



March 23 2021

Science for Georgia (the local affiliate of AAAS Local Science Engagement Network), the Technology Association of Georgia Education Collaborative, Breaking the Cycle of Health Disparities Inc, the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Reach Out and Read Georgia, and Georgia Family Connection Partnership are pleased to announce the signing of House Resolutions HR 322 and HR 336 in the Georgia General Assembly. Sponsored by Matt Dubnik (29-R), Chris Erwin (28-R), Becky Evans (83-D), Doreen Carter (92-D), Gregg Kennard (102-D), Matthew Wilson (80-D), and Betsy Holland (54-D), these resolutions recognize March as Georgia Reading Awareness Month.

Science for Georgia works to connect science to the general public. This is accomplished by establishing best practices and identifying ways that scientific evidence can be implemented to affect change. For example, reading at grade-level by 3<sup>rd</sup> is the greatest indicator of high school graduation, regardless of parental education level or socioeconomic status. Unfortunately, in Georgia, 37% of 4th graders are reading below the National average for reading achievement.

To ensure all Georgia children meet this reading goal, they need to have a foundation in reading skills when entering kindergarten. Read Aloud, a national nonprofit, suggests that children should be read to for at least 15 minutes per day starting at age 6 months to promote kindergarten reading readiness.

Just reading 15 minutes a day can change the course of a child's life.

The passing of these resolutions highlighting Georgia Reading Awareness Month is step one in a three-part plan to amplify reading and raise awareness of this important, but low-cost, way to positively impact the future for Georgia children.

Secondly, the partnership has put together a resource directory that includes e-books, tips & tricks, and fun ways to include reading in your life. You can explore these resources [here](#).

Finally, the partnership is working to donate 1000 books to Reach Out and Read GA and the Fulton County Library System to get books into the hands of more Georgia children, especially those who need them most. Reach Out and Read distributes books to kids at physician's offices during well-child check-ups and pediatricians talk to parents about the importance of reading. These [books are being purchased](#) through Atlanta Black-owned bookstores, the Bookworm and Nubian. Next year, we will encourage people to purchase books and place them in collection bins; however, due to Covid-19, all books can be purchased via direct suppliers.



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Above, from left to right, Rep Becky Evans, Amy Sharma (Science for Georgia), Karolina Klinker (Reach Out and Read), Louis Kiphen (Science for Georgia), Randy Gorod (Sci4Ga), and Rep Matt Dubnik.



Above, from left to right, Rep Gregg Kennard, Amy Sharma (Science for 4Georgia), Karolina Klinker (Reach Out and Read), Louis Kiphen (Science for 4Georgia), and Randy Gorod (Science for 4Georgia)