

GEORGIA
CHILDREN'S
CABINET

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022

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Introduction

On June 12, 2019, Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp issued an executive order appointing the Georgia Children’s Cabinet and charged the Cabinet with supporting a “sustainable and comprehensive system of education and care to best serve children and families in each region of our state.” He named the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) as the lead fiscal agency for the Cabinet and transferred responsibility for the Cabinet to the department. First Lady Marty Kemp serves as honorary chair of the Cabinet. DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs and the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) Executive Director Joy Hawkins serve as Co-Chairs.

This report summarizes the work of the Georgia Children’s Cabinet for fiscal year 2022 (July 2021 to June 2022). Using the Cabinet’s strategic priorities as a guide, Cabinet meetings focused on coordination and training in key areas of health, literacy, safety, and developing a two-generation (2Gen) approach to the work of the Cabinet and its members.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to present unique challenges for Cabinet members in delivering services to children and families and remained a factor in discussions throughout FY 2022. Throughout the year the Cabinet members discussed the ongoing and residual effects of the pandemic on a number of topics including child mental health and learning loss.

Cabinet Agency Accomplishments

The following accomplishments highlight the work done on behalf of the Cabinet’s strategic goal areas in FY 2022.

2Gen Approach

- The Cabinet and the University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government (Institute of Government) have partnered to develop and launch a 2Gen Leadership Academy to train agency leaders to execute an interagency strategy using a 2Gen approach to improve outcomes for Georgia’s children and families. The Academy launches in FY 2023.
- DECAL and the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) are partnering on a 2Gen Policy Acceleration Partnership Grant from Ascend at the Ascend Institute and the Liz Blake Giving Fund of the Blake Family Foundation. The goal of the grant is to expand current 2Gen Georgia initiatives to improve and strengthen coordination across child care, post-secondary education, and state benefit services resulting in a strong alignment between programs and initiatives funded through Child Care Development Funding (CCDF), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Safety

- The Cabinet was updated on Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) implementation of the Family First Act. This act allows the state to spend federal funds on preventive services to support parents and children and to reduce the need for more intensive interventions for families.
- The Cabinet received training on Trauma-Informed Care.
- The Children’s Cabinet, in partnership with the Institute of Government, conducted research to identify how child safety is defined and operationalized within agencies delivering services to children and their families in Georgia. A separate report provides an inventory of assessments and tools currently being used to evaluate child safety across the state.

Health

- The Cabinet was updated on the new Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Taskforce. Georgia has created a state chapter of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health to help train and credential early childhood professionals to serve the mental health needs of infants, toddlers, and their families.
- Through the work of Representative Katie Dempsey, HB1355, the Childhood Lead Exposure Act, was revised to strengthen Georgia children’s protections against lead poisoning.
- The Cabinet has coordinated messaging related to child safety in cars and around pools and other bodies of water throughout the summer months.
- The Cabinet continues to coordinate efforts to encourage vaccinations and preventive health measures.
- The Cabinet continues to monitor the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on programs for children and families.

Literacy

- A House study committee on evidence-based literacy was created to focus on evidenced-based literacy instruction and a community-based literacy skills pipeline.
- The work of the Georgia Literacy Coordinating Council continues to support the Cabinet’s literacy goal. The Council includes representatives from DECAL, TCSG, GaDOE, the University System of Georgia (USG), the Department of Public Health, the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, Get Ready Reading, Voices for Georgia’s Children, and the Georgia Municipal Association.
- Deliverables from the Georgia Literacy Coordinating Council include:
 - A list showing statewide literacy initiatives in Georgia
 - The passage of Senate Bill 88 requiring USG institutions to offer literacy courses for new teachers
 - Growing Readers partnership with Cox Campus
 - Cox Campus modules being facilitated by GaDOE
 - Get Ready Reading at home in partnership with GaDOE

- Literacy resources are list on the Cabinet website, <http://www.gachildrencabinet.org/Resources.aspx>

In FY 2022 the Cabinet also worked on the following two major projects that addressed the strategic goals areas of safety and 2Gen:

Georgia 2Gen Academy

- To support their strategic goal to ensure a 2Gen approach to policy and service delivery, the Cabinet, in partnership with the Institute of Government, developed a 2Gen Academy. The 2Gen Academy will lead program leaders from child and family serving agencies and organizations on the Cabinet through learning, collaboration, and a capstone project focused on 2Gen. As a result, agency leaders will be equipped to execute a 2Gen approach to improve outcomes for Georgia’s children and families. The 2Gen Academy has been developed with feedback and support from Ascend at the Aspen Institute. The first cohort of 30 participants will launch in September 2022.

