



# Mayor & Council Work Session

April 15, 2025 at 4:00 P.M



# Agenda

1. Presentation by Roxie Remley Art Students
2. The Evolution of the Community Dashboard
3. Ribbon Cutting for Youth Council Project on McTell Trail - 4:45 p.m.



Presentation by Roxie Remley Art Students



# BEACON

## BUILDING A COMMUNITY DASHBOARD

Dr. Candice Pippin Bodkin

Dr. Jayce Sudweeks

# KEY COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

- Good Jobs and Economic Opportunity
- Good Schools
- Affordability/ Cost of Living
- Community Safety
- Recreation/ Leisure Opportunities
- Environment
- Access to Amenities



# WHY A DASHBOARD?

## WHAT CAN A DASHBOARD DO?

- Provide data about areas of interest
- Tell us what is happening at a given point in time
- Create a common focus on what is important
- Provide a common language for discussion
- Provide data to inform decision making or resource allocation

## WHAT CAN IT NOT DO?

- Determine overall goals
- Tell us WHY something is happening
- Determine what indicators are important for a community or WHY
- Create shared understanding of issues
- Overcome political, economic, or social concerns or constraints

THE DASHBOARD IS A **PROCESS** OF CREATING A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE COMMUNITY AND CURRENT CAPACITY AND CONSTRAINTS

## HOW DID WE CHOOSE COMMUNITY INDICATORS?

- Meetings with key cooperators to understand areas of priority
- Community Conversations (Brooklet, Statesboro, Portal)
  - Facilitated small group discussions
- Indicators selected and shared for feedback
  - Education & Literacy
  - Economic Opportunity
  - Health & Well-Being
  - Public Safety
  - Community Vibrancy

# EDUCATION & LITERACY

- Early Childhood Education
  - Pre-K Enrollment
- Childhood Literacy
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Scores
- Adult Literacy
  - National Assessment of Adult Literacy
- College and Technical Degrees
  - Degree Attainment



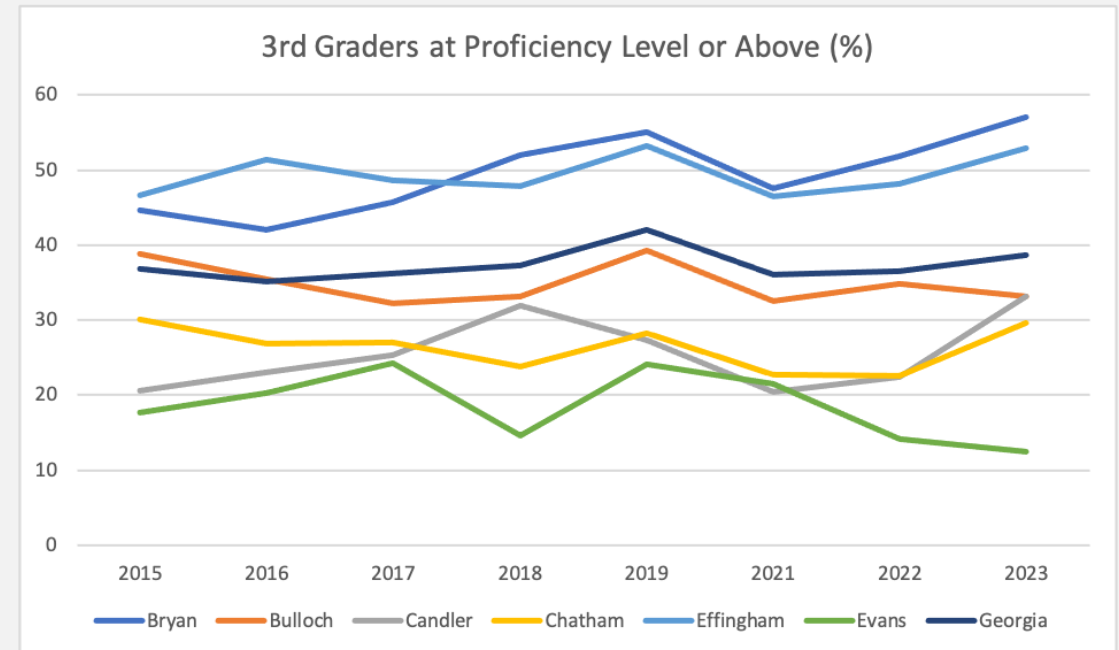
# CHILDHOOD LITERACY

What do we mean by early childhood literacy?

