

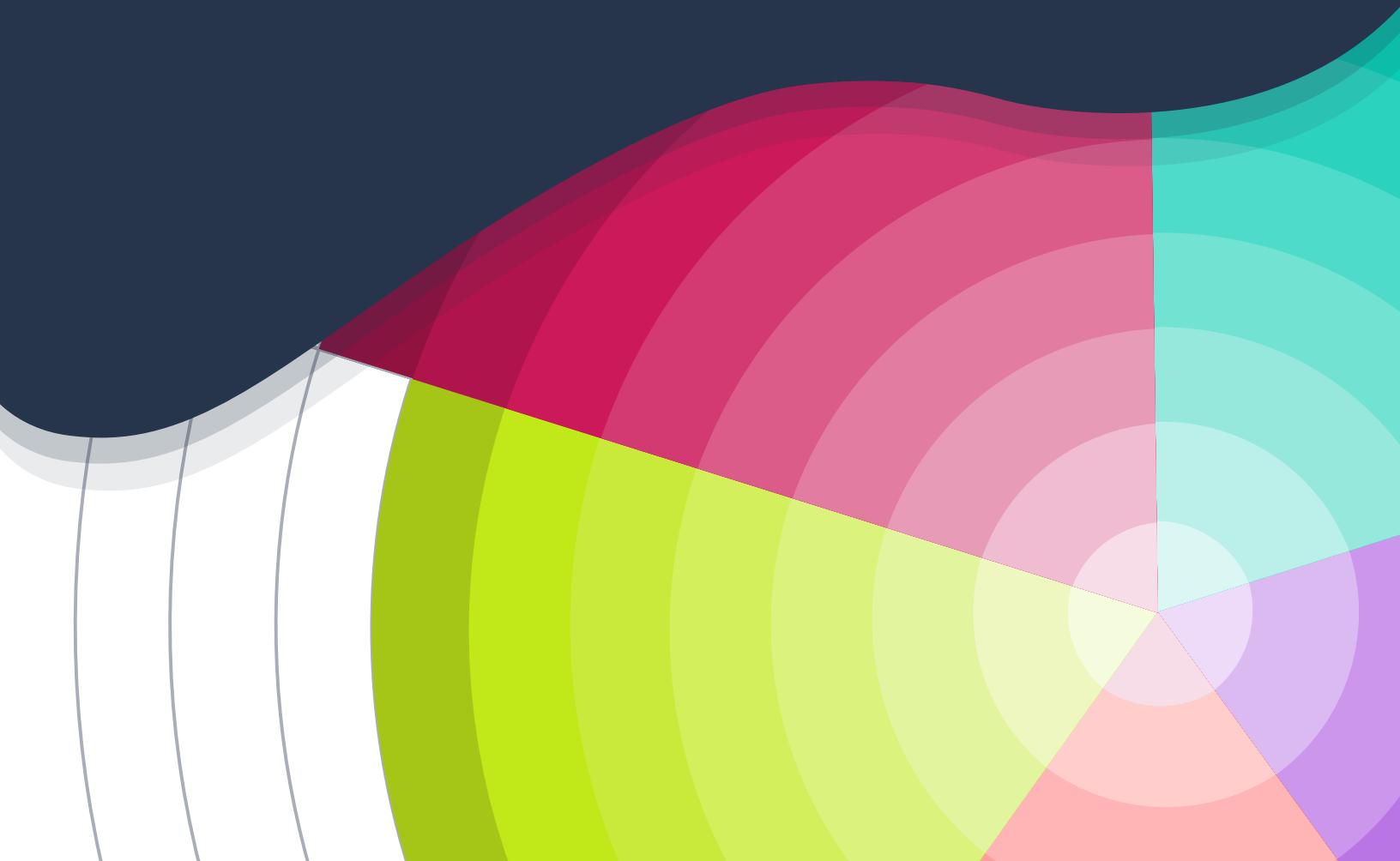


2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

# The State of Educational Opportunity in Georgia

## A Survey of Georgia Parents

February 2026



2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

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Dear Friends,

Over the past decade, Georgia has seen a wave of changes to our state's education landscape based on the needs and interests of our students and families. From expanding the choices between schools and models of education that a student can access to strengthening career pathways, Georgia's students have significantly more access to opportunities than they did a decade prior as a result of policymakers and advocates listening to the core constituency: parents.

Listening to parents is at the heart of our work at GeorgiaCAN, and it is what drives the second edition of the Survey of Educational Opportunity in Georgia. Developed in partnership with 5oCAN and Edge Research, this updated survey captures how families are experiencing the education system now, while also allowing us to see where views have shifted since the inaugural edition, published in November 2024. As conditions for students and schools continue to evolve, so too must our understanding of whether families feel supported, informed and empowered. By returning to this survey, we are able to track patterns over time, compare Georgia to other states and our regional peers, and identify gaps that demand attention alongside areas of progress.

In Georgia, 825 parents and guardians of school-aged children participated in the survey between September 30 and December 1, 2025, contributing to a national research effort that includes responses from more than 23,000 families nationwide, along with representative samples in each state and the District of Columbia that allows for state-by-state comparisons.

#### **Several themes stand out from Georgia's results:**



**Georgia is among the top states on parent demand on parent demand for deeper academic support for students.** 65% of Georgia's parents strongly support free tutoring for students who have fallen below grade level.



**Strong Support for Charter Schools.** Georgia parents demonstrate robust support for charter schools, with 74% favoring them. This surpasses the national average of 68% and among all states Georgia ranks 6th. The intensity of this support is also notable, with 41% of Georgia parents reporting they "strongly favor" charter schools, compared to 36% nationally.



**Georgia families feel increasingly empowered to exercise school choice.** The percentage of parents who feel they have a choice in which school

their child attends rose to 70% in 2025, a notable increase from 64% in 2024. However, the survey also found that only 41% of parents are aware of Georgia's new ESA program, the Georgia Promise Scholarship.



**Parents in Georgia want an accurate portrayal of their children's academic progress.** While Georgians' support for standardized testing ranks among the highest in the country, only 42% of Georgia parents feel extremely confident they understand how well their child is doing in school.

The pages that follow include:

- An overview of the survey's **methodology** and how to interpret the results
- A concise **summary** of Georgia's performance across all five categories and 15 questions
- Visual **comparisons** showing how Georgia stacks up nationally and how responses have changed since the previous survey

The full Georgia report is available at [gacan.org](http://gacan.org). National results, the survey instrument, and the complete dataset can be found at [5ocan.org](http://5ocan.org).

Our hope is that this second edition continues to support informed decision-making as GeorgiaCAN works to expand educational opportunity for every student.

Sincerely,

**Michael O'Sullivan**  
Executive Director  
GeorgiaCAN

# Methodology

Edge Research conducted a nationwide survey of 23,104 U.S. parents and guardians of school-aged children (K-12th grade) in each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. **In Georgia, 825 parents and guardians of K-12 children were surveyed.** Respondents could take the survey in either English or Spanish, based on their preference. The survey was in the field from September 30, 2025, to December 1, 2025.

## DATA COLLECTION

The survey used a mixed-mode methodology to reach as many households as possible. First, survey respondents were recruited using online, non-probability samples obtained via national opt-in consumer research panels. These surveys were mobile-optimized (meaning participants can take the survey on a PC or mobile device, which helps reach those who do not have internet access but do have a mobile data plan). In states where Edge Research was not able to collect enough surveys using this method, they obtained supplementary text-to-web interviews.

