GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

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Director of Research

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GEEARS' MISSION

To support high-quality early learning and care for Georgia's youngest children, from birth to age five, by 2025, to empower all children's readiness to succeed by promoting innovative and evidence-based policies that reflect the public will.

GEORGIA EARLY EDUCATION ALLIANCE FOR READY STUDENTS

OUR VISION FOR GEORGIA

Georgia is a global leader in education, ensuring all children are prepared for academic success and the path to "Read to Succeed" by third grade.
School readiness is **multifaceted** and influenced by a host of factors.
Early Learning
- Quality
- Access

Health (e.g., birth outcomes)

Community
- Assets (e.g., libraries, FQHCs)
- Well-being (e.g., crime, housing)

Family (e.g., poverty, educational attainment)

Child Welfare

Schools (e.g., 3rd grade reading, attendance)
What percentage of children under 5 live in poverty in my neighborhood?

How are premature birth rates and third grade reading scores related in counties across GA?

Where in Georgia is income inequality highest?

Where are Quality Rated early learning programs located in Clayton County?

Which areas of Georgia are child care "deserts?"

What is the relation between the rate of substantiated child maltreatment and K-3 absenteeism?

Which Atlanta neighborhoods would be most informed by greater investments in early learning?

The tools bring together data from a range of sources, including:
- U.S. Census
- American Community Survey
- Georgia Departments of Public Health, Education, Early Care and Learning, Human Services, Georgia Statistics Systems, National Center for Education Statistics, Health Resources and Services Administration

Users include:
- School systems
- State and local government agencies
- Funders
- Community organizations
- Service providers
- Community members
The tools bring together data from a range of sources, including:

The GEEARS Blueprint
Community Compass

Early Childhood Index:
- Access to Quality Rated Child Care
- % of Children ages 0-4 below poverty
- % of Population Ages 25 and older with no High School Diploma
- % of Adults with Limited English Proficiency
- % of Children with no Parent in the Labor Force
- % of Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma
- % Low Birthweight, 2010-14
- % of Children Ages 0-4 Receiving Food Stamps
- % of 3rd graders scoring "proficient" or higher on the 3rd grade ELA Georgia Milestone test

Why a new tool?
- Mobile compatibility
- School system and legislative district overlays (more data) (more granular data)

Substantiated child abuse/neglect rate
The tools bring together data from a range of sources, including:

- Early Childhood Profiles
- All 159 counties and the City of Atlanta
The tools bring together data from a range of sources, including:

- Estimates child care supply,
- demand, and shortage in the five-county metro area.
The tools bring together data from a range of sources, including:

**High-Level Findings**

- About 1/3 of maximum demand is unmet—but that is not uniform across the 5-county region
- Almost 90% of the region’s childcare is regulated (or specifically exempt)
- Compares favorably to other areas studied (e.g., Philadelphia has approx. 25% unlicensed and New Jersey areas have nearly 50%)
- High-gap areas are found across the region
- About 11% of areas across the region had high gaps and elevated poverty rates
- The supply of Quality Rated childcare is limited (about ¼ of total eligible supply) but growing as the system continues to evolve

ATLAccessMap.org