



Science for Georgia

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HR 650 – House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shameless introduction to...



SCIENCE FOR GEORGIA

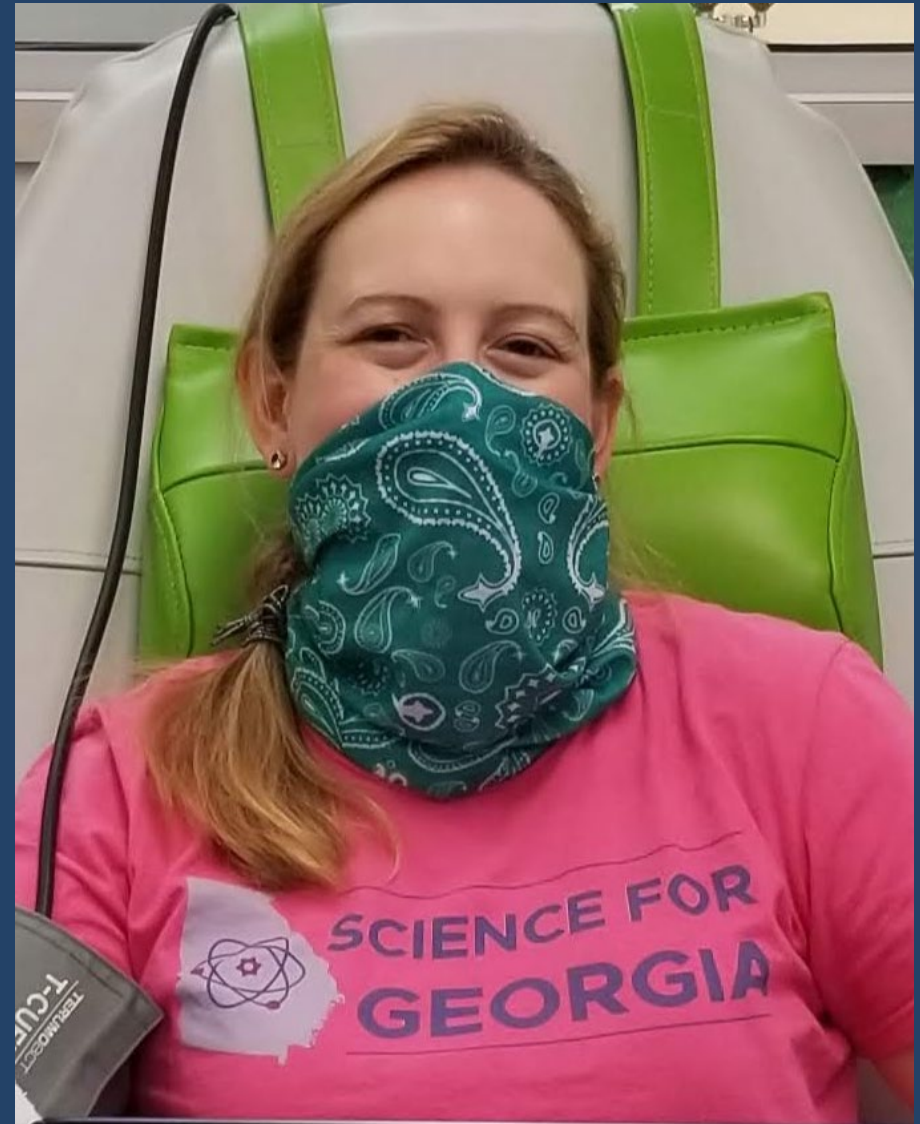
Amy Sharma, PhD

PhD in Biomedical Engineering
from Duke University

AAAS S&T Policy Fellow,
National Science Foundation

GTRI Researcher – Deputy Chief Scientist,
Big Data Vertical

2 Start-ups, data analytics
Product Manager



When asked:

“Can you name a living scientist?”