## SURVEY REPRESENTATIVENESS

As respondents entered the survey, they submitted demographic information, and quotas were set to ensure the sample is proportionately distributed in accordance with the most recent U.S. Census and National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data on U.S. parents in each state. Quotas functioned by predetermining the number of desired respondents by gender identity, race, ethnicity, child's grade, and grade level in each state. Once the desired number was reached with each quota group, it closed, and additional respondents were turned away. After the survey came out of the field, Edge Research reviewed the data and applied additional weights by income, marital status, parent gender, race/ethnicity, school type, and area (e.g., urban, suburban, small town, rural) within states.

The following tables provide the demographics of survey respondents in Georgia after weighting.

RACE/ETHNICITY							
Hispanic/ Latino of Any Race	White Alone	Black/ African American Alone	American Indian or Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Alone	Some Other Race Alone	Two or More Races
11%	55%	27%	0.2%	3%	0.1%	0.2%	2%

INCOME DISTRIBUTION		
Low Income	Middle Income	High Income
40%	50%	10%

SCHOOL LEVEL		
K-5th	6th-8th	9th-12th
45%	24%	31%

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.census.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/tableviewer/acsProfile/2021>

GRADE OF CHILD													
K	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	
8%	7%	7%	8%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%

SCHOOL TYPE									
Local or Traditional Public School	Public Magnet School	Public Charter School	Private Independent School	Parochial/ Religious School	Virtual/ Online Public School	Homeschool	Microschool	Other Type of School	
68%	6%	8%	9%	2%	3%	4%	0.2%	1%	

## INCOME DEFINITIONS

In the pages that follow, we provide results for low-, middle- and high-income parents. These income buckets were calculated using the Pew Research Center's study on "The State of the American Middle Class" and their category definitions:

- Middle-income households are defined as those with an income that is two-thirds to double that of the U.S. median household income, after being adjusted for household size.
- Lower-income households have incomes less than two-thirds of the median
- High-income households have incomes that are more than double the median.

Following these definitions, Edge Research adjusted the incomes reported in the survey to reflect a three-person household using the equivalence scales technique. Pulling from the U.S. Census 2023 Annual Social and Economic Supplements, they used the three-person household income breaks of \$61,000 to \$183,000 as middle, and values above and below those thresholds as lower and upper income respectively. Edge Research also adjusted each household income using Regional Price Parities (RPPs)—indexes from the Bureau of Economic Analysis—that compare local prices to the national average. These tell whether an area is more or less expensive than the country overall. RPPs are applied differently based on what is known about the household's location. If the exact metro area is known, the RPP is used for that metro area. If the household is in a non-metro (rural or small town) area, the RPP for non-metro areas in that state is used.

## DATA QUALITY CONTROL AND STANDARDS

Edge Research employed several practices to ensure data quality. The survey platform used reCAPTCHA to screen for bots. They also applied a third-party tool called Research Defender to screen out known bad actors and respondents with high survey-taking rates. In addition, data was monitored regularly while in the field. Once all responses were collected, they applied additional data cleaning processes, clearing data for cheating, speeding, inattentiveness, and AI-generated responses.

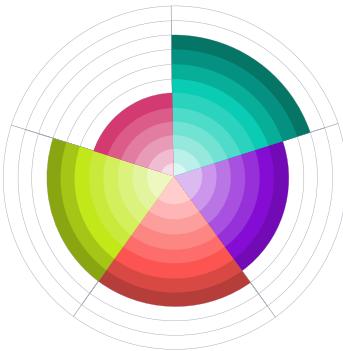
Edge Research follows the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Code of Professional Ethics and Practices to maintain the highest standards of competence, integrity, accountability, and transparency in public opinion and survey research work.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-asec,2023.html#list-tab-165711867>  
<sup>4</sup> [Standards and Ethics - AAPOR](#)

# How to Read the Results

One challenge with a survey of this size was how to present the results in an accessible way that doesn't sacrifice the depth of insights. We decided to present the answers in two ways: first with an overview of the results across 15 questions for our state and then with a more in-depth look at how our state compared to all the other states for a few key questions.

## OUR STATE SUMMARY

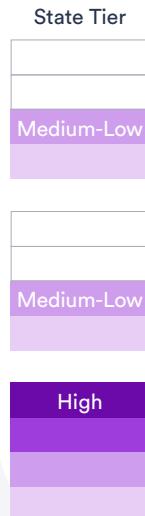


To help make it easier to look at our state's full results at a glance, we present the answers from our parents over two pages. At the top of the first page is the number of parents who participated in the survey.

We also provide a way to view our state's **relative strengths and weaknesses through a circle with five wedges**, one for each of the five categories of the survey: 1) School quality and opportunity (pink), 2) Tutoring, summer, and mental health (green), 3) Out of school activities (teal), 4) Information and engagement (purple), and 5) College and career readiness (orange).

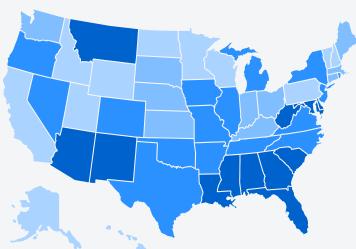
Each of the five categories is made up of three questions. These are presented below each category with **our state's results compared to other states represented by a tier** shown to the right of each question, from low to high. These tiers are scored from 1 (low) to 4 (high) and the scores across the three questions determine how many rows are colored in for the wedge (up to a possible number of 12 rows).

The state results for each question are presented in circles that offer a comparison of the state against the national average and the 2025 results compared to 2024. For yes/no questions, the results are presented as the percentage who said yes, rounded to the nearest whole number. For questions about parents' opinions and attitudes, we utilized a Likert scale and **reported out the percentage choosing the highest option**. For example, on question 1, which measures parents' satisfaction with their child's school, we present the percentage who answered that they were "very satisfied." This helps ground the comparison discussion in a high bar for success.



## OUR STATE IN CONTEXT

The second section of this report provides comparative results for all 50 states plus D.C., one question at a time.



For the maps, a key provides the scale for the map and explains the numbers behind each of the four shades of blue. The darkest shade of blue is always the highest numbers and the lightest shade of blue is always the lowest numbers. Our state is outlined in red.

For the list, states are ordered from highest performing states at the top to lowest performing states at the bottom. Our state is identified with a red box to make it easier to spot.

