

Beyond 2020: Rewriting Our Story to Improve Childhood Literacy

Description:

Children who grow up without reading skills are more likely to drop out of high school than those who master them. They're also more likely to have poor health and discipline problems and become teen parents. As adults they're more likely to be unemployed, spend time in prison, and contend with shorter life expectancies. That's costly to our state and hinders our ability to compete in a global economy. Georgia's public and private leaders responded to this crisis in 2013 by coming together to take on third-grade reading—not only as an education issue, but also as an urgent priority for all who care about children's health and well-being. We're constantly refining our strategy, using data and research to inform our decisions. This presentation provides a brief look at what we've learned, our successes, and our challenges—and what we need to do next to create the conditions that must be in place so that every child in Georgia is on a path to literacy. That takes more than good schools, more than great teachers, and more than loving parents. It will take all of us working together.

Presenter: Arianne B. Weldon, MPH, Strategic Innovation Manager & GGR Campaign

Director, Georgia Family Connection Partnership