



## Georgia Work Ready Initiative Fact Sheet

### Overview

Georgia Work Ready was launched in August 2006 by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce to **improve the job training and marketability of Georgia's workforce and drive future economic growth for the state**. It is the only initiative of its kind to be conducted through a partnership between a state government and state chamber of commerce, ensuring that companies can more reliably match the right people with the right jobs.

This workforce training initiative assesses the skills of Georgia's workers, determines valuable job training opportunities and assures companies that the state can provide a long-term, qualified labor supply. Through a voluntary workforce assessment system called Georgia Work Ready, the program measures the "real world" skills that employers believe are critical for job success today and for mastering the innovative technologies tomorrow's jobs will require.

The Georgia Work Ready initiative includes four key elements:

- **Work Ready Certificate:** Designed for individuals, it allows workers to take a free skills assessment and earn a certificate indicating their skill and knowledge levels to potential employers. The assessment is administered by ACT's nationally accredited WorkKeys<sup>®</sup> system and measures skills in the areas of applied mathematics, reading for information, locating information and work habits. . A Work Ready Certificate, which carries the National Career Readiness Certificate seal, guarantees that job seekers have the portable skills to serve as a foundation for most customized training.
- **Work Ready job profiling:** Designed to help Georgia employers build the right workforces for their needs, Georgia Work Ready's job profiling program allows Georgia employers to profile required job tasks and skill levels to more easily match candidates to job opportunities. By comparing job profiles with individuals' Work Ready Certification levels, companies can make reliable decisions about hiring, training and program development. The Work Ready initiative has established ACT WorkKeys<sup>®</sup>-certified job profilers at each of the state's technical colleges of the Technical College System of Georgia and one Board of Regents schools with technical college division.
- **Certified Work Ready Community:** This voluntary initiative enables communities to demonstrate that they have the talented workforce needed to fill current and future jobs. The certification also shows a community's commitment to education and to improving public high school graduation rates, important factors for driving businesses to an area. Community leaders and those in the education, business and industry sectors all can come together to help their communities achieve the Certified Work Ready Community designation.



- **Work Ready Region:** Building on the Certified Work Ready Communities, Work Ready Regions bring together their assets and leaders to create regional talent pools targeting existing strategic industries, creates an industry network of similar companies to lead the initiative, and provides opportunities to develop the current workforce and to increase economic development opportunities.

### **Benefits**

Georgia Work Ready offers numerous advantages for Georgia workers, current and potential employers in the state and all Georgia communities.

#### **For Workers:**

- ✓ Ability to demonstrate skills to current and potential employers
- ✓ Valuable job training opportunities
- ✓ Opportunities for career change and advancement

#### **For Businesses:**

- ✓ Assurance that employees have the right skill sets
- ✓ Improved hiring procedures
- ✓ Reduced turnover and training costs
- ✓ Increased productivity
- ✓ Higher employee morale

#### **For Georgia communities:**

- ✓ Valuable tool to attract new business to an area
- ✓ Proof of a talented workforce to fill current and future jobs
- ✓ Economic growth opportunities

### **The Governor's Office of Workforce Development**

Governor Sonny Perdue created the Governor's Office of Workforce Development (GOWD) to link education with workforce and to align efforts with economic development to ensure competitive advantage. Through initiatives like Work Ready, Georgia is creating the formula for successful partnership among education, workers, and industry to build a smarter, better-skilled workforce that makes it easier to transform companies into global competitors while empowering individuals to achieve their career goals and ambitions.

#### **For more information**

To learn more about the Georgia Work Ready initiative, visit [www.gaworkready.org](http://www.gaworkready.org). The Governor's Office of Workforce Development's customer service can also be reached at [help@gaworkready.org](mailto:help@gaworkready.org).

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