# GEORGIA

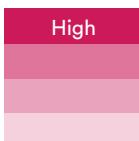


Surveyed September 30 - December 1, 2025  
Sample size (N) = 825 parents and guardians



## SCHOOL QUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY

State Tier



### Very Satisfied with School

Percentage answering they are very satisfied with their child's school

2024 GA Average

48%

2025 GA Average

49%

2024-2025 Difference

+1%

National Average

47%



### Would Make the Same Choice

Percentage answering that they would send their child to the school they go to today

64%

66%

+2%

68%



### Feel They Have a Choice

Percentage answering they feel like they have a choice in what school their child attends

64%

70%

+6%

70%

## TUTORING, SUMMER AND MENTAL HEALTH

State Tier



### Tutoring Participation

Percentage of children who have received academic tutoring in this past school year

2024 GA Average

22%

2025 GA Average

23%

2024-2025 Difference

+1%

National Average

24%



### Summer Program Participation

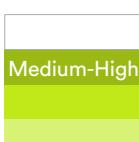
Percentage of children who participated in a supervised summer program

38%

35%

-3%

39%



### Very Satisfied with Mental Health Support

Percentage answering they are very satisfied with how the school supports their child's mental health needs

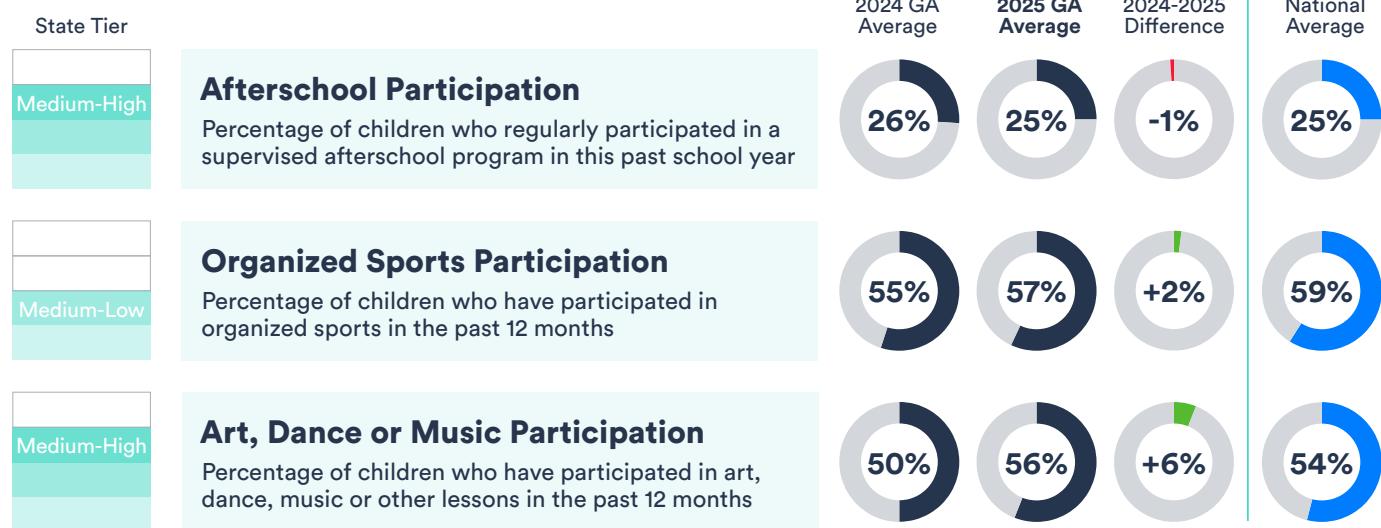
37%

42%

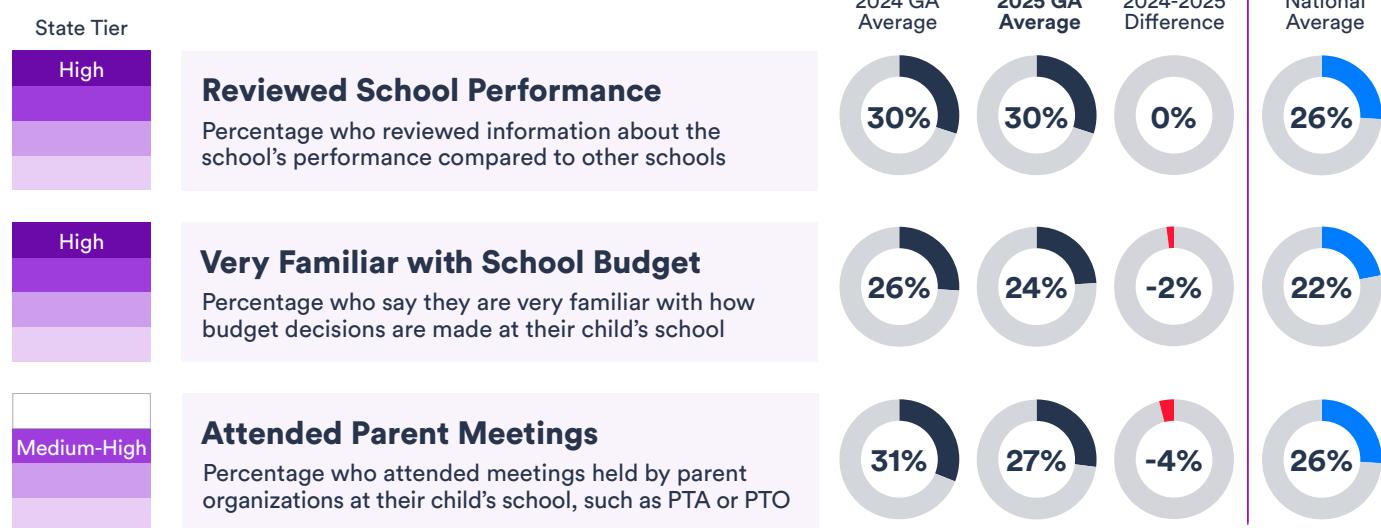
+5%

41%

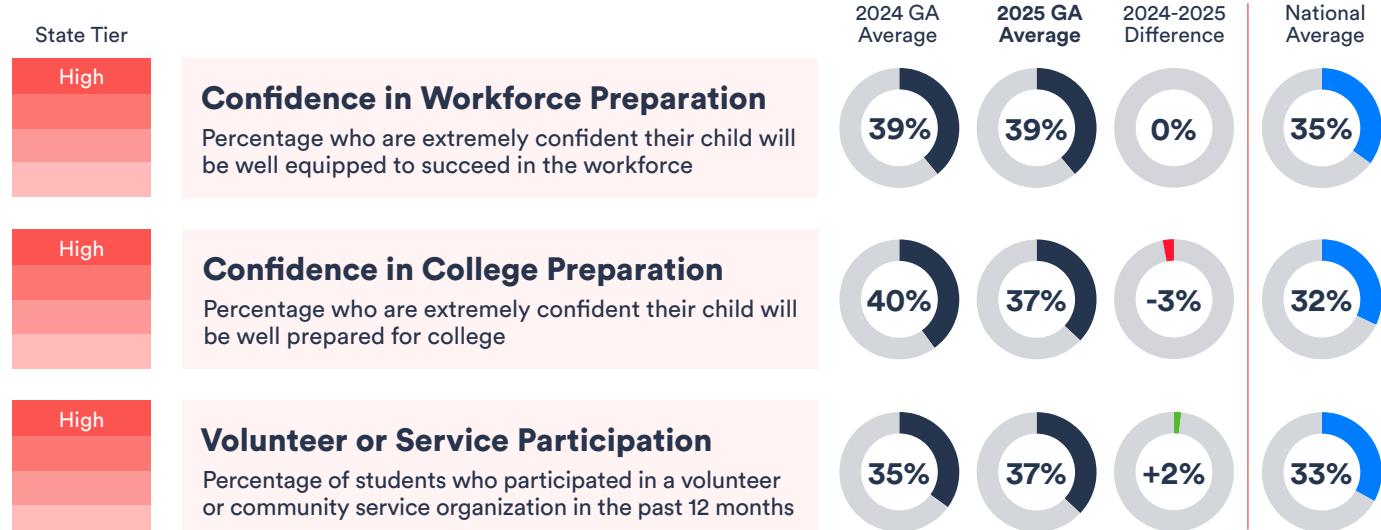
## OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



## INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT



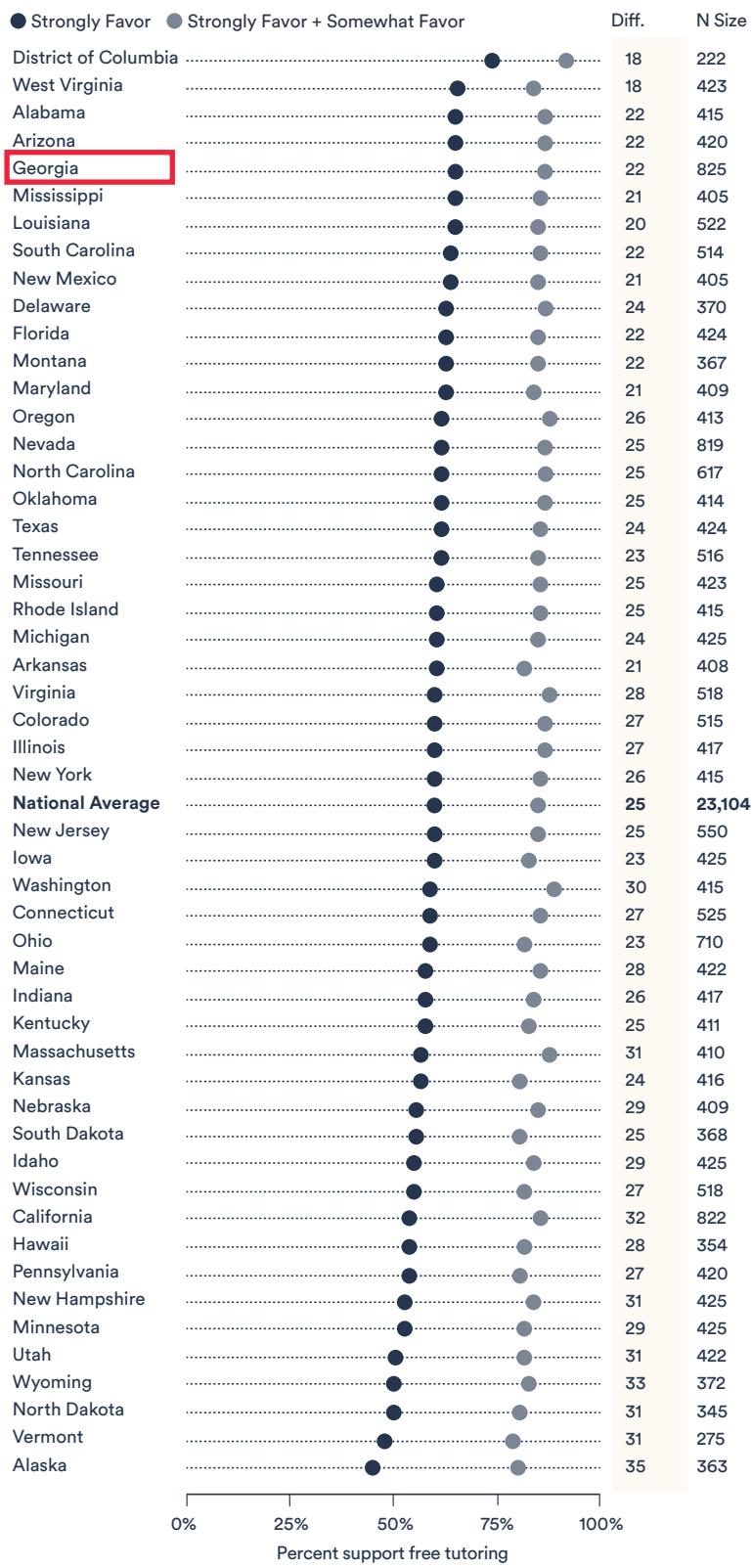
## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS



# Georgia in Context: A 50-State Perspective

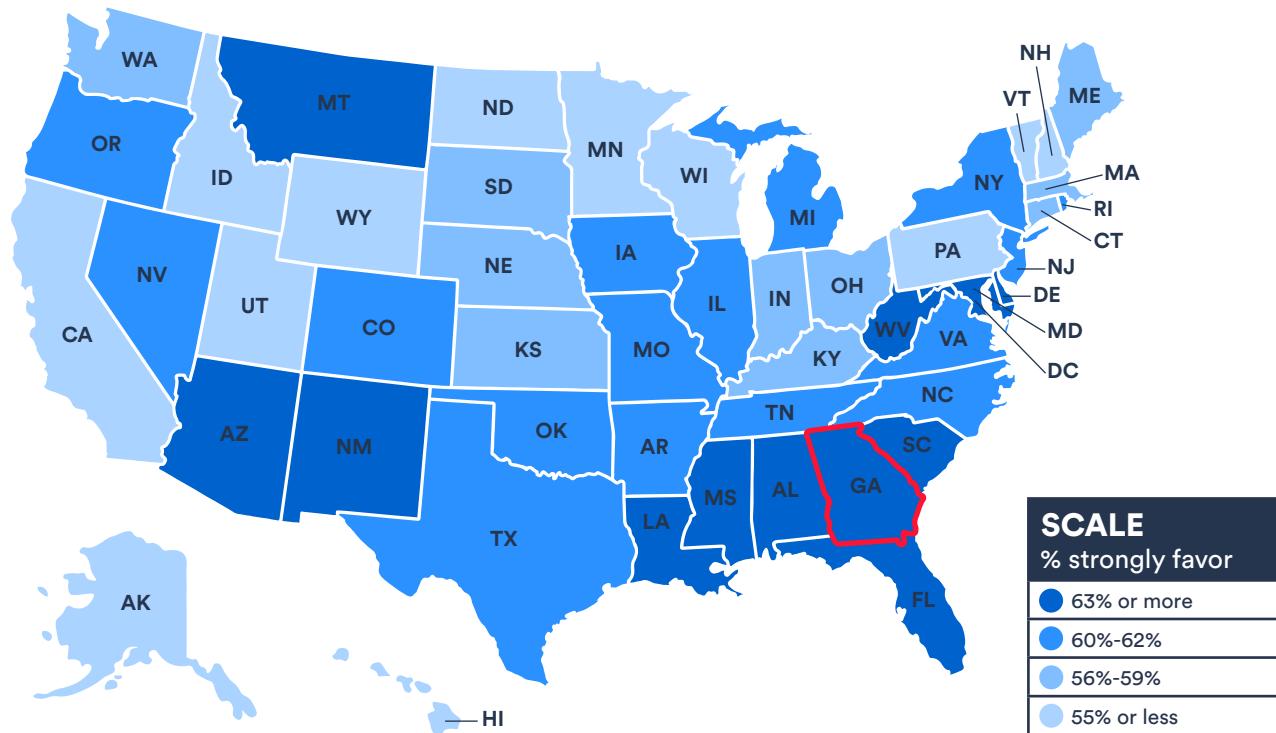
## SUPPORT FOR FREE TUTORING BY STATE

Percentage answering they favor free tutoring for K-12 students who fall below grade level