Child Safety Assessment Report

- The Child Safety Assessment Report was completed to provide a clear picture of child safety in context of service delivery in the state. The Cabinet, in partnership with the Institute of Government, identified how child safety is defined and operationalized in agencies serving children and their families in Georgia. The report also provided an inventory of assessments and tools currently being used to evaluate child safety across the state.

New Cabinet Members

The Cabinet welcomed the following new members in FY 2022:

- Trey Bennett – Deputy Executive Counsel for the Office of the Governor
- Candice Broce – Commissioner of the Department of Human Services/Director of Division of Family and Children Services
- Caylee Noggle – Commissioner of the Department of Community Health
- Juanita Yancey – Executive Officer of the Georgia Head Start Association
- Jerry Bruce – Director of the Office of the Child Advocate

Meeting History

In FY 2022, the Georgia Children’s Cabinet held six meetings: three executive Cabinet meetings and three meetings of the full Cabinet. Members of the executive Cabinet also attended the full Cabinet meetings. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings were held virtually using Zoom, with the exceptions of the final full

Cabinet meeting on April 26, 2022 and the final executive Cabinet meeting on June 28, 2022, which were held at the Governor’s Mansion. Faculty from the Institute of Government facilitated and provided technical support for all meetings.

Meetings were held on the following dates:

- Full Cabinet, July 8, 2021, 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., Zoom
- Executive Children’s Cabinet, September 9, 2021, 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., Zoom
- Full Cabinet, November 4, 2021, 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., Zoom
- Executive Children’s Cabinet, February 22, 2022, 8:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m., Zoom
- Full Cabinet, April 26, 2022, 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., In-person, Governor’s Mansion
- Executive Cabinet, June 28, 2022, 8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m., In-person, Governor’s Mansion

In the full Cabinet on July 8, 2021, newly appointed Cabinet members Gerlda Hines, Caylee Noggle, Juanita Yancey, and Jerry Bruce were introduced. Co-chairs presented the FY2021 Annual Report. The need for state agencies to collaborate on messaging around child safety campaigns (SPLASH, Look Again, and sexual exploitation campaign) was reviewed. Shelby Zimmer, Director of Family First, along with DFCS staff presented on Family First and Trauma-Informed Care. Finally, agencies discussed their current initiatives around trauma-informed care.

The Executive Cabinet convened on September 9, 2021. Agency members shared changes in their agencies because of COVID-19. In addition, GOSA Executive Director and Cabinet co-chair, Joy Hawkins, provided an update on the Georgia Literacy Coordinating Council. To close, David Tanner with the Institute of Government updated the Cabinet on the development of a 2Gen Academy.

The full Cabinet met again on November 4, 2022. A revised executive meeting schedule was approved for the remainder of FY 2022. Laura Lucas, with the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Taskforce, presented on the collaborative work and progress of the Taskforce. Panelists to the discussion included Twanna L. Nelson, Deputy Director of Maternal and Child Health, Department of Public Health, Callan Wells with the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS), and Wendy White Tiegreen with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). Katie Smith with the Department of Public Health (DPH) also provided a COVID-19 update. Lastly, Cabinet members provided feedback on the 2Gen Academy approach.

On February 22, 2022, the Executive Cabinet convened. First Lady Marty Kemp greeted the Executive Cabinet and thanked legislators and agencies for their work during the pandemic and the legislative session. The Cabinet reviewed their four priority areas (child safety, health, literacy, and 2Gen). Cabinet members provided their agency’s legislative and budgetary priorities. David Tanner with the Institute of Government facilitated a discussion on state workforce strategies and updated the Cabinet on the Georgia Department of Administrative

Services (DOAS) State Workforce Project. This discussion prompted Cabinet members to discuss their agency workforce development challenges and strategies. Themes from the workforce conversation included:

- There is a need to create a pipeline for recruitment and marketing with TCSG and USG to grow the workforce and fill critical gaps.
- Building the workforce may include thinking creatively about non-compensatory ways to attract workforce talent (leave, flexibility, and remote work).

Following an update on the 2Gen Academy by David Tanner, Donna Johnson (DECAL) and Laura Wagner (DECAL) presented on 2Gen projects funded through a grant to DECAL and TCSG to address challenges faced by student parents.

