

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Thursday, October 2, 2025

## **Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting**

Tom Wilson, Board Chairman

[GVRS\\_Board@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:GVRS_Board@gvs.ga.gov)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting Agenda

|         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| 1:00 pm | Opening   | <i>Tom Wilson<br/>GVRS Board Chair</i>         |
| 1:05 pm | Welcome and Remarks   | <i>Tom Wilson<br/>GVRS Board Chair</i>         |
| 1:10 pm | Roll Call and Agenda  | <i>Tom Wilson<br/>GVRS Board Chair</i>         |
| 1:15 pm | Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Meeting Minutes Approval</li><li>• Budget Report</li><li>• Annual Report</li></ul> | <i>Tom Wilson<br/>GVRS Board Chair</i>         |
| 1:20 pm | GVRA Updates  | <i>Chris Wells<br/>GVRA Executive Director</i> |
| 1:50 pm | VR Updates  | <i>Deana Brown<br/>Director of Programs</i>    |
| 2:10 pm | New Business/Old Business   | <i>Tom Wilson<br/>GVRS Board Chair</i>         |
| 2:20 pm | *Public Comments/Adjournment  | <i>Tom Wilson<br/>GVRS Board Chair</i>         |



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Consent Agenda

- ❖ Previous Board Meeting Minutes Approval
- ❖ Budget Report
- ❖ Annual Report

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## August 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD  
August 13, 2025  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tom Wilson, Chair  
Faye Perdue, Vice Chair  
Sandy Adams, Secretary  
Craig Camuso (*virtually*)

Louise Hill (*virtually*)  
Jane McCall  
Chris Wells, GVRA Executive Director  
& Ex Officio Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

James Defoor  
Suzanne Dooley

Vincent Martin

**Opening and Welcome**

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 12:58 p.m.

**Invocation**

Rev. Dr. Bob Patterson, Senior Pastor of Warm Springs First Baptist Church, offered an invocation. The invocation included a quick history lesson on Roosevelt Warm Springs.

**Special Presentations**

GVRA Executive Director presented a Commendation from Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp to GVRS Board Chairman, Tom Wilson.

ED Wells also recognized former GVRS Board Members, Johnathan Taylor and Angela Mackey, who are now employees of GVRA.

**Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda**

Chairman Wilson performed a roll call and recommended the approval of the agenda.

On the motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mrs. McCall, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda.

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Session
- Approval of Budget Report as of July 31, 2025

On motion of Vice Chair Perdue, seconded by Mrs. McCall, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## August 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

### Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Chris Wells

#### Agency Spotlights

- Executive Director Wells highlighted those chosen as Employees of the Month for May 2025 through June 2025:
  - Greg Bagley, Senior Staff Attorney, May 2025 Employee of the Month
  - Brooklyn Kirkland, Office Assistant for Tifton and Waycross Offices, June 2025 Employee of the Month
- Executive Director Wells shared the following information with the Board:
  - Disability Adjudication Services Position Counts and Turnover Rates
  - Vocational Rehabilitation Updates to include:
    - Services, Individuals Served, and Average Days
    - Authorizations versus Completed/Paid
    - Bud McCall Grant Participants (Postsecondary Students and Provider Training and the Millions of Dollars Awarded)
    - The Growth in Enrollment in Residential Pathways, Credentials/Certifications Obtained, Measurable Skill Gains, and the Graduation Rate for August 2023 – January 2025
    - Rates for Job Placement, Employment, Measurable Skill Gains, and Credential Attainment for SFY2021 – SFY 2025
    - WIOA Performance Indicators for PY2022 – PY2024
    - Comments from RSA Stating that GVRA Has Successfully Completed All Corrective Actions and No Further Action by GVRA Is Necessary
    - Disability Adjudications Services Data Show Performance in Multiple KPIs from FFY2020 – FFY2025 (July)

#### Roosevelt Warm Springs (#RWS-2.0) Update

- Mr. Dennis, Residential Director, shared updates with the Board, including:
  - A Virtual Tour of RWS
  - RWS Student Testimonials
  - Current Pathway Offerings at RWS
  - Typical Student Schedule at RWS
  - RWS Dorm Life
  - RWS Center for Therapeutic Recreation
  - Support for Students after Graduation from RWS
  - RWS E&T Bond Project
  - RWS Quad Bond Project
  - Cave Spring Center Growth (CSC) in the Day Pre-ETS Program from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026
  - CSC Pathways and Certification Offerings for High School Day Students
  - CSC Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
  - CSC Future Plans



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## August 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

### Old Business/New Business

Chairman Wilson reminded the Board of the remaining meeting for the year:

- October 2, 2025 – Georgia National Fair, Perry, Georgia at 1:00 pm

### Public Comment & Adjournment

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comment. There being none, Chairman Wilson called for a motion to adjourn.

