

Why **Collaboration** Matters



Unlocking Georgia's Potential

Georgia's youth and social services organizations before 1990





In 1990
Georgia Ranked

48th

in the nation in
child well-being

Collaborative organizations in
159 counties
committed to improving
the quality of life
for children and families

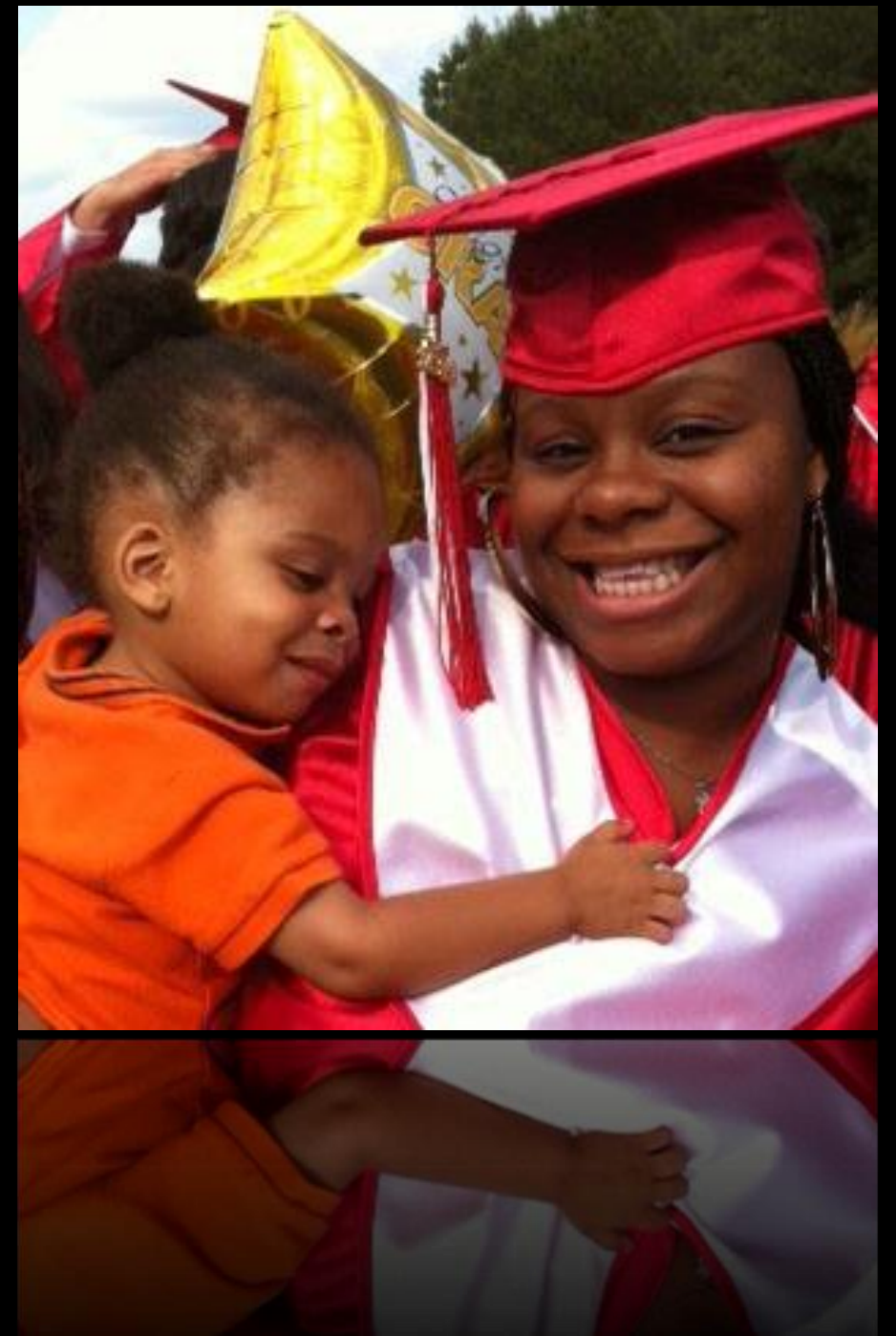


Georgia
FamilyConnection

Only network of its
kind **in the nation**

Collaboration

We began to **work together** by convening in communities, across state agencies, within **public-private sectors** to assess data, create a strategic annual plan based on the data, and evaluate the outcome each year.



