

# STACEY ABRAMS

GOVERNOR

## Stacey Abrams' Plan to Support Georgia Students by Investing in Georgia's Educators

### OVERVIEW

Georgia's students and their families always come first. To meet this mission, public education is the cornerstone of the state's budget and our blueprint for a better future. Education is one of the strongest predictors of economic success – both for individuals and for the state's economy. A strong early start and fully funded public education are fundamental to building a state where every child and every family can move forward and rise.

However, when education becomes a minefield of divisive rhetoric, misinformation and anxiety, our classrooms become courtrooms. Whether the district serves our poorest students or children attend well-resourced schools, our public schools deserve stability and predictability, or Georgia falls short of the success we can achieve together.

Stacey Abrams is the only candidate with a comprehensive plan to support children, cradle to career, and she will fully fund public education without raising taxes. She will prioritize access to childcare and education for children from all backgrounds and all zip codes.

### THE CHALLENGE

Our first priority is to support the educators who tirelessly serve the children of Georgia each day. In Georgia, about 31 percent of educators reported that they are unlikely or highly unlikely to remain in education for another five years.<sup>1</sup> Also, Georgia faces a shortage of future educators choosing the profession. With more teachers leaving and fewer replacements, Georgia's students will face an uncertain future.

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<sup>1</sup> [Views from the Schoolhouse: Insights from Georgia Educators on the Education Profession and Supporting Students](#)

Georgia educators face a range of challenges; however, chief among the concerns is pay. Low wages force teachers to drop out of the profession or leave the state, and fewer teachers are entering the profession due to the long-term lack of financial growth. Although we are the eighth largest state in the nation, this year our state ranked 21st for teacher salaries.<sup>2</sup> Georgia (\$39,092) lags behind neighboring states like Mississippi (\$41,638) and Florida (\$47,500) who are taking steps to raise base teacher pay to support and retain more educators.<sup>34</sup>

## **STACEY'S PLAN**

Stacey Abrams understands that when educators are highly valued and fairly compensated for their commitment to education, academic outcomes improve. Retaining educators increases student engagement, builds parental trust and positive rapport between student and teacher. Building One Georgia requires that we prioritize and invest in every generation - and that begins with public education.

**As Governor, as part of a robust public education plan to support children from cradle to career, Stacey will invest in our teachers, paraprofessionals and support staff at unprecedented levels. Specifically, she will:**

- **Raise minimum teacher pay:** Increase the **state base** salary for teachers from \$39,092 to \$50,000.
- **Raise teacher salaries overall:** Increase teacher salaries from the **current average** of \$62,500 to an average of \$73,500 in her first term.
- **Make Georgia a leader in teacher pay:** Move Georgia from 21st in the nation in teacher salaries to the top 10.
- **Support living wages and advancement for education support professionals:** Ensure a living wage for ESPs, as well as professional development that will aid them in advancing in the education workforce.

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<sup>2</sup> [Educator Pay and Student Spending: How Does Your State Rank?](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Lawmakers pass largest teacher pay raise in Mississippi history](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Many Florida teachers will see raises starting July 1. But how much, and who gets them?](#)