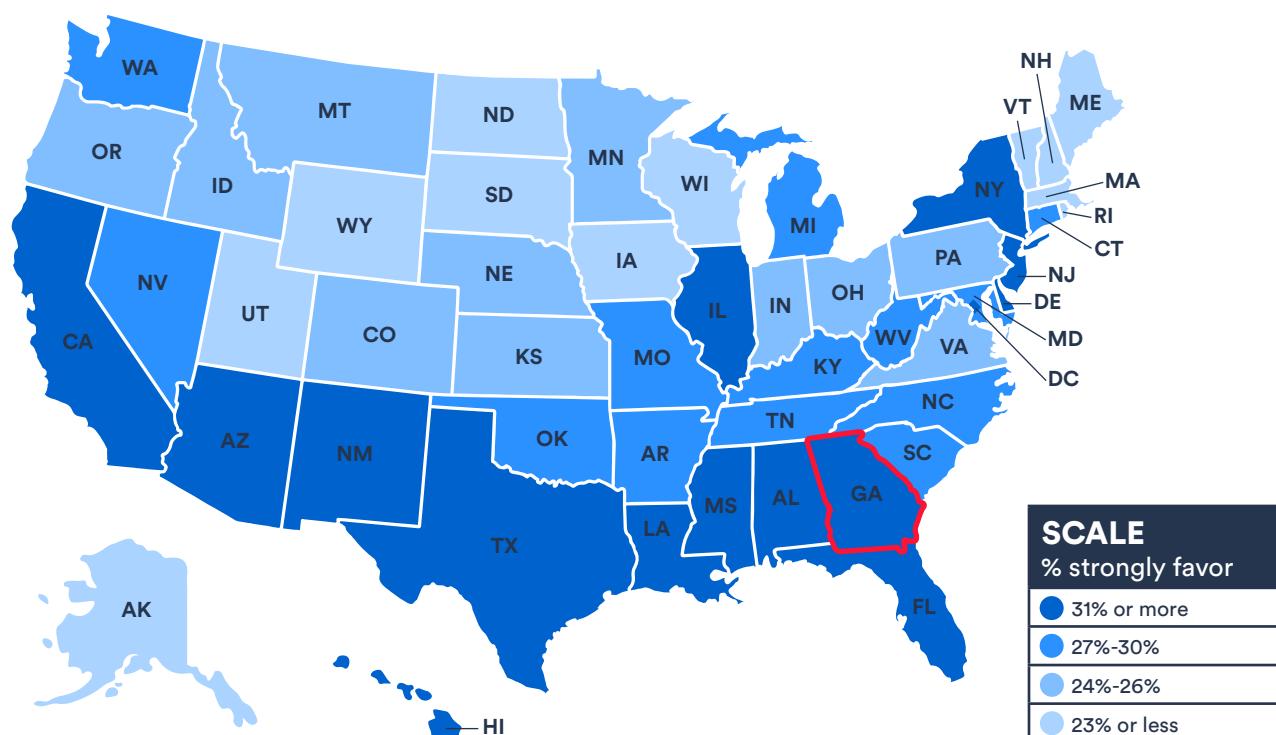
## STRONGLY FAVOR FREE TUTORING BY STATE

Percentage answering they strongly favor free tutoring for K-12 students who fall below grade level



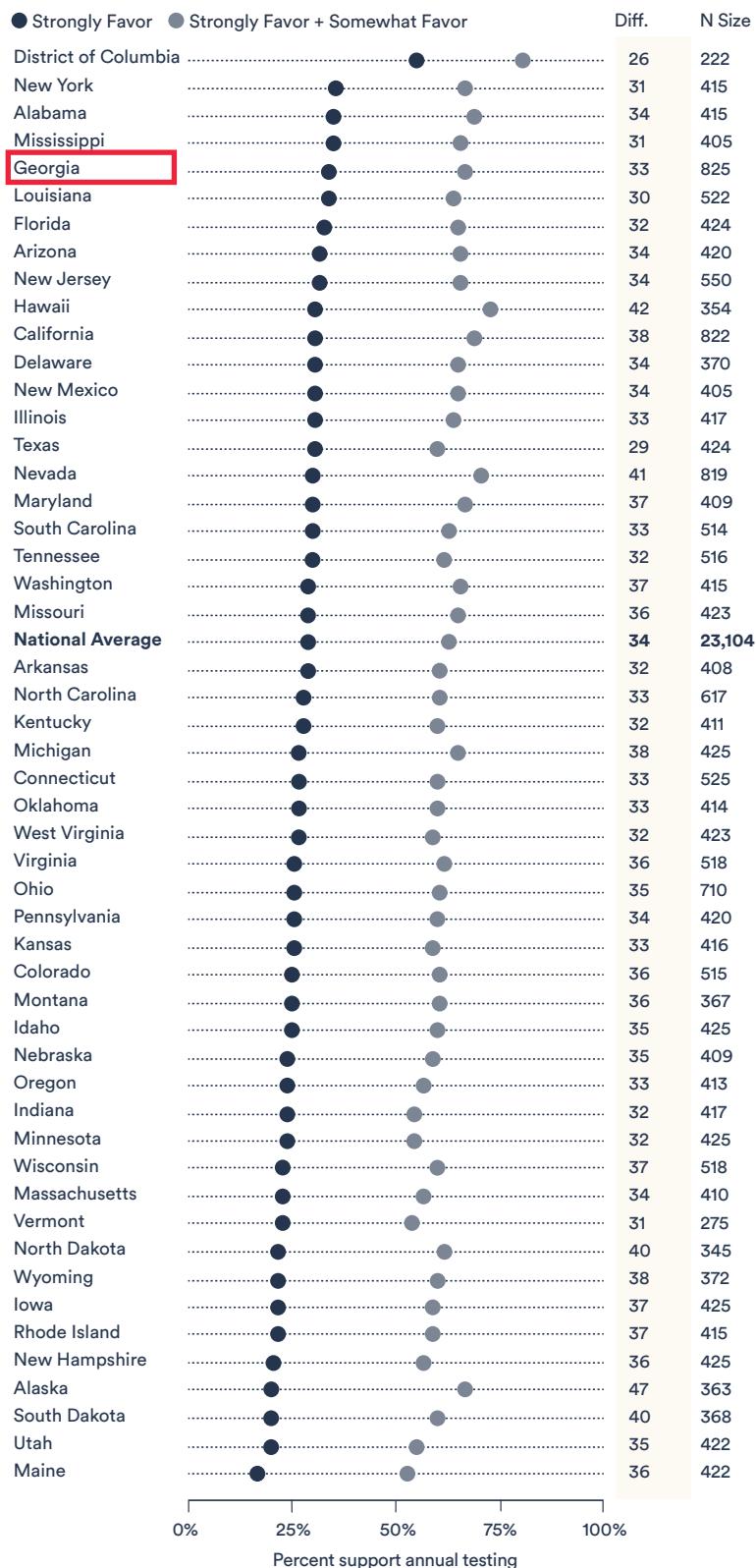
## STRONGLY FAVOR ANNUAL TESTING BY STATE

Percentage answering they strongly favor the use of annual standardized tests to measure how well your child is achieving academically



