



Literacy and Numeracy

Richard's Record

As a former elementary principal and Pre-K coordinator, Superintendent Woods understands first-hand the importance of foundational skills. His wife, Lisha, was a reading specialist and continues to focus on literacy efforts.

- **Awarded over \$60 million in funds to support literacy** efforts across the state
- **Georgia students beat the national average** in reading and writing (SAT and ACT)
- **Gains in reading and math** for 8th graders (NAEP)
- Member of the **Get Georgia Reading Cabinet**
- Member of the **First Lady's Children's Cabinet**
- **Renewed focus** on literacy, numeracy, and foundational skills
- Student **achievement gains** in the areas of literacy and numeracy
- Developed a **statewide literacy plan**
- Hired an **early grades, literacy expert** to head instructional efforts of the Department

Ensuring a Strong Foundation for Success

Believing that ensuring a strong academic foundation in the early grades will ensure success for students in the latter grades, Superintendent Woods brought on a literacy expert to spearhead K-12 literacy efforts, to develop a statewide literacy plan, and to partner with state agencies and nonprofits. Recognizing Georgia's quality literacy plan, the Georgia Department of Education was one of seven states to receive over \$230 million to support its efforts in schools across the state. At his recommendation, the State Board of Education adopted a resolution calling for a 'renewed commitment to literacy and foundational skills.'

In Woods' first year in office, books were provided for every pre-kindergartner and kindergartner in the state. During his time in office, over hundreds of thousands of books have been donated to public libraries, media centers, and afterschool programs across the state.

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has worked with the Get Georgia Reading Campaign to provide a text message service to give parents tips on

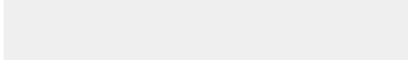
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- Worked with partners to have **over 200,000 books** donated to public libraries, media centers, and afterschool programs
- Delivered a **book to all kindergarten, pre-kindergarten** students
- Urged families to get **public library cards** and provided crucial tools to promote literacy

how to participate in good literacy building activities with their child. Each summer, the GaDOE partnered with Georgia's public libraries and afterschool programs to promote summer reading with an online reading log and to urge families to get public library cards.

Partnering with the Governor's Office and regional education service agencies (RESAs), GaDOE has increased the number of elementary teachers who are trained to teach reading through the *Growing Readers* program. During the pandemic, GaDOE provided free, optional formative tools for teachers to use to identify learning loss and address literacy and numeracy gaps as well as remote learning plans to assist Georgia teachers with delivering high-quality literacy and numeracy instruction virtually. For students with dyslexia, GaDOE has supported a pilot with districts to identify screeners, interventions, and best practices to remove barriers for these students to be successful.

Recent student achievement scores showed an increase in both third-grade English Language Arts and math, while also seeing large jumps in subjects like American Literature. For consecutive years, SAT and ACT scores show Georgia students beating the nation in reading and writing, affirming that we're on the right path as we focus on foundational skills and early literacy and numeracy -- both of which equip students for success in the later grades.



Paid for by Woods for Georgia Education