81% *could not*

About Science for Georgia



To improve
communication
among scientists
and the public



About Science for Georgia



Increase public
engagement
with science



About Science for Georgia



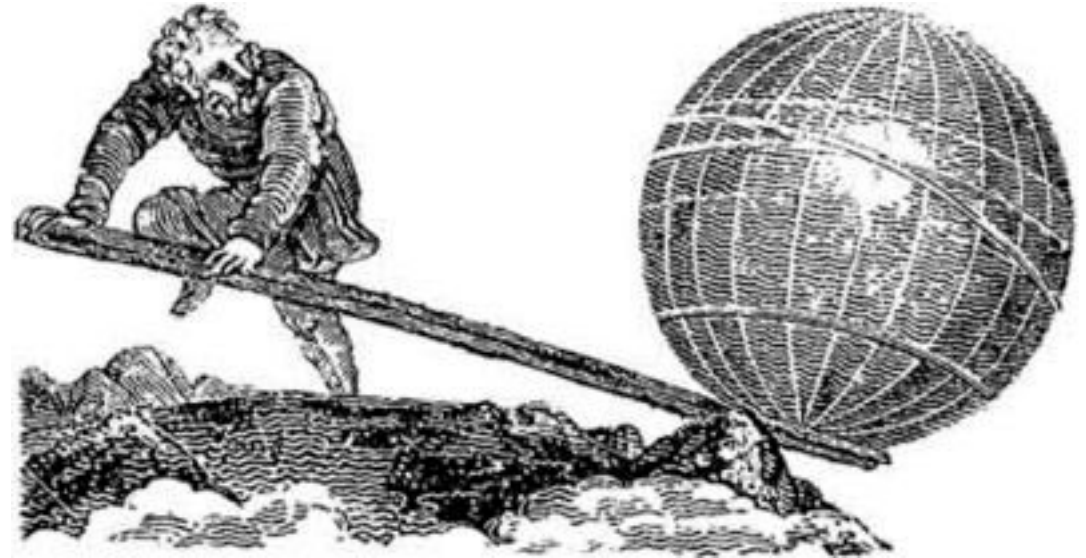
Advocate for the
responsible use
of science in
public policy





Let's get to root problems...

- ▶ Vicious cycles can become virtuous cycles.
- ▶ Economic incentives are key.
- ▶ That which can be measured can be achieved / improved...
- ▶ Keep it simple.



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2021-22 Focus & Accomplishments



Food

Roundtable

Testimony before Sen Special Committee

SB 537



Water

Trust fund allocation

Coal Ash



Education

Resolution – Reading Month and Literacy Panel

Edu & Workforce Speaker Series & Roundtable

HR 650



The Awful Stats

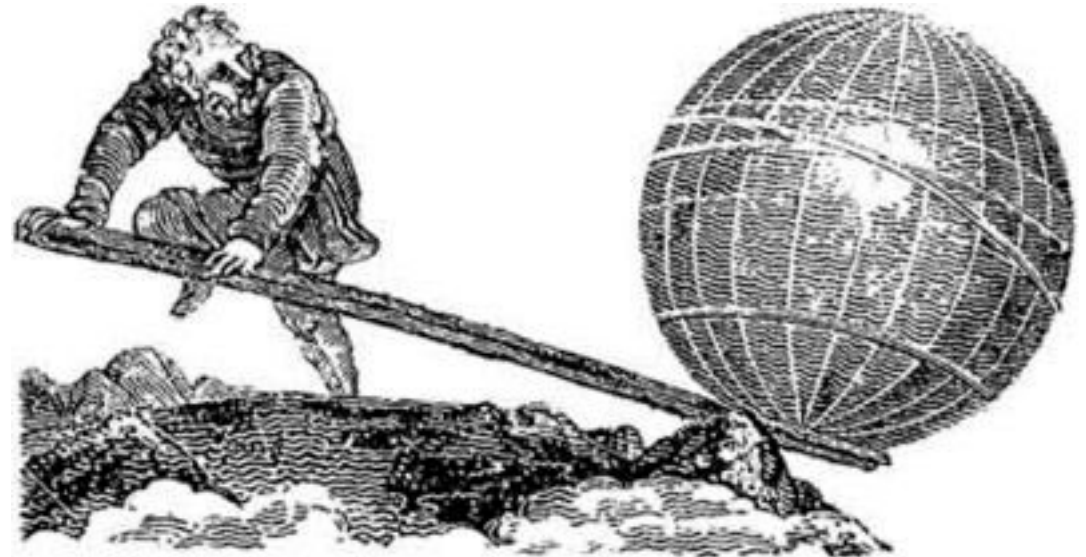
60% CAN'T READ
PROFICIENTLY – READ AND
COMPREHEND

READING IS AN INDICATOR
OF HS GRADUATION –
REGARDLESS OF LIVE
SITUATION...



Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction

- Science has shown that evidence-based literacy instruction
- improves outcomes
 - can be taught by teachers
 - is really the only effective method for those with a learning disability
 - and that a large majority of those learning this way will not need expensive, time consuming, interventions



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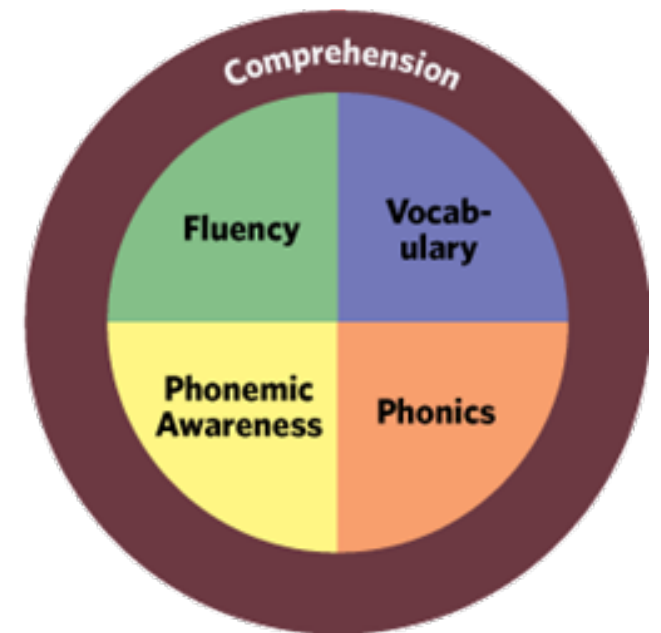
What is evidence-based literacy?

- ▶ Any evidence-based practice that improves a person's
 - ▶ fluency, vocabulary, phonemic awareness, phonics, and comprehension.

Not just reading and writing curriculums but...

- ▶ Two-gen programs
- ▶ Maternal mental health
- ▶ Relatable science experiments

Essential Components of Reading





Why HR 650?



Political situation

- ▶ States are passing evidence-based literacy legislation
- ▶ Outsiders are realizing that it is a pipeline from birth to death
- ▶ Awash with COVID relief funds

BUT...

Georgia is a local control state



Organizations working in this space.

Literacy is the common thread.

- ▶ DFACS
- ▶ DOE
- ▶ TCSG
- ▶ USG
- ▶ Deal Center
- ▶ Libraries
- ▶ GA Family Connection Partnership
- ▶ Cox Campus
- ▶ Reach Out and Read
- ▶ Decoding for Dyslexia
- ▶ Literacy for All
- ▶ Learn for Life
- ▶ Share the Magic
- ▶ Voices for Georgia Children
- ▶ GEEARS
- ▶ Leap Year
- ▶ Urban League
- ▶ Etc, etc, etc



HR 650 – Establish a committee to...

- ▶ Define evidence-based literacy
- ▶ Determine impact of low-literacy on economic competitiveness
- ▶ Determine extent of programs working in birth through retirement
- ▶ Examine how programs can work together
- ▶ Examine how evidence-based programs can adapt as new evidence emerges
- ▶ Examine any changes that should be made to educational standards to support evidence-based instruction
- ▶ Determine how the state can support local education ecosystem
- ▶ Study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems and recommend any action or legislation



End Goal

- ▶ Report on lessons learned
- ▶ Recommend policies (as necessary)



Committee Members

- ▶ 5 members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House
- ▶ Department of Early Care and Learning
- ▶ Department of Education
- ▶ Technical College System of Georgia
- ▶ University System of Georgia
- ▶ Office of Student Achievement
- ▶ Deal Center
- ▶ Academic or business who specializes in study of complex systems
- ▶ Not-for-profit entity involved in Georgia and national literacy efforts
- ▶ A classroom teacher who specializes in literacy



Input Needed



Who should speak before the committee?

Send me all the names.

Dream world – the main outcome of this committee would be...

(you only get 2 main goals)

<https://sciencelookup.org/knowledge-base1/get-involved-house-study-committee-on-literacy-instruction/>

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