Why does early literacy matter for life outcomes?

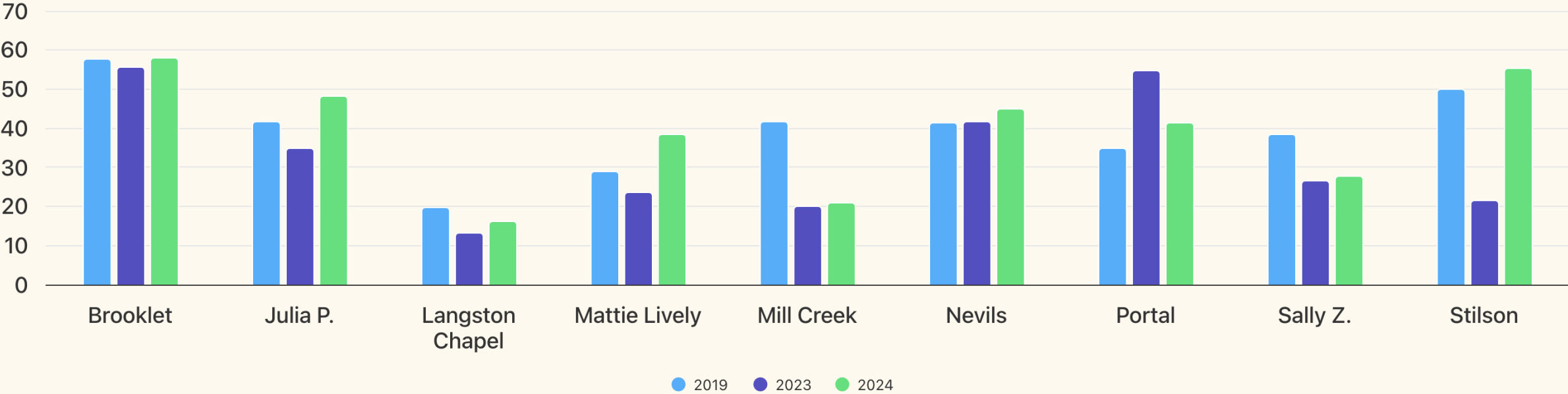
What does research tell us about barriers to early childhood literacy?

What resources are available?



This chart shows the percentage of 3rd grades reading at or above proficiency level by school. 2019 is the last year of testing prior to COVID-19 which severely impacted early literacy and learning for kids. Those students who entered kindergarten in the 2019–2020 school year may have spent several months in an online learning environment and experienced long absences from school due to COVID-19 protocols. Those students are represented in the 2023 reading scores as 3rd graders. Many schools in Bulloch County are still working to improve scores to 2019 levels.

**Bulloch County Elementary Schools 3rd Graders at Proficient or Above**



# Online and Community Resources

## Boys & Girls Club of Bulloch County

The Boys & Girls Club of Bulloch County's mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. They offer care for children after school, during school breaks, and 8 weeks during the summer. During this time, children can participate in programs to promote literacy, leadership development, visual & performing arts, health & life skills, and recreation & fitness. Download the application to enroll your child here.

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## Ferst Readers

Ferst Readers's mission is "strengthening communities by providing quality books and literacy resources for children and their families to use at home during the earliest stages of development. Children in the Ferst Readers literacy program receive a FREE bookstore-quality, age-specific book and resources mailed to them at home every month until their fifth birthday. This access to print helps create a language-rich environment in the home.

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## Statesboro-Bulloch County Library

The Statesboro-Bulloch County Library offers a range of programs and services aimed at getting kids excited about reading and developing early literacy skills. Library cards and all library programs are FREE, including specific story time hours for babies and toddlers, STEM and crafts for older kids, and the 1,000 books before kindergarten program. To learn more about specific monthly events see the events calendar.

