



**JASON
ESTEVES**
GOVERNOR



GEORGIA FOR JASON

Universal Child Care Plan

Jason's Vision

As the parent of two young children, a former educator, and the former chair of the Atlanta Public Schools Board of Education, Jason Esteves knows building opportunity for every Georgian begins in early childhood. That's why, as our next governor, Jason will make historic investments in Georgia's education system to ensure every child and family are set up for success.

Jason believes that universal child care means kids have a place to learn and parents have a safe, affordable place to leave their kids when they go to work. Thirty years ago, Georgia made history as the first state in the nation to offer Pre-K for nearly all four-year-olds — but the progress stopped there. Jason will finish what was started decades ago by building upon Georgia's successful public/private provider model to ensure that every child in Georgia has access to affordable early learning programs, regardless of income or zip code. He'll also make historic investments in the teachers, classrooms, and providers who make it all possible.

The Plan

Jason's goal: child care that's free for many Georgians, and affordable for everyone. In his first term, Jason will use existing Georgia Lottery reserves to expand Pre-K to all four- and three-year-olds. Building upon that success, he will then implement a plan to expand to universal child care access in Georgia, regardless of income or zip code, by 2035.

Universal Child Care and Pre-K: By the end of his first term, Jason will expand the existing Pre-K model to all four and three-year-olds in a mixed delivery system. The program will use existing Georgia Lottery funds, which currently sit at \$2.4 billion as of FY24. In Phase 2, he will establish universal access to child care by 2035, by building a diversified funding stream that includes state resources, federal funds, public-private partnerships, and parental contributions.

Fair Pay for Educators: Jason will make sure that those taking care of our children are paid a living wage and expand credentialing programs through technical colleges to increase the quality of care.

Provider Support Fund: Through a newly created Office of Early Childhood Expansion, Jason will use grants and create low-interest loans for classroom expansion, materials, and facility

Small Class Sizes, Strong Standards: To ensure the quality of care, classes will adhere to a safe teacher-to-student ratio and maintain play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum.

Rural Access Guarantee: Every county in Georgia will be served by at least one 3-K site by the end of Jason's first term because every child deserves access, regardless of zip code.

Accountability You Can Believe In

Jason helped rebuild Atlanta Public Schools after the cheating scandal, redirected money to classrooms, raised teacher pay, and increased graduation rates from 55% to 80%. That same results-driven approach will define his early learning plan: measurable goals, public progress reports, and no unfunded mandates.