The final full Cabinet meeting of FY 2022 was held in-person on April 26, 2022 at the Governor’s Mansion. Cabinet members shared agency updates and collaborations. First Lady Marty Kemp welcomed the full Cabinet back in person, thanked them for their work during the pandemic and legislative session, and shared remarks on current legislation. Cabinet members provided budget and legislative updates around safety, health, literacy, and 2Gen.

On June 28, 2022 the Executive Cabinet joined by First Lady Marty Kemp held their final meeting of the fiscal year in-person at the Governor’s Mansion. Cabinet members provided input on priorities and topics for future meetings in FY 2023. Agencies also shared accomplishments and updates to include in the FY 2022 Annual Report. To close, Dr. Melinda Moore (Institute of Government) presented an update on the 2Gen Academy.

Looking Ahead

The Cabinet provides a unique forum for agencies and organizations serving children and families to coordinate their efforts in the areas of health, safety, literacy and developing a 2Gen approach in state services and programs. Appendix D highlights the work of the Cabinet and the work agencies and organizations on the Cabinet have accomplished through collaboration and partnerships during the past fiscal year.

We look forward to another year of supporting a sustainable and comprehensive system of education and care to best serve children and families in each region of our state. Working together, we are making a difference.

Gratefully,



Joy Hawkins
Executive Director
Governor’s Office of Student Achievement



Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Appendices

Appendix A. List of Executive and Full Cabinet Membership

The lists of appointed executive and full Cabinet members are shown in Tables 1 and 2 below. The executive order establishing the Cabinet is found in Appendix A.

Table 1. List of Executive Cabinet Members

| MEMBERS | AGENCY |
|------------------|--|
| JOY HAWKINS | Governor’s Office of Student Achievement |
| AMY JACOBS | Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning |
| TREY BENNETT | Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp |
| MIRANDA BRADFORD | Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp |
| CANDICE BROCE | Georgia Department of Human Services |
| JERRY BRUCE | Georgia Office of the Child Advocate |
| GREG DOZIER | Technical College System of Georgia |
| JUDY FITZGERALD | Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities |
| ERIC JOHN | Council of Juvenile Court Judges |
| JAY NEAL | Criminal Justice Coordinating Council |
| CAYLEE NOGGLE | Georgia Department of Community Health |
| TYRONE OLIVER | Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice |
| KATHLEEN TOOMEY | Georgia Department of Public Health |
| RICHARD WOODS | Georgia Department of Education |

Table 2. List of Full Cabinet Members

| MEMBERS | AGENCY |
|-----------------------|--|
| PATTY BENTLEY | Georgia House of Representatives |
| MINDY BINDERMAN | Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students |
| AMANDA BURT | United Way of Northwest Georgia |
| MELISSA CARTER | Barton Child Law and Policy Center |
| KATIE DEMPSEY | Georgia House of Representatives |
| ERICA FENER-SITKOFF | Voices for Georgia’s Children |
| JOANNA HILL | Bright Promises Children’s Center |
| SUSAN HOLMES | Georgia House of Representatives |
| MICHELLE SMITH LANK | Kids World Learning Center |
| MILTON J. LITTLE, JR. | United Way of Greater Atlanta |
| GEORGE MCCANLESS | United Way of Central Georgia |
| NORIS PRICE | Baldwin County Schools |
| GAYE SMITH | Georgia Family Connection Partnership |
| ALLISON SETTERLIND | Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Office |
| FREDDIE POWELL SIMS | Georgia Senate |
| BLAKE TILLERY | Georgia Senate |
| RICHARD WARD | Georgia Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics |
| VONDA WOODALL | North Oconee High School |
| JUANITA YANCEY | Executive Officer for the Georgia Head Start Association |

Appendix B. Cabinet Strategic Vision and Priority Goal Areas

In FY 2020, Cabinet members articulated their strategic vision for the purpose, approach, and priority goal areas for the Cabinet. The strategic plan was formally approved at the January 7, 2020, full Cabinet meeting. The

purpose of the Cabinet is to accomplish Governor Kemp’s charge to “support a sustainable and comprehensive system of education and care to best serve the children and families in each region of our state.” The Cabinet takes a comprehensive, systemic, and whole-family approach to ensure children are and feel safe, healthy, learning, and prepared for adulthood. A copy of the Cabinet’s full strategic plan can be found on the Cabinet website at <http://www.gachildrencabinet.org/>.

