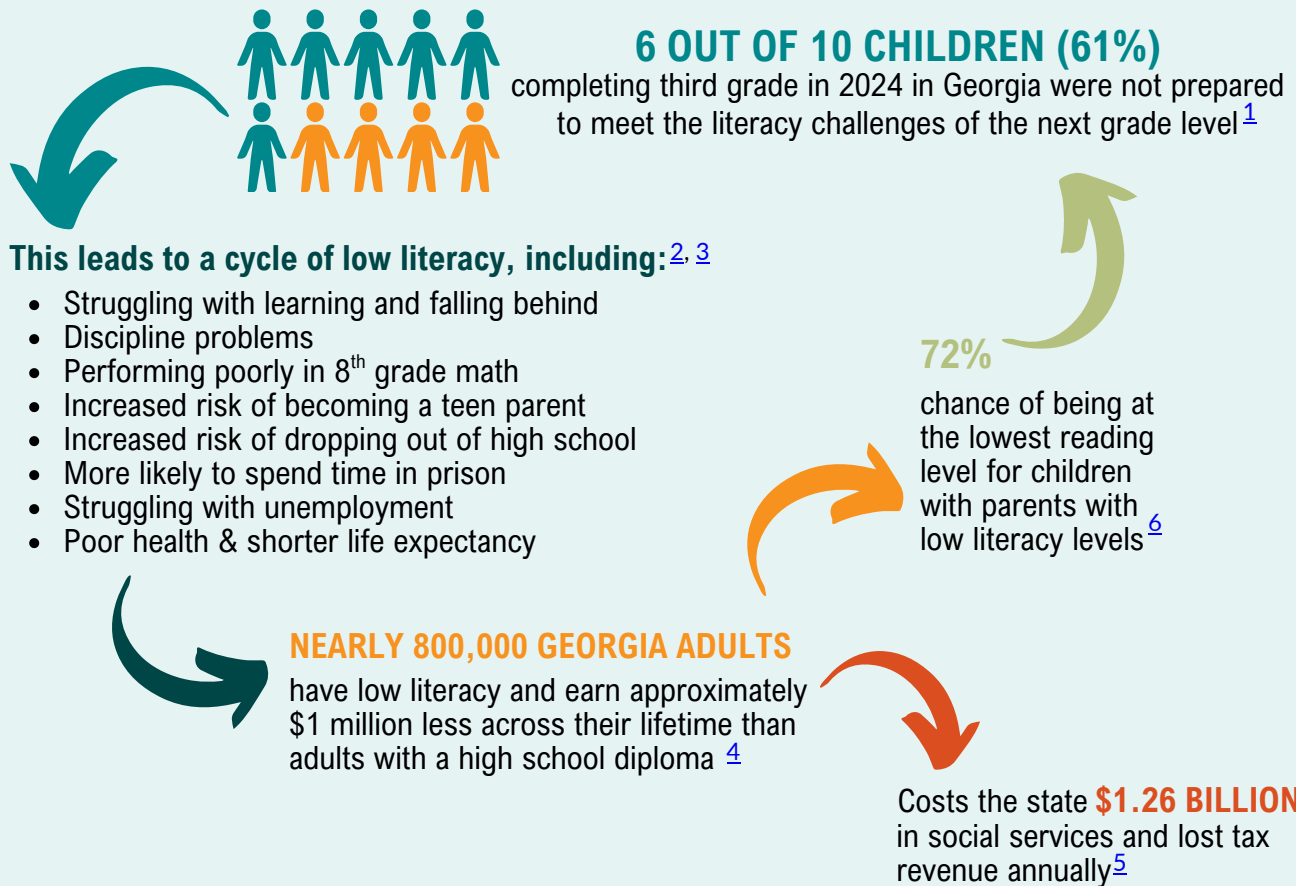


AFTERSCHOOL IMPROVES LITERACY IN GEORGIA



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

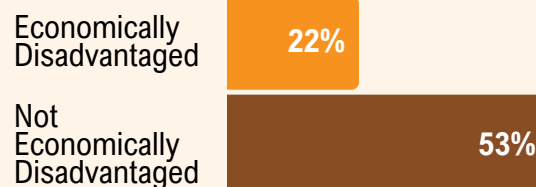
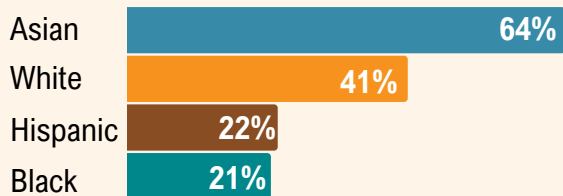
THE CYCLE OF LOW LITERACY



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, 2024¹⁰



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WHY SUMMER IS A CRITICAL TIME

Summer learning loss results in:

2-3 MONTHS

of reading skills lost for low-income children ⁹

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 opportunities for reading or writing and homework assistance ¹¹

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.



GSAN

GEORGIA STATEWIDE AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK www.afterschoolga.org

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FACTSHEET CITATIONS



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