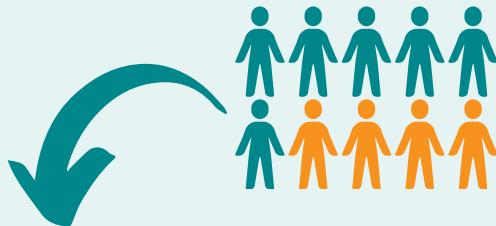


AFTERSCHOOL IMPROVES LITERACY IN GEORGIA



Afterschool and summer learning programs can strengthen literacy skills — helping students read, write, and communicate with confidence for lifelong success.

THE CYCLE OF LOW LITERACY



6 OUT OF 10 CHILDREN (61%) completing third grade in 2024 in Georgia were not prepared to meet the literacy challenges of the next grade level¹

This leads to a cycle of low literacy, including:^{2, 3}

- Struggling with learning and falling behind
- Discipline problems
- Performing poorly in 8th grade math
- Increased risk of becoming a teen parent
- Increased risk of dropping out of high school
- More likely to spend time in prison
- Struggling with unemployment
- Poor health & shorter life expectancy



72% chance of being at the lowest reading level for children with parents with low literacy levels⁶



NEARLY 800,000 GEORGIA ADULTS have low literacy and earn approximately \$1 million less across their lifetime than adults with a high school diploma⁴

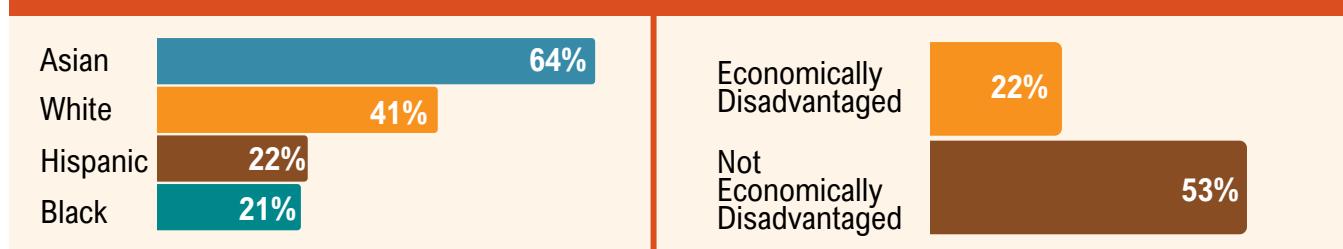


Costs the state **\$1.26 BILLION** in social services and lost tax revenue annually⁵

THE STATE OF LITERACY IN GEORGIA

The percentage of fourth-grade students in Georgia who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was **30 percent** in 2024.⁷

PROFICIENCY PERCENTAGES IN GEORGIA READING ASSESSMENTS, BY RACE AND INCOME, 2024⁸





WHY SUMMER IS A CRITICAL TIME

Summer learning loss results in:

2-3 MONTHS

of reading skills lost for low-income children⁹

2/3

of the reading achievement gap between low- and middle-income children by 9th grade.¹⁰

HOW AFTERSCHOOL BOOSTS LITERACY SKILLS

Afterschool and summer learning programs provide students with the additional supports they need to help build a strong foundation in literacy, including reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.



7 OUT OF 10 PARENTS

report that their children's programs provide opportunities¹¹ for reading or writing and homework assistance

IMPACT OF AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

Afterschool provides opportunities for: ^{12, 13}

- Project-based learning opportunities
- Strong literacy foundation
- Group activities
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Critical thinking skills
- Communications skills

Regular attendance leads to: ^{14, 15}

- Significant gains in reading skills
- Improved grades
- Improved attendance
- Improved attitude towards school
- Higher chances of graduation

RECOMMENDATIONS

Afterschool and summer learning programs are essential to improving literacy rates in Georgia and ensuring the well-being of Georgia's youth. GSAN recommends the following to increase the amount of students reading proficiently:

 **Increase investment** in high quality afterschool and summer learning programs that support literacy efforts, especially in communities with low literacy rates.

 **Provide grants to libraries** to fund summer reading programs, free tutoring, and homework assistance programs and utilize existing resources including books and computers.

 **Strengthen partnerships** at the local, regional, and state level between school districts, afterschool programs, and community-based organizations such as food banks, parks and recreation, and housing authorities to increase stability in students' lives and support literacy gains.

 **Expand access to literacy training** by providing joint professional development opportunities for classroom teachers and afterschool and summer educators to optimize resources and increase student's proficiency in literacy.

SCAN BELOW TO SEE
FACTSHEET CITATIONS



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