



2025-26 Policy Priorities

66% of jobs in Georgia will require postsecondary education or training by 2031.¹



A college degree holder **earns \$1m+ more** over a lifetime than those with high school diplomas.²

Nearly one in three AATL Scholars report barriers accessing food or housing.



The average **financial gap** before our scholarship is **\$10,265.**



¹Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. (2025). Leading indicators report. <https://gpee.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Leading-Indicators-Report-Final.pdf>. ²Carnevale, A. P., Rose, S. J., & Cheah, B. (2011). The college payoff: Education, occupations, lifetime earnings. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. <https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/collegepayoff-completed.pdf>.

1. Help Georgia's students afford postsecondary education

2. Increase access to college and career counseling for high school students

3. Strengthen credential completion and workforce alignment

4. Increase the transparency of college admissions and student success outcomes

5. Support college students' basic needs

Achieve Atlanta's mission is to help students access, afford, and earn postsecondary credentials.

HELP GEORGIA'S STUDENTS AFFORD POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Achieve Atlanta urges policymakers to address the cost of higher education and **provide financial support that targets Georgia students who struggle to make ends meet.**

INCREASE ACCESS TO COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

We recommend policymakers **reduce the student-to-counselor ratio and fund evidence-based advising programs that are already succeeding in Georgia.**

STRENGTHEN CREDENTIAL COMPLETION AND WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT

To align efforts with the Top State for Talent Act and increase completion and transitions to the workforce, policymakers should **expand access to paid internships, apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities.**

INCREASE THE TRANSPARENCY OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT SUCCESS OUTCOMES

Policymakers should build upon Georgia MATCH and the High Demand Career List by **ensuring that college search and application tools clearly state college costs and include important information** like graduation and job placement rates.

SUPPORT COLLEGE STUDENTS' BASIC NEEDS

Achieve Atlanta recommends state policymakers **improve college students' access to basic needs supports**, such as by providing on-campus benefits navigators and streamlining enrollment in public benefits.

¹Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. (2025). Leading indicators report. <https://gpee.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Leading-Indicators-Report-Final.pdf>.

²Carnevale, A. P., Rose, S. J., & Cheah, B. (2011). The college payoff: Education, occupations, lifetime earnings. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. <https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/collegepayoff-completed.pdf>.