## Bulloch County Literacy Council

The Bulloch County Literacy Council is a collaborative group of educators, representatives from literacy organizations, business and civic organization leaders, and community volunteers. Its purpose is to sustain a community collaborative that works to increase Kindergarten readiness for students from birth through Pre-Kindergarten and to support the improvement of literacy levels for all children in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Local businesses and community partners support 45+ book nooks across the county. You can find a list of locations here. Children can pick out a free book to read and take home. In addition, the council supports the book bus and sharing libraries that also make age appropriate books available for children free of charge.

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## Restoring the Breach

Restoring the Breach's mission is to provide light in darkness by uplifting the poor in spirit and rebuilding the community, thus raising up the foundations of many generations. As part of this effort, Restoring the Breach provides the "ME" First Tutoring Program for students in K-12 that need extra help in reading or other subjects. Tutoring is available at the Statesboro Public Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 PM-6:30 PM. Please register for tutoring in advance.

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## Statesboro Village Builders Initiative

The Statesboro Village Builders aims to be a community-wide youth development program that offers a comprehensive approach to ensure that all youth in Statesboro and their families have support in becoming the best version of themselves. Goals include workforce development, youth civic engagement, and early childhood literacy, as well as a range of programs that support successful life outcomes for all Statesboro youth. Check out their events calendar to find upcoming Family Fun Resource Days which include valuable information about local programs and services to benefit families, as well as entertainment, games, music, free food, and free books for readers of all ages.

# ALICE RATE

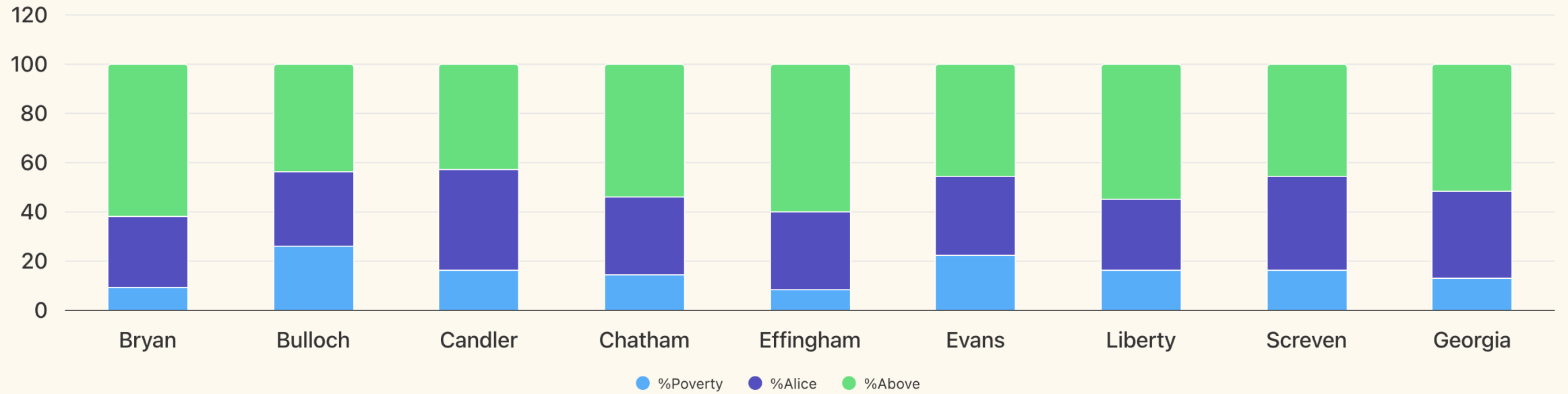
- ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) – above the federal poverty line, but does not make enough to make ends meet
- Spans all races, ages, ethnicities, abilities, and communities

## RESEARCH

### ALICE IN Bulloch County 2022 Point-in-Time-Data

- Population: 83,059
- Number of Households: 31,804
- Median Household Income: \$47,297 (state average: \$72,837)
- Labor Force Participation Rate: 59% (state average: 64%)
- ALICE Households: 30% (state average 35%)
- Households in Poverty: 26% (state average 13%)

Percentage of ALICE Households by County



WHERE DO WE GO NEXT?



Ribbon Cutting for Youth Council Project on McTell Trail