future.

# The Why: Interagency Liaison

- Alignment and coordination of OST services provided to youth and families
- Development of reliable protocols for interagency communication regarding implementation of similar youth enrichment programs.
- Streamlining of grant application and administration to help both large and small organizations.
- Streamlining of training, technical assistance, and professional learning provided to organizations funded and/or licensed by the agencies.

# 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



# 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)!

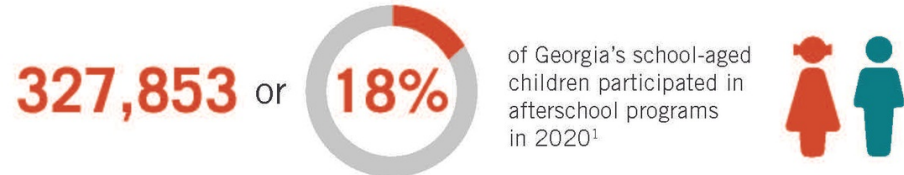
# Resources



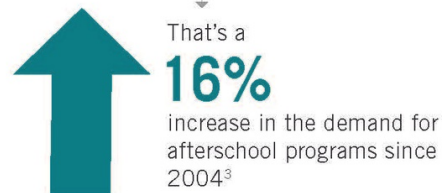
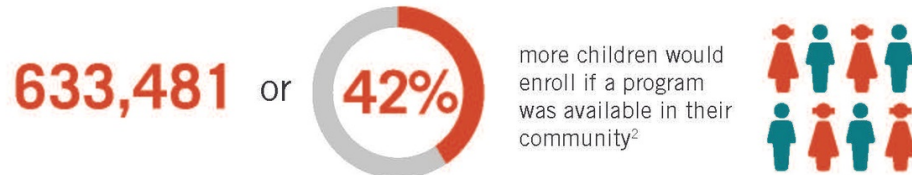
# GSAN's Resources

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

# Demand for Afterschool in Georgia



but



**238,265** of Georgia's children are alone and unsupervised between the hours of



**33%** of children in afterschool are from low-income households<sup>4</sup>

## THE TOP THREE ROADBLOCKS TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



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

## The Power of Out-of-School Time (OST) in Georgia

Out-of-school time (OST) programs include afterschool programs, summer enrichment programs and camps, as well as before school and weekend programs.

- In 2020, for every child in an afterschool program in Georgia, [2 more were waiting to get in](#).
- 40 of Georgia's 159 counties do not have government funded programs. [GSAN's Interactive OST Map](#) shows over half of these counties also have low 3rd grade literacy rates & other indicators of low child well-being.

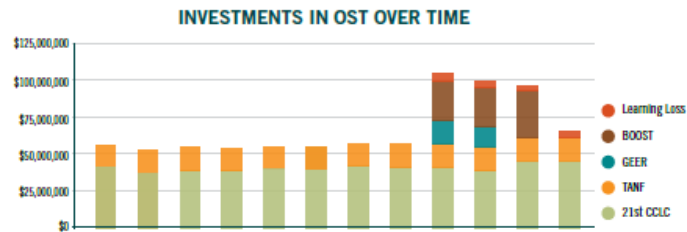
### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create and fund Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) 2.0 grant program, an out-of-school time (OST) grants program modeled after the Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grants program, at \$20 million housed at the Georgia Department of Education and building off the existing infrastructure and partnerships of BOOST.
2. Create and fund an interagency liaison to coordinate afterschool and summer programming between the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, and Georgia Department of Education.

*For more details, turn to page 4.*

### OST FUNDING SOURCES & AGENCIES

- **21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC):** The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) administers the 21st CCLC program to provide opportunities for academic enrichment and tutorial services via \$45 million in federal funding.
- **Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS):** The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning provides scholarships via Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) to assist low-income families with the cost of childcare while they work, go to school or training, or participate in other work-related activities.
- **Out-of-School Services Program:** The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services provides \$15.5 million via Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) to organizations serving low-to-moderate income communities & the foster care system during the out-of-school time.
- **Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST):** GaDOE, in partnership with GSAN, supports the expansion of access to evidence-based afterschool and summer learning programs and improved programmatic quality via \$85 million in COVID-19 relief funding over 3 years.
- **Learning Loss Grants:** The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services administers via the United Way of Greater Atlanta \$4.6 million in state revenue allocated by the Georgia General Assembly to organizations who provide programming to reduce learning loss for Georgia's youth.