Goal Areas

Over the next two years, Cabinet members will focus their collective efforts in the following areas:

| GOALS | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| SAFETY | HEALTHY | LITERACY | TWO-GENERATION APPROACH |
| Children (0-18) are and feel safe | Children (0-18) have a healthy start | Children (0-18) are literate in reading and math | Whole-family and system approach to policy and service delivery |
| STRATEGIES/ACTIONS | | | |
| Define safety and how to measure it | Develop and deploy a messaging campaign to increase vaccine use and reduce vaccine preventable diseases | Support new teachers with strategies to address reading and math | Adopt two-generation principles across all agencies |
| Inventory current child safety-related assessments, intake instruments, programs and services | Meet key developmental milestones through early intervention in maternal and infant health | Educate and support parents through community partners | Identify barriers to program eligibility, access, and participation |
| Focus on trauma-responsive practices | Empower children to take responsibility for their own physical, social, and emotional health | | Ensure front-line staff are better informed about state programs and services |

Appendix C. Cabinet Collaborations and Achievements

Fiscal Year 2022 saw many collaborations and achievements in Cabinet goals in the areas of safety, literacy, healthy, and 2Gen. The following list of projects and accomplishments highlights work done by two or more Cabinet member organizations to improve the education and care of children and families in the state.

SAFETY

Governor Kemp’s Roundtable discussion on school safety and security: In March 2022, Governor Kemp hosted a roundtable discussion on school safety with state and local law enforcement, education leaders, and elected officials. He plans to continue this model and host additional discussions to help inform policies regarding school safety.

The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) released re-developed Georgia School Safety Plan guidelines in June 2022. The Governor also announced increased training including six additional active shooter classes for school resource officers and additional GEEARS funding for student mental health initiatives.

COVID guidance for schools and child care centers: The Department of Public Health (DPH) collaborated with DECAL and GaDOE to develop COVID guidance for schools and child care centers. Collaborative efforts helped keep schools and child care centers operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, while also protecting the health of the children, teachers, and staff. Ultimately, this helped reduce school and class closures and prevent learning loss by Georgia’s children.

Child Safety Symposium: In partnership with The GreenHouse, a local child advocacy and sexual assault center, United Way of Northwest Georgia provided a child safety symposium to help 150 service providers gain critical insights into the motives and methods sex offenders use to groom, abuse, and discredit victims of child sexual abuse. Multidisciplinary teams from Whitfield, Murray, Gordon, Catoosa, Walker, Floyd, Paulding, Bartow, Chatham, Gilmer, Pulaski, and Bacon counties participated.

SPLASH, Look Again, and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Prevention Campaign: State agencies worked together to coordinate messaging on safety initiatives around water safety, preventing children being left in unattended vehicles, and preventing child sexual exploitation.

HEALTHY

Mental Health Bill: The Mental Health Parity Act, House Bill 1013, was passed unanimously by the Georgia General Assembly during the 2022 legislative session. HB 1013 ensures the state will help Georgians access affordable mental health and abuse treatment for themselves and their children by ensuring that public and private health insurance plans cover behavioral health equitably with physical health. In time, the bill will also address mental health workforce shortages by ensuring equity in reimbursement of providers by insurers.

Express Lane Eligibility: The Department of Community Health (DCH) and the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) have partnered to implement Express Lane Eligibility. The Express Lane Program provides Georgia with a new, effective avenue to ensure children eligible for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids have an efficient and simplified process for determining and renewing eligibility. Children eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) under DFCS would automatically be eligible for consideration for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids benefits.

Lead legislation: The Childhood Lead Exposure Control Act, House Bill 1355, sponsored by Cabinet member Rep. Katie Dempsey and colleagues was passed. HB 1355 will strengthen protections for children against lead poisoning by lowering the previously held amount of lead in children’s blood that would trigger state regulatory action (10 micrograms per deciliter) to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter. With the new regulation, DPH estimates an increase of 4,000 cases falling into the category needing investigation.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IEMCH) State Task Force: The IEMCH State Task Force was convened by DECAL and the IECMH Promotion/Prevention Workgroup – collaborating on IECMH subcommittee with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), DECAL, and DPH.

Georgia Maternal Health ECHO: This partnership between DPH, Georgia Family Connection Partnership (GaFCP), Morehouse School of Medicine, and Medical College of Georgia provided a virtual community learning platform for clinicians and community advocates to collaborate on implementing solutions to address maternal mortality and severe morbidity in Georgia.

Georgia Mental Health Resource Guides: United Way of Northwest Georgia developed a comprehensive Mental Health Services Information and Referral Guide in English and Spanish for Whitfield and Murray counties. This resource is available at <https://www.ourunitedway.org/dial-2-1-1-help> or by calling 706-CAN-HELP. Guides are made available to service providers, company human resource departments, and the public at company and community resource fairs. This guide was made possible with grant funding from the Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia and United Healthcare and was produced in conjunction with a Regional Mental Health Initiative with Georgia’s Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan, Reliance Georgia, and Region 1 Systems of Care.

Coalition to Increase Access to the WIC Program: Voices for Georgia’s Children (Voices) is leading an effort with several Children’s Cabinet members to reverse a concerning trend: declining participation in SNAP for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). WIC pays for nutritious food during the most critical period of early childhood brain development. Specifically, for Georgia, WIC enrolls fewer than half of its 430,000 eligible women, infants, and children. Voices and the Atlanta Community Food Bank are co-facilitating a 40+ member coalition of stakeholders to support the state in (a) its transition from paper WIC vouchers to electronic debit cards, (b) using technology to simplify enrollment and improve user experience (c) and expanding culturally and linguistically competent outreach and education. This partnership with DPH, DECAL, and DFCS, have been instrumental in advancing the work to increase access to food for Georgia’s families.

Donor Breast Milk: DPH in coordination with the AAP, Georgia Chapter, is working to cover the cost of donor breast milk as a Medicaid benefit. The purpose of this provision is to reduce the occurrence of necrotizing enterocolitis, a serious gastrointestinal illness that affects newborns.

Behavioral Health Support Services: DCH, in collaboration with DFCS, is seeking to establish a new service known as Behavioral Health Services, pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The service will provide behavior management intervention and stabilization services in home or community settings to children who meet serious emotional disturbance, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, and/or other developmental criteria with behavioral symptoms. The goal of this service is to reinforce positive behaviors, continue training and education for the youth and family in areas that promote health, safety, and well-being of the child and their family.

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities—Length of Initial Stay: In a collaborative effort between DBHDD, Voices, and DFCS, DCH worked to ensure that the initial length of stay authorized by the Care Management Organizations (CMOs) allowed sufficient time to properly assess and treat children. As a result of this initiative, the three CMOs are aligned as of December 2021 to allow an initial length of stay of 30 days rather than 14 days, thereby allowing more time to perform critical assessments and treatment when a child enters a facility.

Medicaid Co-Pay Waiver; PeachCare for Kids Premium Waiver: To provide support to families during the global pandemic, DCH waived premiums for the PeachCare for Kids program and co-pays for Medicaid while still providing essential health care access for the children in each program including those in the care of DFCS.

Child Well-being Index: The United Way of Greater Atlanta provided a tool for all agencies in the state to use to help gauge child well-being. The tool employs a set of intentionally selected indicators to measure child well-being across greater Atlanta using the dimensions of children, families, and communities.

<https://www.unitedwayatlanta.org/child-well-being-map/>

Trauma Informed Universities (TIU): Trauma-Informed Universities is a multi-year initiative to transform Georgia’s behavioral health workforce into robust, trauma-informed providers. Along with the Interagency Directors Team, Voices has implemented a trauma training pilot at five universities across the state and will be coordinating internships and expanding trauma training to counseling programs.

Developmental Milestones website: DECAL’s website provides information and resources that allow families to easily follow their child’s developmental milestones and monitor their progress. The research-based milestones were developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in conjunction with the AAP, Georgia Chapter.

LITERACY

Teacher Education Bill: Senate Bill 88 provides for the Professional Standards Commission to require that teacher education programs include mandatory coursework in differentiated instruction and reading fundamentals and promotes increased student enrollment in and completion of teacher education programs offered at historically black colleges and universities in this state.

Evidence-Based Literacy Study Committee: House Resolution 650 creates a House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction to focus on evidenced-based literacy instruction and a community-based literacy skills pipeline and growth.

Statewide Literacy and Programs List: The Georgia Literacy Council created a statewide list of literacy initiatives in Georgia. This list is posted on the GOSA website under Georgia Literacy Resources.

Growing Readers Partnership with Cox Campus: GaDOE collaborated with The Cox Campus online platform to provide supportive language and literacy interactive material to augment content for teacher literacy instruction and free literacy training resources for teachers.

