



**Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent**  
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"

## Georgia International Workforce Development Initiative Fact Sheet

### **Background:**

Business and community leaders have become increasingly aware of and vocal about the need to assist international companies with Georgia operations in growing their businesses to promote job creation. These leaders recognize that, for international companies, Georgia occupies a unique position of prominence in this region of the United States, due to factors such as the transportation hub of Atlanta, the shipping capabilities of Savannah, the presence of many large American corporations, and the high number of outstanding post-secondary educational institutions around the State. As a result, these leaders recognize that Georgia is well-positioned to recruit additional capital investments from international businesses to support growth in high-paying jobs in industries that leverage new technologies and advanced manufacturing.

However, capital investment to support expanded operations has slowed due to global economic conditions and heavy competition from other regions of the country. Furthermore, as Georgia continues to experience high unemployment, open jobs at manufacturing businesses ironically go unfilled due to training and educational gaps within the local workforce. As a result, in 2012 the Georgia General Assembly passed the Georgia International Workforce Development Initiative ("GWI"), a mandate to the Department of Education (GaDOE) to promote job growth from international businesses with existing Georgia operations by building public-private partnerships based upon its published vision of defined educational pathways, which included training in foreign language, cultural awareness and sought-after business and technical skills.

**Specific Goals of the Initiative:** To produce the overall vision of GWI within the timeframe and expectations of the General Assembly, the GaDOE will seek to partner with international businesses to promote job growth by determining the businesses' needs and developing solutions that, among other things, will include the following:

- *Course curriculum materials:* GaDOE will work with international businesses to obtain the donation of training materials, manuals, and other information to be used in the development of elective courses to assist in training students in job skills needed by the business community;
- *Industry-specific language tests:* GaDOE will work with international businesses to obtain the donation of industry-specific language tests to assist in training students in job skills needed by the business community;
- *Pathway certification tests & job commitments:* GaDOE will work with international businesses to obtain the donation of internal testing materials to assist in enabling students to achieve job certifications needed by the business community and to obtain their support in filling new or existing job openings with students who obtain the requisite job certifications;



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- *Student experiences:* GaDOE will develop dual-immersion language programs and work with the industry partners who participate in the GWI to provide overseas work projects & cultural experiences for middle and secondary school students and post-secondary-level internships for students with interests in international business and in science, technology, engineering & mathematics (STEM); and
- *Public-Private Partnership:* GaDOE and the Georgia Foundation for Public Education will work with the industry partners who participate in the GWI to develop and public-private partnership to fund and coordinate the program prospectively and to facilitate further educational, cultural and economic exchanges between Georgia and other nations.

**For More Information:**

GaDOE has partnered with the YellowPark Garden consultancy ([www.yellowparkgarden.com](http://www.yellowparkgarden.com)) to facilitate the implementation of the GWI by building relationships with international businesses and leading partnership programs designed to fulfill their hiring objectives. Businesses who are interested in learning more about becoming partners in the GWI program should contact Denis Brosnan, Principal of YellowPark Garden ([denis@yellowparkgarden.com](mailto:denis@yellowparkgarden.com)). Educators and other members of the education community interested in the language, curriculum and student experiences aspects of the GWI should contact Jon Valentine, Program Manager for Languages and Global Initiatives, GaDOE ([jvalentine@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jvalentine@doe.k12.ga.us)).