# The Impact of the Pandemic on the Mental Health and Education of Youth

February 22, 2022



**Erica Fener Sitkoff, Ph.D.** Voices Executive Director

> Katie Landes, MSW GSAN Director







# Mental Health Landscape

# Mental Health Strategies

# Education Landscape

Out-Of-School Time Landscape

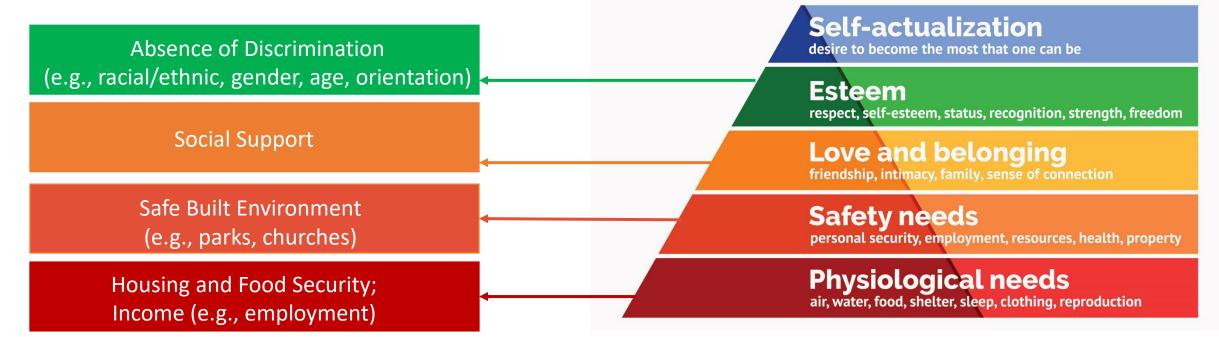
Learning Loss Prevention Strategies



## MENTAL HEALTH LANDSCAPE: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF MENTAL HEALTH



#### **Social Determinants of Health (Mental Health)**



#### Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



### MENTAL HEALTH LANDSCAPE



100,000+ Students in 6-12th grade considered harming themselves in 2020



Counties do not have a pediatrician; 45 do not have a licensed psychologist or social worker

Percent of youth in juvenile detention (short-term and long-term) have a diagnosable mental illness



Kids without health insurance, the majority of whom are eligible for Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids

36,000

Students reported homeless in 2020



Children in poverty in Georgia, which is among the highest rates of child poverty in the nation



Children are food insecure



#### MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGIES



80 & 630	School-based health centers & Georgia Apex school-based mental health programs
25,000+	School personnel trained in mental health and trauma awareness
878,000	Social media feeds have engaged with the youth statewide mental health campaign, "Free Your Feels"
1.1M	School age children (K-12) received the P-EBT benefit during the 2020-2021 school term
\$2.6M+	Awarded to Georgia Department of Education to subgrant homelessness in the initiatives in 46 school districts
70,000	More of Georgia's children will be enrolled in Medicaid, using SNAP data



## LEARNING LOSS OR UNFINISHED LEARNING



# Significant loss of knowledge and skills due to extended gaps or discontinuities in a student's education

#### **Nationally**

- 5 months behind in mathematics
- 4 months behind in reading

#### <u>Metro Atlanta</u>

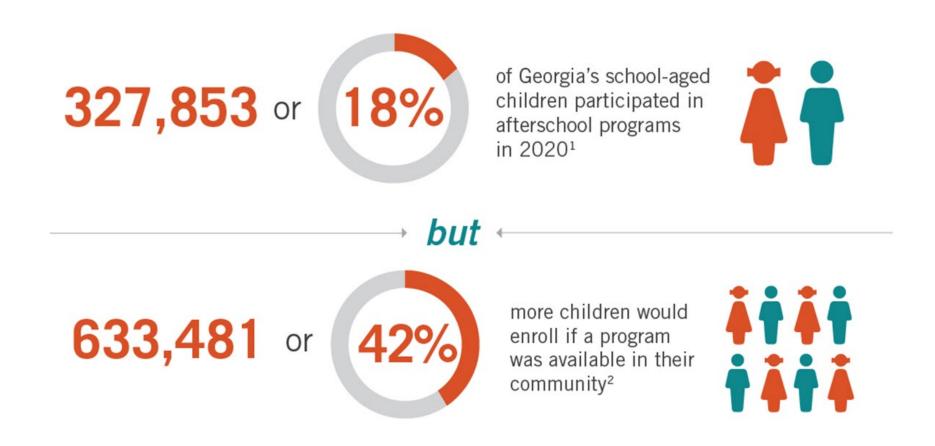
- 21,000 fewer students are on track for grade-level proficiency in English Language Arts
- 29,000 fewer students are on track for grade-level proficiency in Math





#### OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME LANDSCAPE







## LEARNING LOSS PREVENTION STRATEGIES



- School-community partnerships provide a vehicle for aligning services and leaning on and utilizing the expertise, resources, and capacity that exist in multiple sectors.
- Hands-on learning provided by certified teachers; encourage engaging learning in literacy, math, and STEAM
- Build upon existing infrastructures (i.e. 21st CCLC, Parks & Rec, BOOST grants)
- Include active, enrichment experiences, such as in the arts and sports, coding and robotic clubs, service-learning, college and workforce exploration, entrepreneurial experiences, and apprenticeships
- Provide positive adult supervision and relationships
- Coordinate services to meet youth and families' economic, health, food, wellness, and other needs