On the motion of Vice Chair Perdue, seconded by Mrs. McCall, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## FY 2026 Agency Budget Comparison

| Category                   | Total Expenditures  | Current Budget       | Percent to Budget |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Personal Services          | \$22,187,371        | \$102,941,820        | 22%               |
| Regular Operating Expenses | 2,082,579           | 8,805,893            | 24%               |
| Equipment                  | 108,748             | 1,184,948            | 9%                |
| IT Expenditures            | 1,818,485           | 5,601,329            | 32%               |
| Real Estate Rentals        | 1,346,991           | 5,813,317            | 23%               |
| Telecommunications         | 247,901             | 1,639,159            | 15%               |
| Contractual Services       | 571,932             | 12,990,753           | 4%                |
| Transfers                  | 0                   | 0                    | 0%                |
| Grants and Benefits        | 808,396             | 5,915,931            | 14%               |
| Other                      | 106,799             | 438,130              | 24%               |
| DAS Case Services          | 3,546,559           | 21,060,000           | 17%               |
| VR Case Services           | 9,364,635           | 45,553,258           | 21%               |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>  | <b>\$42,190,398</b> | <b>\$211,944,538</b> | <b>20%</b>        |



*\*As of 9/29/2025*



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Thursday, October 2, 2025

## **GVRs Board Meeting Executive Director's Report**

Chris Wells, Executive Director  
[Chris.Wells@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Chris.Wells@gvs.ga.gov)





# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Agency Spotlight – Employees of the Month



**Jen Barlar**, Administrative Assistant at 200 Piedmont (**July 2025**), has been with GVRA for 10 years. With more than 15 years of experience in administrative roles, Jen is passionate about supporting others so they can do their jobs effectively. When she first joined GVRA, she didn't fully know the scope of the agency's work, but over the years, she has grown in knowledge and appreciation for its mission. Today, she is proud to be part of an organization that helps individuals with disabilities achieve their goals. Jen exemplifies GVRA's mission through her unwavering positivity and can-do attitude. She provides critical support not only to leadership but also to team members across the agency by training and sharing her knowledge. Known for completing tasks with a smile and a positive outlook, Jen makes a meaningful impact each day by ensuring others have what they need to succeed.

**Jason Williams**, Counselor 3, (**August 2025**) has built a remarkable career with GVRA. He has worked in nearly every department and role within the agency, bringing unmatched knowledge and experience. In addition to his current responsibilities, Jason continues to provide statewide training, including onboarding for new counselors and managers, and has developed numerous tools to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the VR process. Known for his positive attitude and willingness to take on additional responsibilities, Jason is deeply committed to improving the quality of work across GVRA and helping colleagues succeed. His decades of service and never-ending dedication truly exemplify GVRA's mission.



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Agency Spotlight – Employees of the Month



**Zedrick Knox**, IT Support Specialist II (**September 2025**), joined GVRA in April 2025 as a contractor and became a full-time team member in August 2025. At just 28 years old, Zedrick brings 6–7 years of I.T. experience and a passion for the field that is as strong today as when he first started. He proudly describes himself as a dedicated “I.T. nerd” who lives by the principles of Positivity, Dedication, and Resiliency—values that shine through in his work every day. Zedrick often shares that it feels like GVRA found him rather than the other way around, and he is grateful to contribute to such a meaningful mission. He values the flexibility of connecting both in-person and remotely with team members across Georgia. This unique aspect of his role enables him not only to support technical needs but also to learn from the experiences of others within GVRA and the communities they serve.