Language as a Missing Link Toolkit: Head Start and Communication Crossroads, in partnership with CSRA RESA, are implementing a pilot with local partners from Early Head Start, Head Start, and Pre-K – 3rd grade to implement the Language as a Missing Link Toolkit. The Missing Link Toolkit is for individuals, practitioners, and policymakers to employ practices that apply language and well-being indicators to improve educational, mental health, and well-being outcomes.

iCivics in Georgia: A partnership between the Judicial Council, Administrative Office of the Courts, the Georgia Center for Civic Engagement, Georgia Municipal Association, and GaFCP is growing the use of this web-based platform to engage students in meaningful student learning. Beyond iCivics, these organizations are coordinating and leveraging each other’s existing civic engagement work, hoping the collaboration will lead to a greater collective impact. Their joint work includes activities that promote literacy as a strategy for improved civic education and engagement outcomes.

Get Georgia Reading Campaign: Cabinet members including AAP, GaFCP, USG, and other community partners provided a framework and application of strategies through the Get Reading Campaign to increase reading literacy among children in Georgia.

United Way of Northwest Georgia Power Lunch: Power Lunches are an initiative of the United Way of Northwest Georgia and Whitfield County School System with the support from community partners: Dalton-Whitfield County Public Library, Dalton State College School of Education, and the Early Childhood Initiative of Northwest Georgia. Summer Power Lunches started in 2014 allowing community volunteers to visit Whitfield County summer lunch sites supported by the USDA summer lunch program. Power Lunches have continued to build on this initial idea and are supported by community volunteers and sites supported by Dalton State College School of Education students. The goal of the Power Lunches is to build home libraries for children and to encourage literacy for all ages. In 2021, Power Lunches put more than 6,000 books in the hands of children and their families.

Literacy for Learning, Living, and Leading (L4GA): GaFCP is partnering with GaDOE to support community engagement in L4GA. This work engages cross-agency technical assistance providers including DECAL and Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs).

Literacy Workshop Series Pilot: Partnership with Neighborhood Nexus and GaFCP supports the pilot of a data literacy workshop series for community collaborative partners. The series works to enhance efforts around developing and implementing data-informed approaches to improve outcomes among families with children from birth to age eight.

SHARE and BOOST Grants: Voices, led by the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN), partnered with DECAL and GaDOE to design, administer, and support the grantees of two federal stimulus funded grant programs. The first was School-Age Help and Relief Effort (SHARE), which allocated \$5 million to child care programs serving school-age youth. The second was Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST), which is allocating \$85 million of competitive grants to community-based afterschool and summer learning programs over three years. To enhance programmatic quality and align services to various types of program providers, GSAN has also designed and implemented tiered systems of quality improvement supports for grantees of both programs based on the Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Quality Standards.

Literacy and Justice for All Collaborative: This initiative brings the Science of Reading to children within a community by reaching them through the adults who serve them, prenatal through third grade. Initially activated in Marietta, anyone can implement the practices through Cox Campus courses and resources—created for child-facing adults of children from prenatal care providers through third grade reading teachers.

PINES Library Access for Youth (PLAY) Cards: The PINES Library Card Access for Youth (PLAY) card gives students free access to public library materials and online resources to help them succeed in school. Northwest Georgia Regional Library System (NGRL) partnered with local schools in Gordon, Murray, and Whitfield counties to provide the PLAY card.

2GEN APPROACH

Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE)/School Policy & Advocacy Agenda: This is a joint committee of the statewide Farm to School Alliance & Farm to Early Care Coalitions to implement the policy/advocacy goals of the committees. Cabinet partners include DECAL, DOE, GaFCP, and United Way. GaFCP chairs the joint committee and is a member of their steering committee.

Casey's Changing the Odds Network: This coalition of partners is working to ensure that all children in Atlanta, regardless of race, are reared in economically successful families, live in supportive communities, and meet developmental, health, and educational milestones.

United Way's Born Learning Trails: These trails consist of activities to promote early learning and to advocate for family health. Each trail is marked by 10 interactive signs in English and Spanish that offer fun learning activities for children and their families. The learning signs feature different activities that engage early childhood development. To date, United Way of Northwest Georgia has installed Born Learning Trails in three local parks in Whitfield and Murray Counties.

Statewide Biennial Conference: This conference brings together partners from DFCS, DPH, DECAL, DOE, GEEARS, and Quality Care for Children as presenters and attendees.