

# LITERACY FOR ALL.

## The State of Literacy in Georgia Action Needed for Georgia's Thriving Workforce and Economy

**Deloitte.**

**1.7  
million**

adults in Georgia  
have low literacy  
skills—that's

**1 in 6**

**88%**

of all jobs in Georgia require a high school  
diploma or post-secondary credential

Over 820,000 Georgians do not qualify for these  
jobs due to a lack of a high school diploma

Low literacy costs  
Georgia

**\$1.3  
billion**

annually in  
social services,  
incarceration costs  
and lost revenues

65% of the state's 3rd grade  
students are not reading at  
grade level. These students  
are four times more likely to  
drop out of high school

Not reading  
proficiently  
by 3rd grade

**LOW LITERACY  
IS A  
MULTIGENERATIONAL  
CYCLE**

High  
School  
Dropout

Georgia adults with low  
literacy earn \$10K or 30%  
per year less than adults  
with a high school diploma.

Children whose parents have low  
literacy levels have a 72% chance  
of being at the lowest reading level

Low  
Literate  
Parents

Without intervention, Georgia's  
position as the number one state  
to do business will be jeopardized.

**Literacy is foundational to education and self-sufficiency. While Georgia is the best place to do business, the capabilities of our population are not keeping pace with workforce needs.**

**Responding to the Deloitte study, Literacy For All partnered with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education and convened a business-led commission, the [Georgia Literacy Commission](#), to review best practices for changing the trajectory of low literacy in Georgia. An advisory committee of experienced literacy and education stakeholders provided guidance, input and research to the Commission.**



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



Thus far, the process has resulted in a framework for ongoing convening and exploration of the topic, as well as immediately actionable recommendations. The attached page shows initiatives being implemented in 2018 and policy and funding items that the Commission continues to develop for the 2019 legislative session.

**Commission Co-Chairs:**

Sandra Deal  
First Lady, State of Georgia

Wendell Dallas  
Vice President, Operations  
Atlanta Gas Light

Phil Jacobs  
Retired President AT&T Georgia

Teya Ryan  
President and CEO  
Georgia Public Broadcasting

**Commission Members:**

Gretchen Corbin  
Commissioner  
Technical College System of Georgia

Steve Dorman  
President  
Georgia College and State University

Mark Elgart  
President & CEO  
AdvancED

Ariel Esteves  
Director, Care4U Georgia Market  
CareSource

Buster Evans  
President  
Teacher's Retirement System of Georgia

Ben Hames  
Deputy Commissioner, Workforce  
Georgia Dept. of Economic  
Development

Jaimie Hebert  
President  
Georgia Southern University

Patrise Perkins-Hooker  
Fulton County Attorney

Amy Hutchins  
Education and Workforce Development  
Manager  
Georgia Power

Amy Jacobs  
Commissioner  
Georgia Department of Early Care and  
Learning

Rick Jasperse, Chair  
House Higher Education Committee

Tracie Kambies  
U.S. Retail Sector Technology Lead  
Deloitte

Helene Lollis  
President  
Pathbuilders, Inc.

Fran Millar, Chair  
Senate Higher Education Committee

Frank "Chunk" Newman  
Project Executive  
Batson-Cook

Jose Perez  
President  
Target Market Trends

Tunisia L. Poole  
Counsel – Employment Law Team  
AFLAC

Valencia Stovall  
State Representative

Martha Ann Todd  
Director  
Governor's Office of Student  
Achievement

Chuck Williams  
State Representative

Steve Wrigley  
Chancellor  
University System of Georgia

Joe Yarbrough  
President & CEO  
Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI)