

2. Education

Goal: Prepare students for high-skilled, high wage careers through advanced training and community support.

Policies

2.1 Appropriate education programs should be developed and supported in local schools that ensure students are ready for further education to meet the needs of local employers in a 21st Century workforce, either at a university, technical college, or through on-the-job training.

2.2 The quality and effectiveness of all educational organizations, facilities, programs, and services (including faculty and staff) should be continually assessed to facilitate the improvement of academic and extracurricular programs and objectives.

2.3 Various teaching methodologies (including distance learning technologies) should be enhanced based on the needs of the communities and students, including enhancing online services and courses (example: expand dual-enrollment offerings to high school students).

2.4 Workshops on topics such as interviewing techniques, application preparation, networking, resume preparation, and stress and financial management should be encouraged.

2.5 Regular planning sessions with school systems and local governments should be facilitated to ensure new facilities are properly designed and located to meet future population growth and community needs.

2.6 Development and marketing of STEM programs should be supported at local schools in order to contribute highly skilled workers to viable industry clusters, such as: environmental technology, information technology, and medical services and support.

2.7 Educational and certified workforce training/credential programs should be encouraged in order to meet local community workforce needs and assist economic development attraction and retention efforts.

2.8 Adult Education resources should be expanded, organized, and developed to support veterans and military families.

2.9 Employment services should be provided to citizens with all types of disabilities through collaboration with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA).

2.10 Public/private partnerships between workforce training agencies, counties, cities, local businesses, and schools (K-12 and Technical) should be encouraged and coordinated for the development of work skill programs and career education programs.