# The Power of OST Brief

## 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

# Beyond School Bells: The Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning

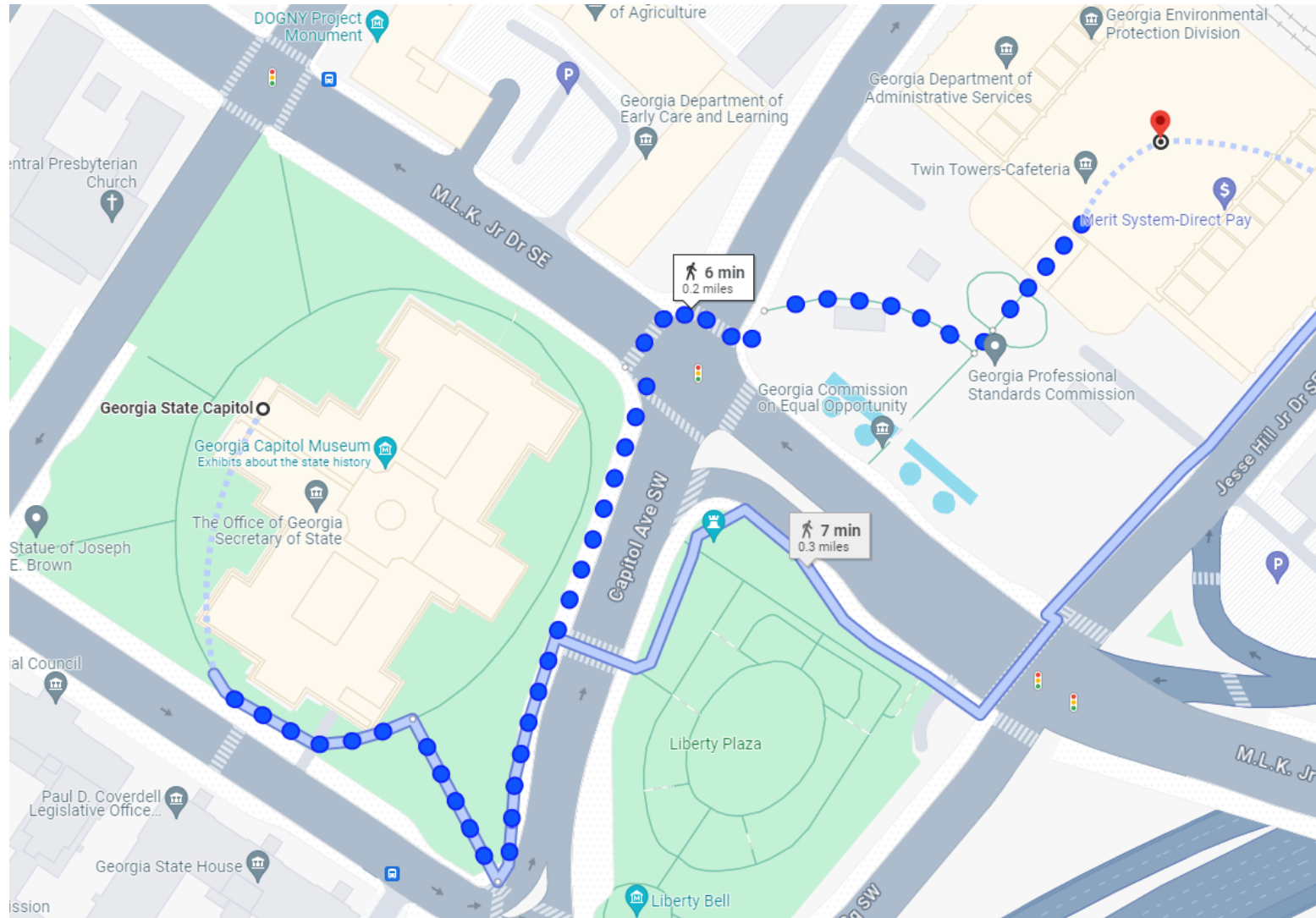
# What to Expect?

- Luncheon in Empire Room in Sloppy Floyd Building
- Check-in opens at 11:30 am
- Lunch Served at 12:00 pm
- BOOST Year 2 Highlights
- Power of OST Panel

Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning,  
Georgia Legislators



# Capitol to Sloppy Floyd Building - Twin Towers



# Capitol to Sloppy Floyd Building - Twin Towers