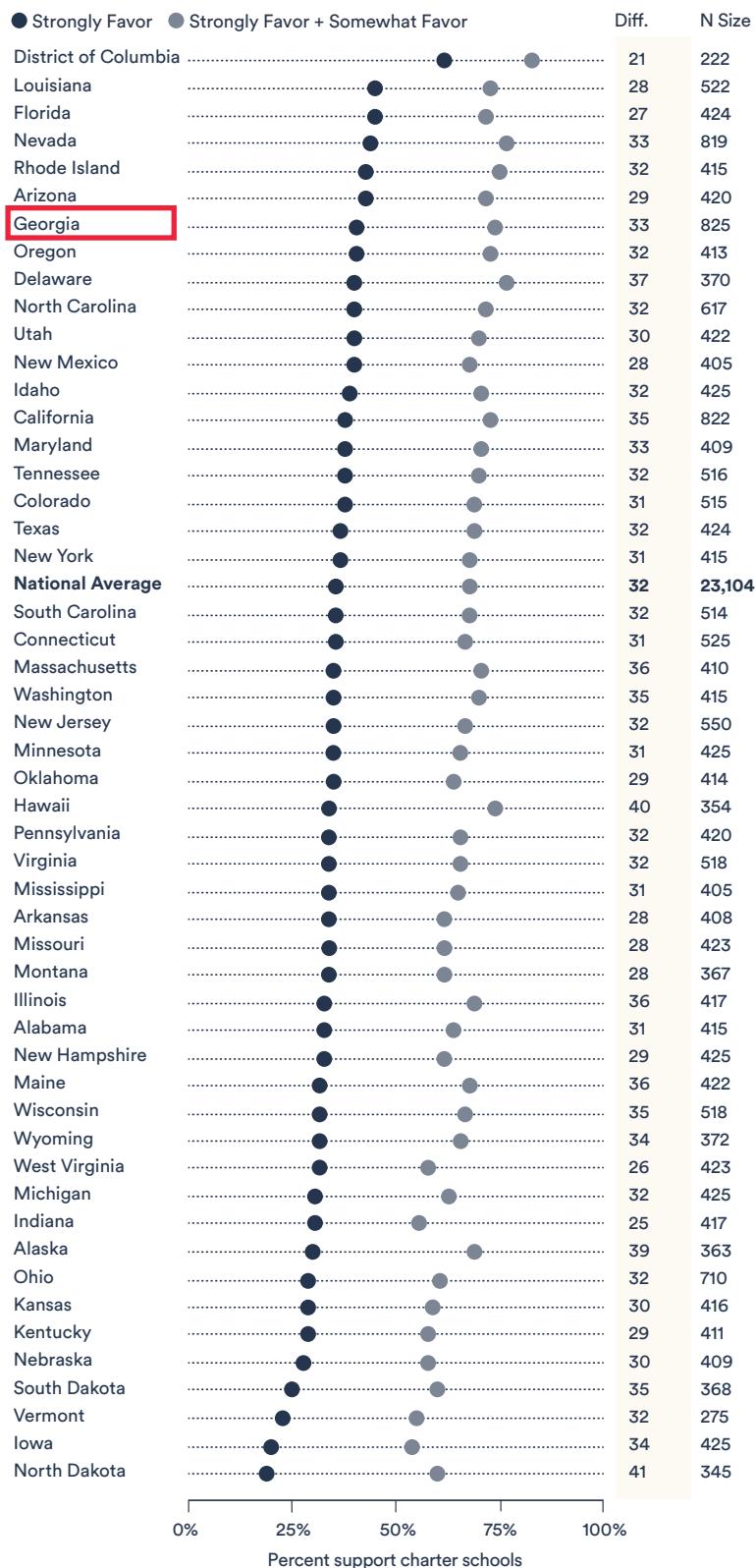
## SUPPORT FOR ANNUAL TESTING BY STATE

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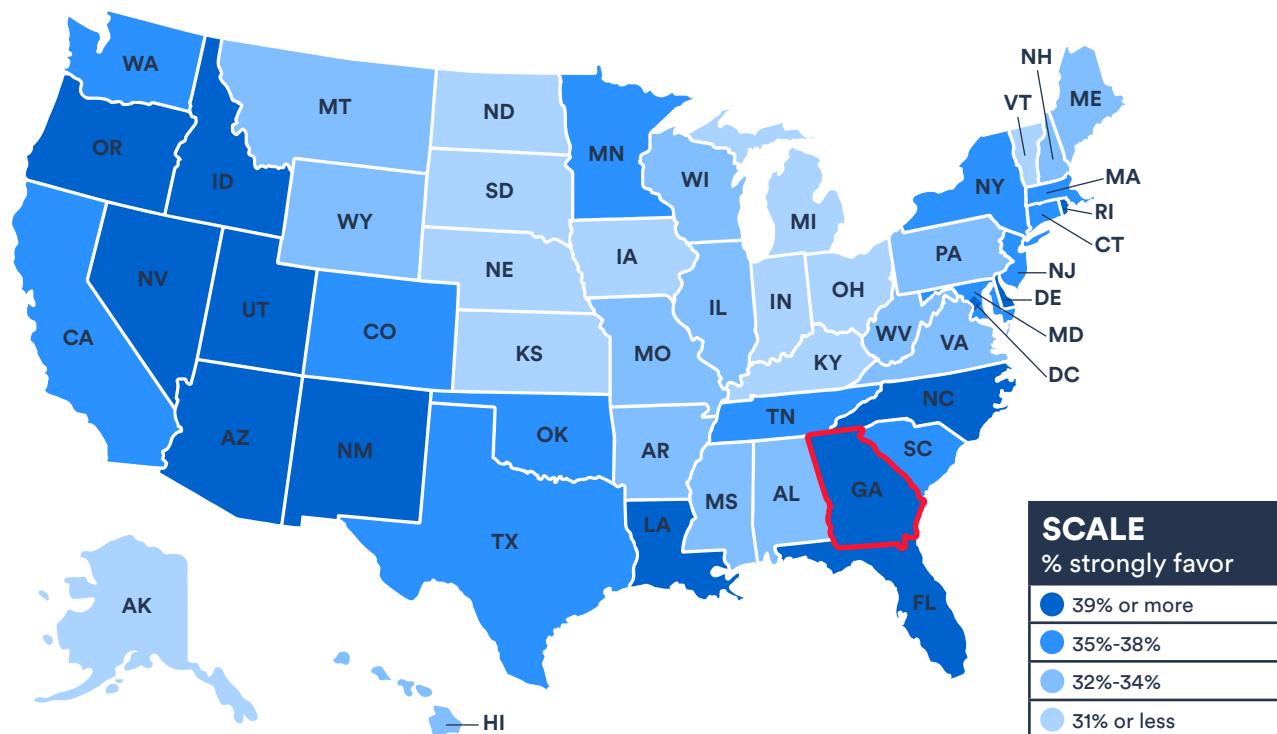
## SUPPORT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS BY STATE

Percentage answering they favor charter school (public schools exempt from some regulations in exchange for greater accountability for results)