We **bring together** at the same table—the social worker, the nurse, the sheriff, the BOE Superintendent, the minister, the business person, the public servant, parents, and community members and **then help them to figure out the best way** for their children and families to thrive.



Today

27% of Georgia's children
live in **poverty**

Georgia has the **5th worst** child
poverty rate in the **nation**.

But Also Today



The number of
kids **not**
graduating on
time has **dropped**
by 21% in
the past decade.



Georgia's
teen birth rate
has dropped
dramatically
in the past
two decades.

Our Vision

**That all children in Georgia
are **healthy, ready** to start
school and **do well** when they
get there, that every family is
stable and self-sufficient, and
that communities are **strong**.**

Core Principles

- ▶ **Collaboration**
- ▶ **Local decision-making**
- ▶ **Accountability**
- ▶ **Public-private partnerships**
- ▶ **Leveraging resources**

County Collaboratives

Identify **local priorities** and needs, manage their own **planning process**, share resources, and **evaluate** programs and practices.

County Collaboratives

Hold themselves **accountable**
for results of their work by
tracking locally selected
indicators of child well-being
using **KIDS COUNT data**.

Georgia Family Connection
leverages

\$5 for every \$1
of state funding.



A public-private nonprofit intermediary
that supports the Georgia Family
Connection statewide network

Statewide Initiatives

**Low
Birthweight**

“The single most important predictor that a baby will die in the first year is that the baby is born small.”

Juan Acuña, MD, M. Sc.
Professor
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Florida International University



Childhood Obesity

A black and white photograph of children on a playground. In the foreground, a child is seen from behind, sitting on a wooden bench. In the background, other children are playing on a swing set. The image is slightly blurred, emphasizing the text overlay.

35% of Georgia's
children are **obese**
or **overweight**.

43% failed to attain a
healthy fitness zone.

Two million
Georgians, including
half a million
children, live in
lower-income
communities where
it's difficult to
access healthy food.



Increasing **fresh, affordable** food retail in underserved urban neighborhoods and rural communities will help:

- address this growing health problem, and
- boost Georgia's economy.



