Afterschool Improves Literacy in Georgia

6 out of 10 children (58%) completing third grade in Georgia were not prepared to meet the literacy challenges of the next grade level (2019)\(^1\)

This leads to a cycle of low literacy\(^2, 3\):
- Struggle with learning and fall behind
- Discipline problems
- Perform poorly in 8th grade math
- Higher chances of becoming teen parents
- Higher chances of dropping out of high school
- More likely to spend time in prison
- Struggle with unemployment
- Poor health & shorter life expectancy

72% chance of being at lowest reading level for children with parents with low literacy levels\(^6\)

1 million Georgia adults have low literacy and earn 30% less than adults with a HS diploma\(^4\)

Costs the state $1.26 billion in social services and lost tax revenue annually\(^5\)

2-3 months reading skills loss for low income children\(^8\)

SUMMER IS CRUCIAL

2/3 of the achievement gap in reading between low and middle income children by 9th grade due to summer learning loss\(^9\)

Impact of Afterschool

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, writing, and homework assistance.\(^10\)

Afterschool provides opportunities for:\(^13, 14\)
- Project based learning opportunities
- Strong literacy foundation
- Group activities
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Critical thinking skills
- Communications skills

Regular attendance lead to:\(^15, 16\)
- Significant gains in reading skills
- Improved grades
- Improved attendance
- Improved attitude towards school
- Higher chances of graduation

For references, go to [www.afterschoolga.org/afterschool-issues](http://www.afterschoolga.org/afterschool-issues).