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## GVRA Day at the Fair

- GVRA Day at the Fair – Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Approximately 1,000 Students Statewide to Attend
  - Students will be exposed to careers and post-secondary opportunities in agriculture.
  - Students will receive a passport, which contains a map, the schedule, and stops along the fairgrounds where they must obtain stamps to satisfy the Pre-ETS requirements for the Day at the Fair.



- At 2:00 pm, Students Will Convene in Reaves Arena for Presentations from:
  - Central Georgia Technical College
  - Department of Natural Resources
  - Local 4-H Offices to Further Enhance the Purpose of the Day at the Fair

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## GVRA Updates

- Year End
- Transition
- 2026 Goals



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Thursday, October 2, 2025

## Vocational Rehabilitation Updates

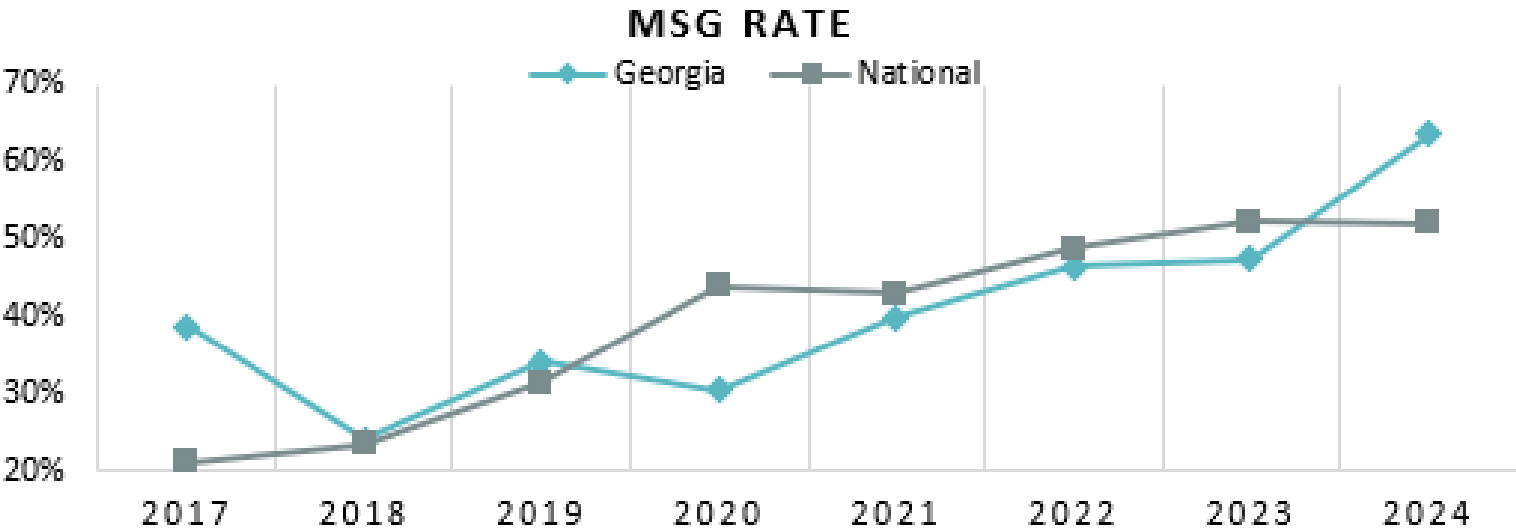
Deana Brown, Director of Programs

[Deana.Brown@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Deana.Brown@gvs.ga.gov)



