

## RC6 Support for the GaDOE

The [Region 6 Comprehensive Center \(RC6\)](#) is operated by the SERVE Center at UNC Greensboro and provides technical assistance to State Education Agencies (SEAs) in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Assistance is tailored to the needs of the individual SEAs while addressing the priorities of the U.S. Department of Education. Currently (as of April 2023), the RC6 has the following four projects completed or underway at the request of the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).

Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4
Job-Embedded <i>LAUNCH!</i> <sup>™</sup> Training for School Improvement Coaches Statewide (2020-2022)	Support for the Georgia Dyslexia Pilot Initiative (2020-present)	Support for Georgia’s Office of Whole Child Supports (2020-present)	Support for GaLEADS Teacher Evaluation Pilot (2022-present)

### Project 1: Job-Embedded *LAUNCH!*<sup>™</sup> Training for School Improvement Coaches Statewide (2020-2022)

Over three years, from 2019-2022, at the request of the GaDOE, the RC6 provided *LAUNCH!*<sup>™</sup> training to over 100 GaDOE-selected school improvement coaches. RC6 training concluded with Cohort 4 in 2021-22, which included 25 participants. *LAUNCH!*<sup>™</sup> training is intensive (delivered in 10 modules over four months) and is job-embedded. By providing this training, the RC6 supported the GaDOE’s commitment to ensuring all GaDOE and Regional Education Service Agency school improvement coaches effectively facilitate sustainable school improvement in CSI and TSI schools. The RC6 also disseminated best practices in school improvement coaching by hosting two virtual showcases of *LAUNCH!*<sup>™</sup>- trained graduates, the first in December 2020 and the second in December 2021.

### Project 2: Support for Georgia Dyslexia Pilot Initiative

Applying Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) processes to screening for, and providing evidence-based supports to, students with early reading difficulties was a Georgia state priority as outlined in SB 48, passed in 2019. The bill contained a mandate for all districts across the state to screen students for characteristics of dyslexia beginning in 2024-25. To prepare for this mandate, the bill also directed the GaDOE to initiate a 3-year pilot program at the district level for screening students for reading difficulties and providing intervention. The RC6 has supported the GaDOE in trying to learn from the experiences of the seven pilot districts. To date, the RC6 has completed three rounds of annual interviews with the seven Dyslexia Pilot districts to gather information on their progress and experience with implementing the required dyslexia screening and intervention components of the pilot. The interviews were summarized in three Implementation Analysis Briefs for the GaDOE. The RC6 also completed various “Rapid Response” products to address informational needs of the key GaDOE clients and a comprehensive “policy mapping” process to describe how existing GaDOE policies intersect with the dyslexia policy. The RC6 also supports the GaDOE in aligning the informational, training, and other resources available across divisions such that districts and other stakeholders can more efficiently acquire the information they need about best practices in MTSS, reading instruction, and intervention.

## Project 3: Support for Georgia's Office of Whole Child Supports

Interest in better-addressing students' non-academic barriers to learning, particularly in identified low-performing schools, is high among states and districts in the RC6 region. Georgia, for example, has committed to embedding a Whole Child focus into their school improvement support to LEAs and identified low-performing schools. The GaDOE Whole Child Initiative began in 2019 with support to low-performing schools through a wraparound services pilot and, more recently, a Community Schools Model certification pilot. In addition, the ARP for Georgia includes a priority to "accelerate learning," which includes a focus on "removing barriers to learning" through funding for additional social workers, nurses, and health (including mental health) supports. The GaDOE's priority for this area of removing barriers to learning is reflected in the development of a division within the GaDOE called the Office of Whole Child Supports. RC6 support has included collecting survey data to summarize the implementation progress and experiences of mostly low-performing schools receiving support and guidance from the GaDOE in planning and implementing wraparound services. In addition, the RC6 has supported the GaDOE's Office of Whole Child Supports in using existing data sources more comprehensively to understand gaps in student support services (through Data Dashboards).

## Project 4: Support for GaLEADS Teacher Evaluation Pilot

The GaLEADS teacher evaluation pilot will introduce a new approach to encouraging teacher growth at the classroom, school, and district levels. It is one of several steps the GaDOE is taking to respond to the needs identified in the 2022 Teacher Burnout Taskforce. GaLEADS is being piloted with 12 districts in the 2023-24 school year to provide teachers support for professional development and career advancement. Revising teacher evaluation systems takes time, and the use of a pilot with a small number of districts can help to ensure changes made have the intended impact on improved opportunities for teacher growth and development, based on their career status (e.g., beginning versus experienced teachers). The RC6 is supporting the GaDOE in its efforts to learn from this teacher evaluation pilot. RC6 support includes developing a Descriptive Implementation Analysis Report for the GaDOE based on interviews with pilot coordinators in districts to gather information on their first year (2022-23) of pilot planning. The RC6 also responds to the key clients at the GaDOE in their requests for informational resources/products arising during preparation for and implementation of the pilot.