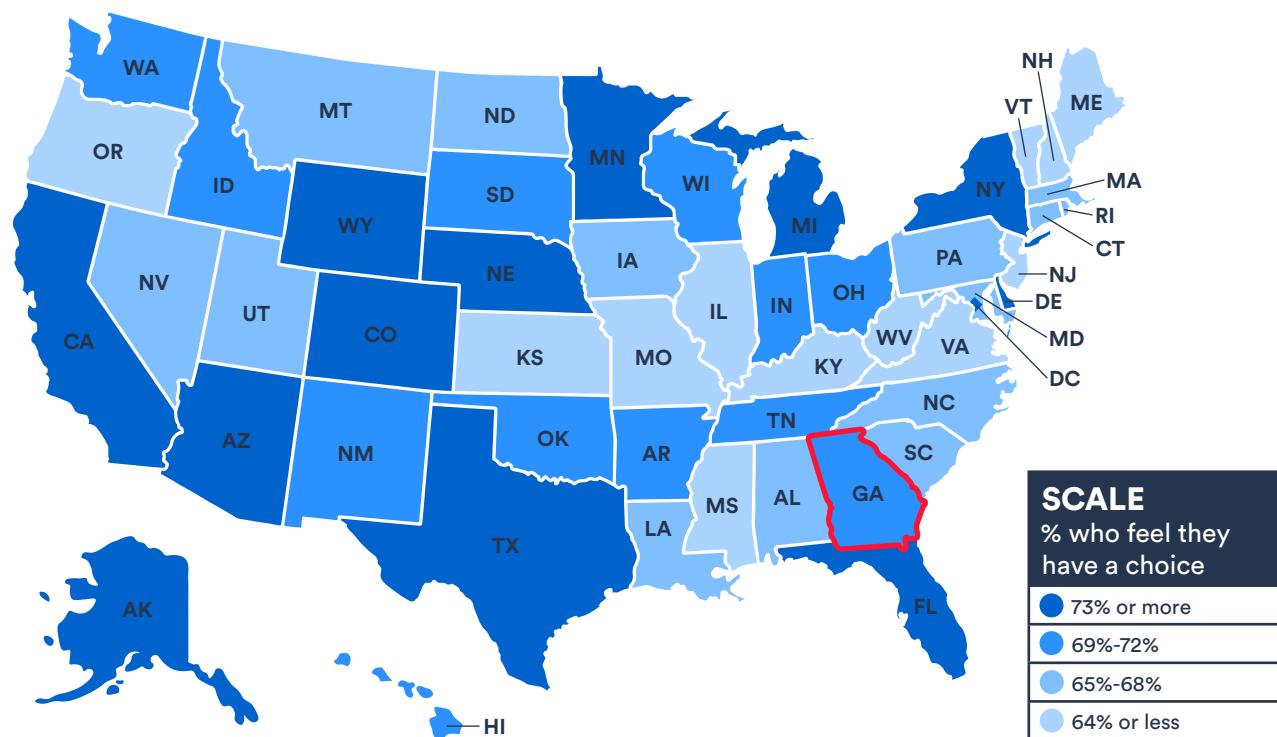
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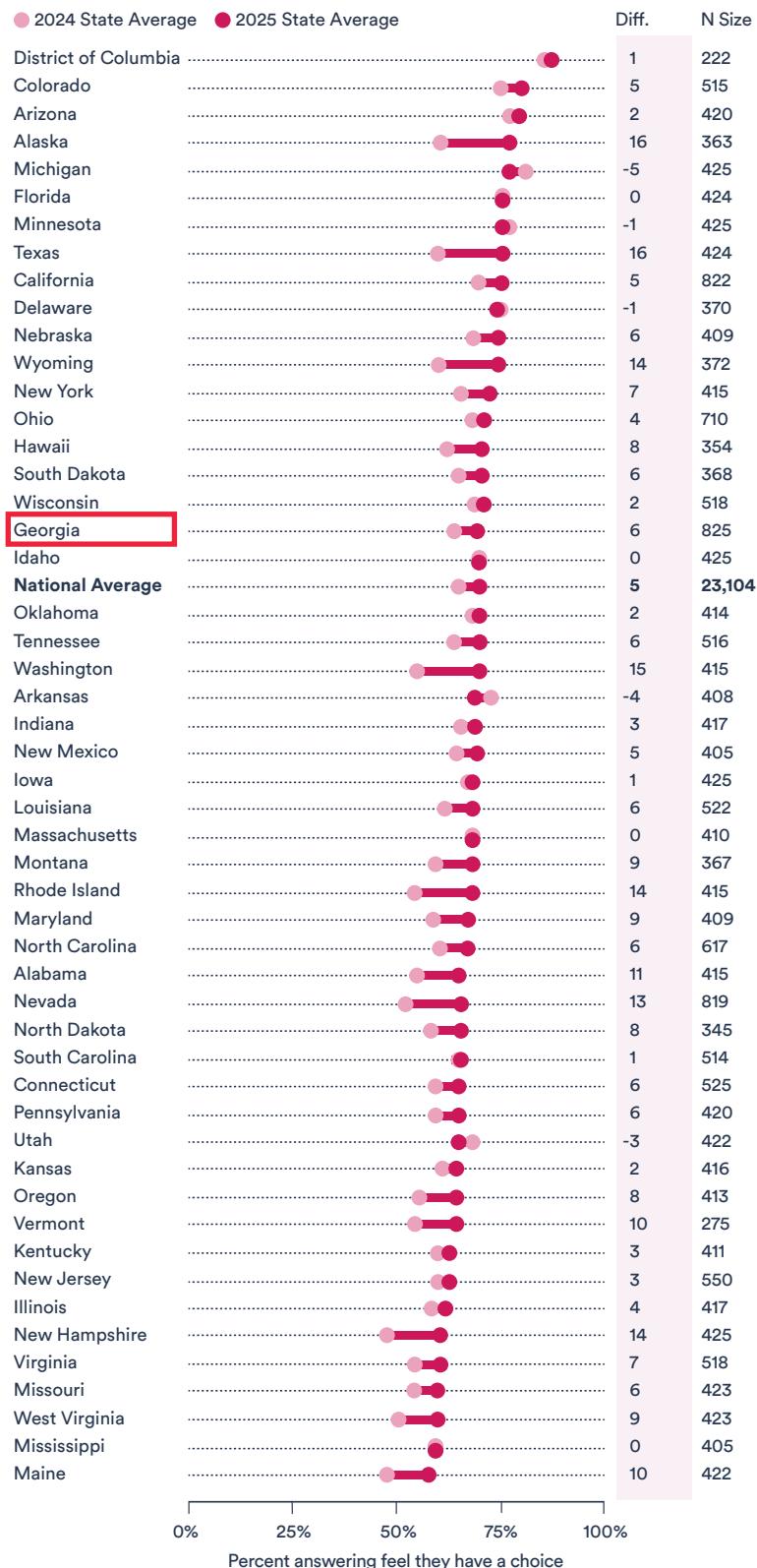
## FEEL THEY HAVE A CHOICE BY STATE

Percentage answering they feel like they have a choice in what school their child attends