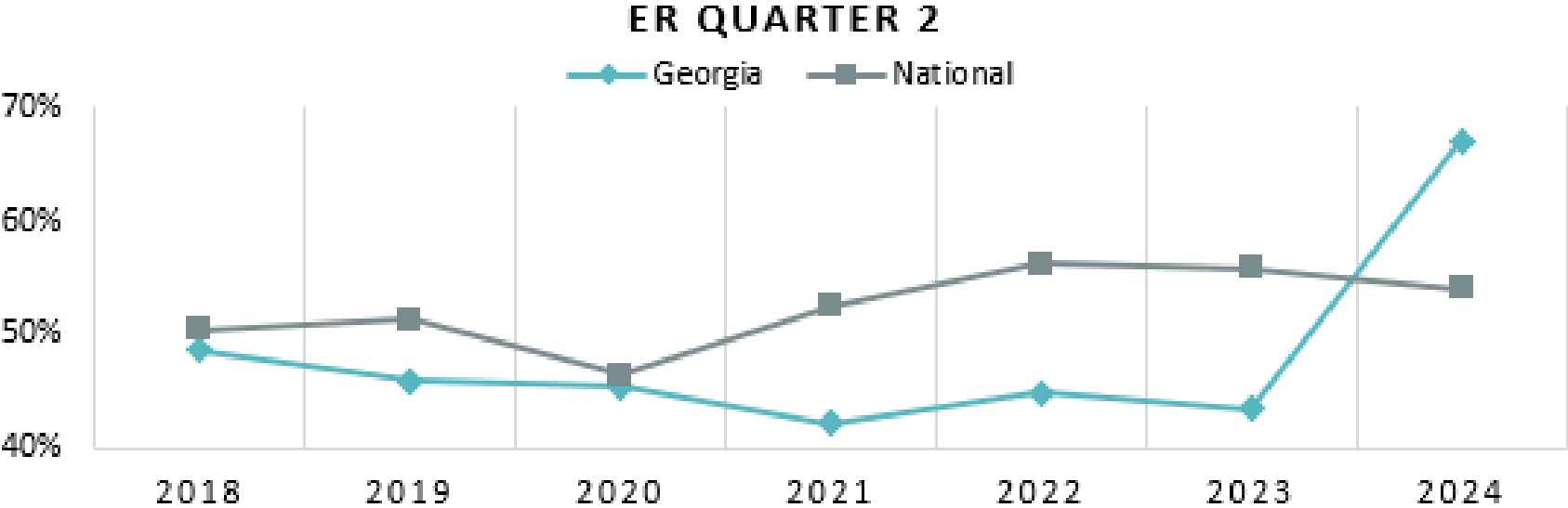
# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Measurable Skills Gains