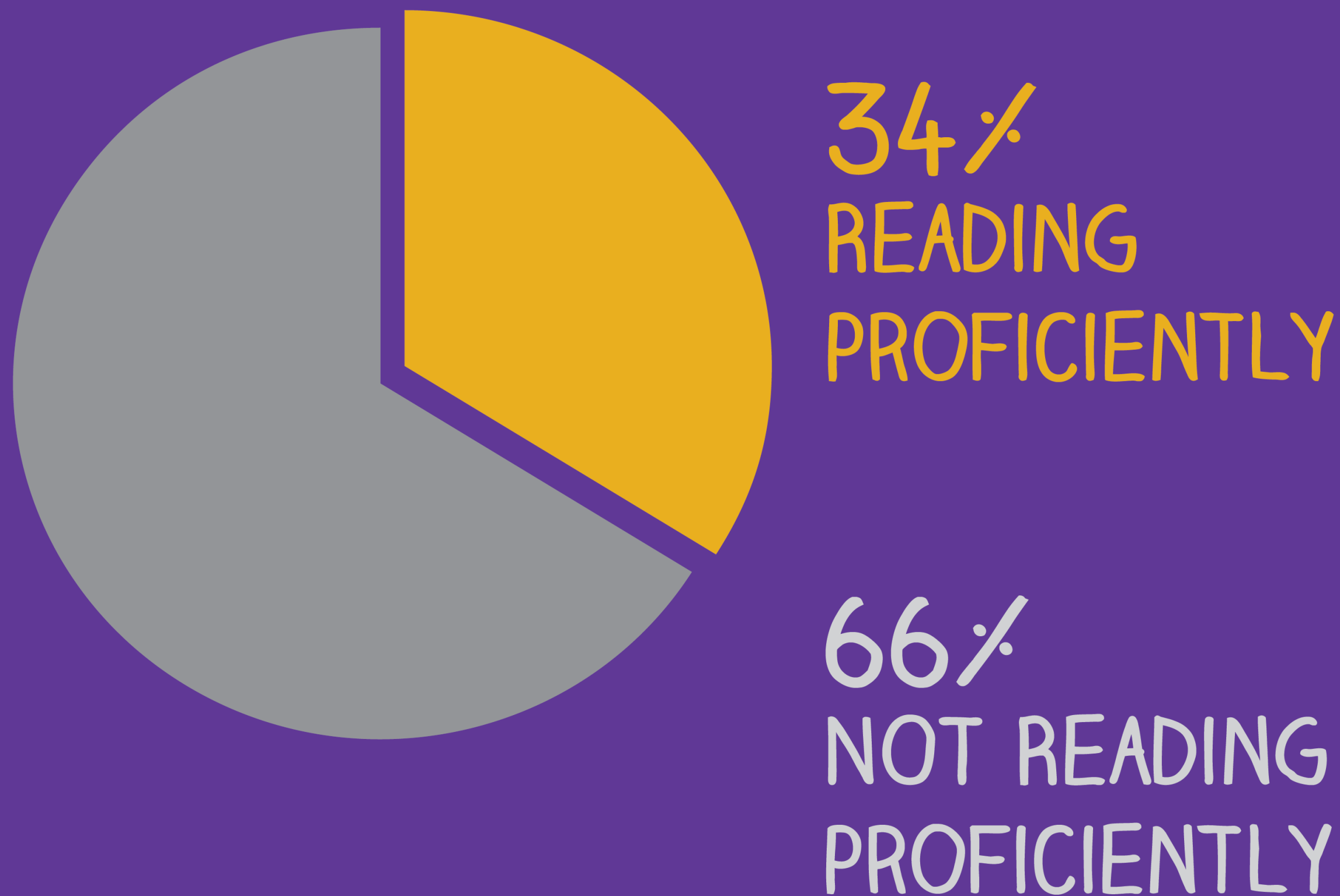
Early Childhood— Grade-Level Reading



GET GEORGIA READING

CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING

3RD GRADE READING PROFICIENCY IN GEORGIA



DETERMINANTS



SCHOOL
CLIMATE



K-3
DISCIPLINE DATA



ATTENDANCE



ECONOMICALLY
DISADVANTAGED

PERCENT OF
CHILDREN RECEIVING
SUBSIDIES ENROLLED
IN QUALITY RATED
CHILD CARE



CHILD CARE
CLIMATE



CHILD CARE
TEACHER
QUALIFICATIONS



EARLY LANGUAGE
EXPOSURE
& DEVELOPMENT



PRETERM
BIRTH



LOW BIRTH
WEIGHT



MATERNAL
EDUCATION



THIRD GRADE
READING
PROFICIENCY



GET GEORGIA
READING

Campaign Common Agenda

4 Pillars + 3 Guiding Principles + 7 Drivers of Change

Campaign Host
Georgia Family
Connection
Partnership

Campaign Cabinet

Campaign
Support
Staff



LANGUAGE
NUTRITION

Language
Nutrition Team



ACCESS

Access
Team



PRODUCTIVE
LEARNING CLIMATE

Productive
Learning Climate
Team



TEACHER PREPARATION
AND EFFECTIVENESS

Teacher
Preparation &
Effectiveness Team

Communications Advisory
Subcommittee

Data, Research & Evaluation
Advisory Subcommittee



LANGUAGE NUTRITION

Talk With Me Baby

Nursing and early
learning educator
workforces

WIC nutritionists
in 199 GA offices

Public Awareness
Campaign with
Smartphone App



ACCESS

100 Babies Project

Summer Learning
Nutrition

MyON Reader &
Scholastic
Summer Learning

Healthcare Access

Quality Rated



PRODUCTIVE LEARNING CLIMATE

Early Learning
Climate

Healthy Learning
Environment



TEACHER PREPARATION AND EFFECTIVENESS

Read Right From
The Start

Early Literacy Initiative
Reading Mentor
Program

Reading Friendly Communities

Birth to Third Grade Alignment

Frontiers of Innovation — Cross-Sector Social-Emotional Strategies in E3Z focus areas

Increasing Georgia's graduation rate begins in your community.



Contact your local **Family
Connection Coordinator.**

Attend collaborative meetings
and determine **how you can
contribute** to the current
work.

Bring with you **your**
knowledge of resources
available and current data
regarding students with
disabilities.....



and ask for
community
participation in
**convening to
discuss and
implement
solutions** for
increasing
graduation rates
among students
with disabilities

Community involvement
and local decision-making
are vital to addressing the
issues facing **our citizens.**”

-Governor Nathan Deal

Find your county Collaborative at
www.gafcp.org

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