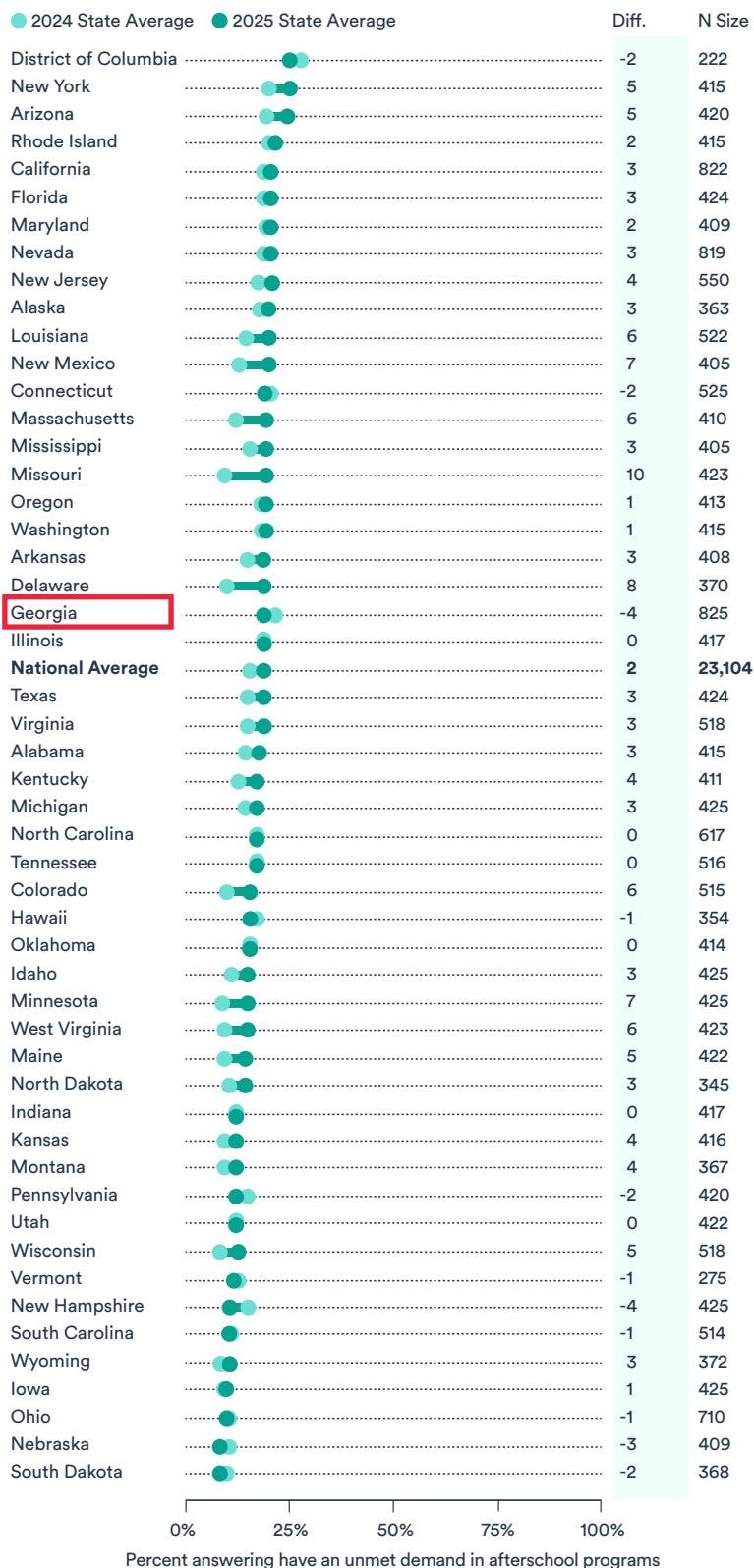
## FEEL THEY HAVE A CHOICE BY STATE & YEAR

Percentage answering they feel like they have a choice in what school their child attends



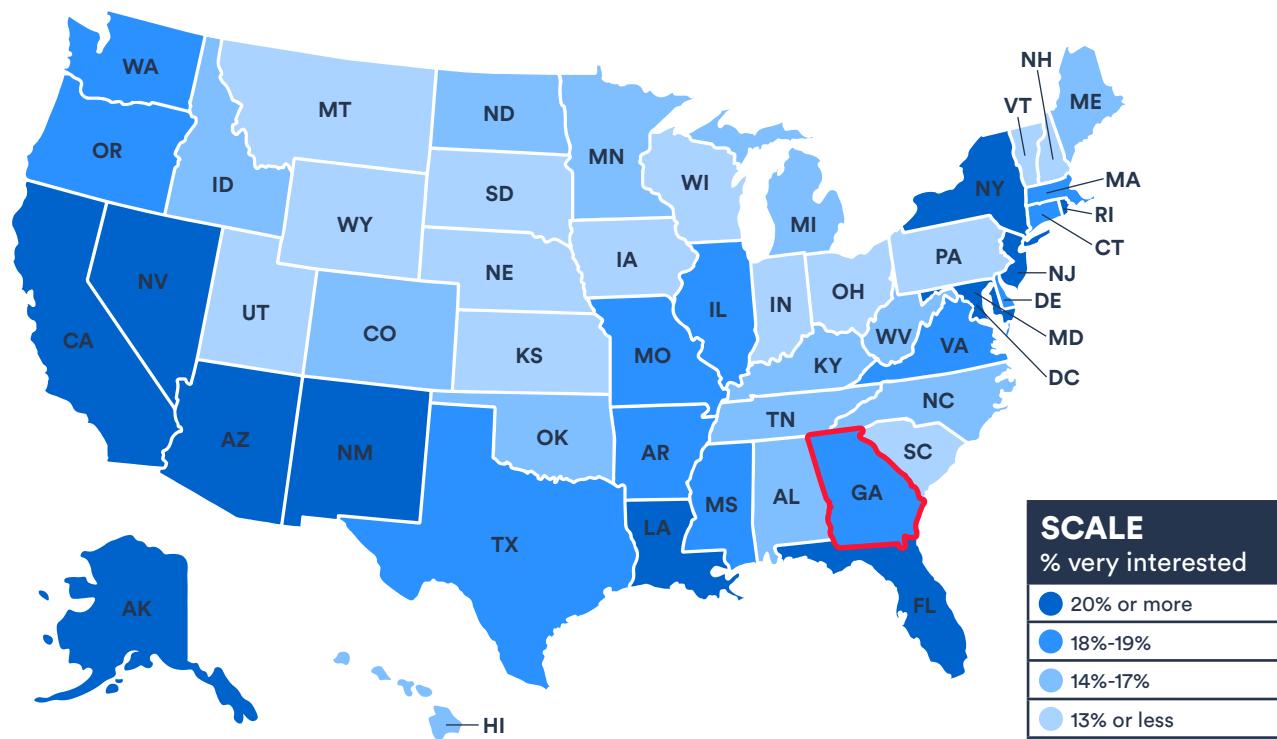
## AFTERSCHOOL UNMET DEMAND BY STATE & YEAR

Percentage of families whose child did not participate in an afterschool program but are very interested in doing so



## AFTERSCHOOL UNMET DEMAND BY STATE

Percentage of families whose child did not participate in an afterschool program but are very interested in doing so



## ABOUT GEORGIACAN

**GeorgiaCAN** seeks to identify and advance common-sense policies that put the needs of students first. We engage local stakeholders—from community members to policy makers—to advocate for student success throughout the entire public education system. We believe parents are the most important decision-makers in a child’s life, that in the right environment every student can succeed and that exceptional educators are the cornerstone of student success.

## ABOUT 50CAN

**50CAN** is an education advocacy organization focused on building the dynamic, student-centered education system of the future so that all kids, regardless of address, receive a high quality education. At the center of this work is our support for local education advocates who together have secured more than 275 transformative policy wins since our founding in 2011. This advocacy work is complemented by fellowships to spark and amplify the voices of changemakers, support for educational entrepreneurs as they build proof points of a better tomorrow, and efforts to help elected leaders better serve the public through a deeper understanding of education policy.

## ABOUT EDGE RESEARCH

**Edge Research** tells data-driven stories that make our clients’ programs, products, and brands successful. One of Edge’s key verticals is education, which ranges from early childhood development, to K-12 and postsecondary education, to lifelong learning. We work for dozens of foundations, advocacy organizations, curriculum providers, associations, districts, schools and universities. Edge is constantly in the field talking to parents, students, teachers, administrators, and other education decision makers – getting the pulse on the issues that matter most.