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

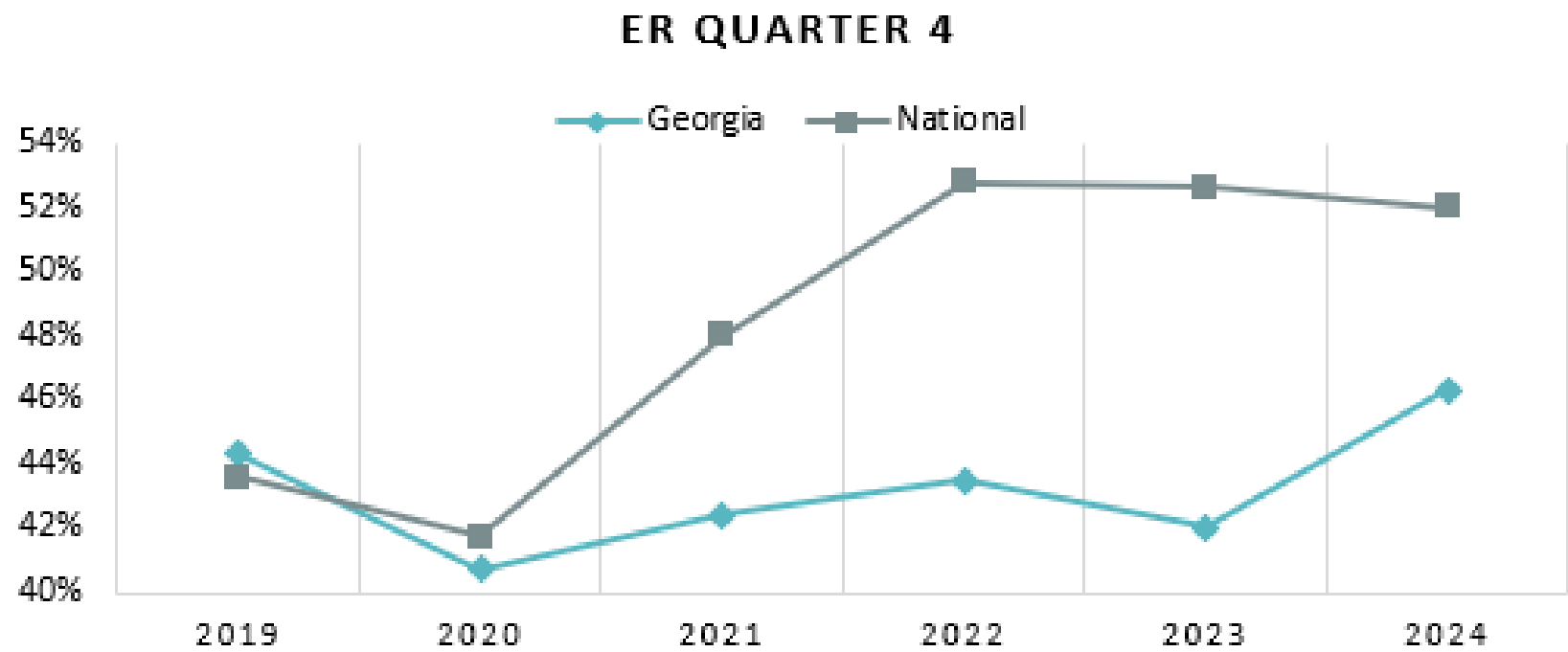
## Employment Rate: Quarter 2





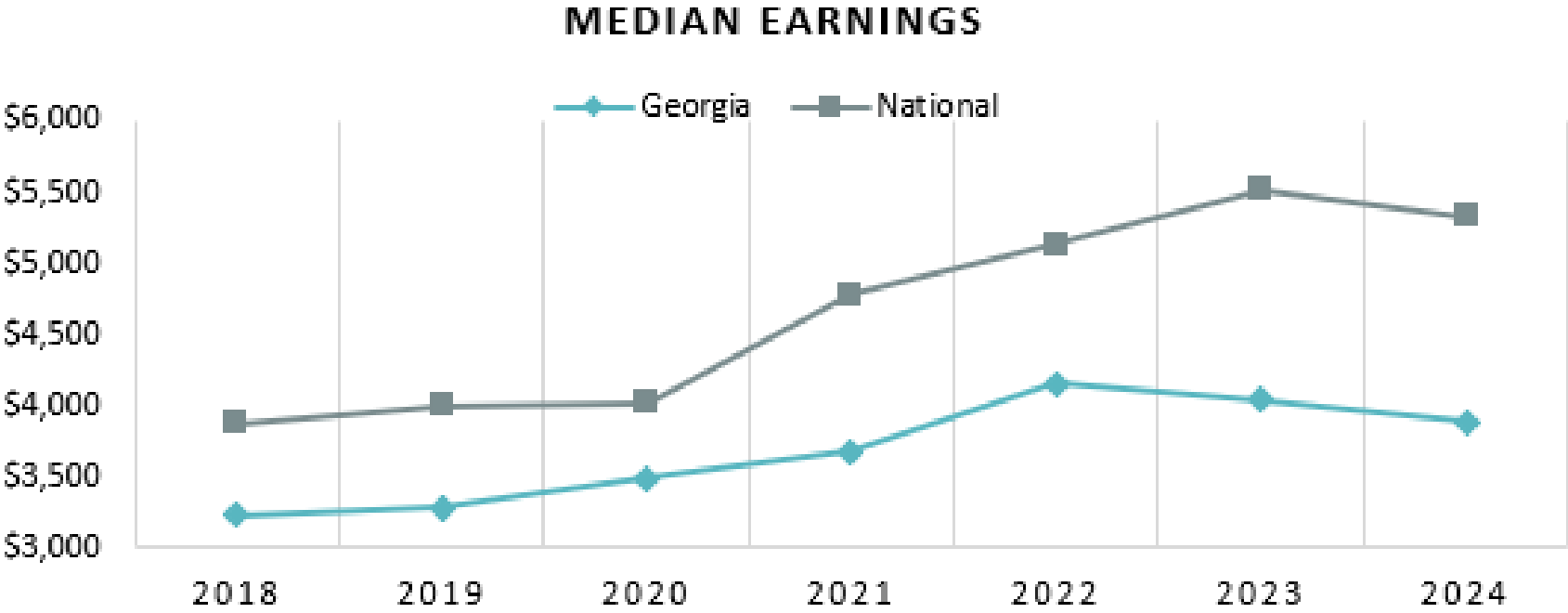
# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Employment Rate: Quarter 4

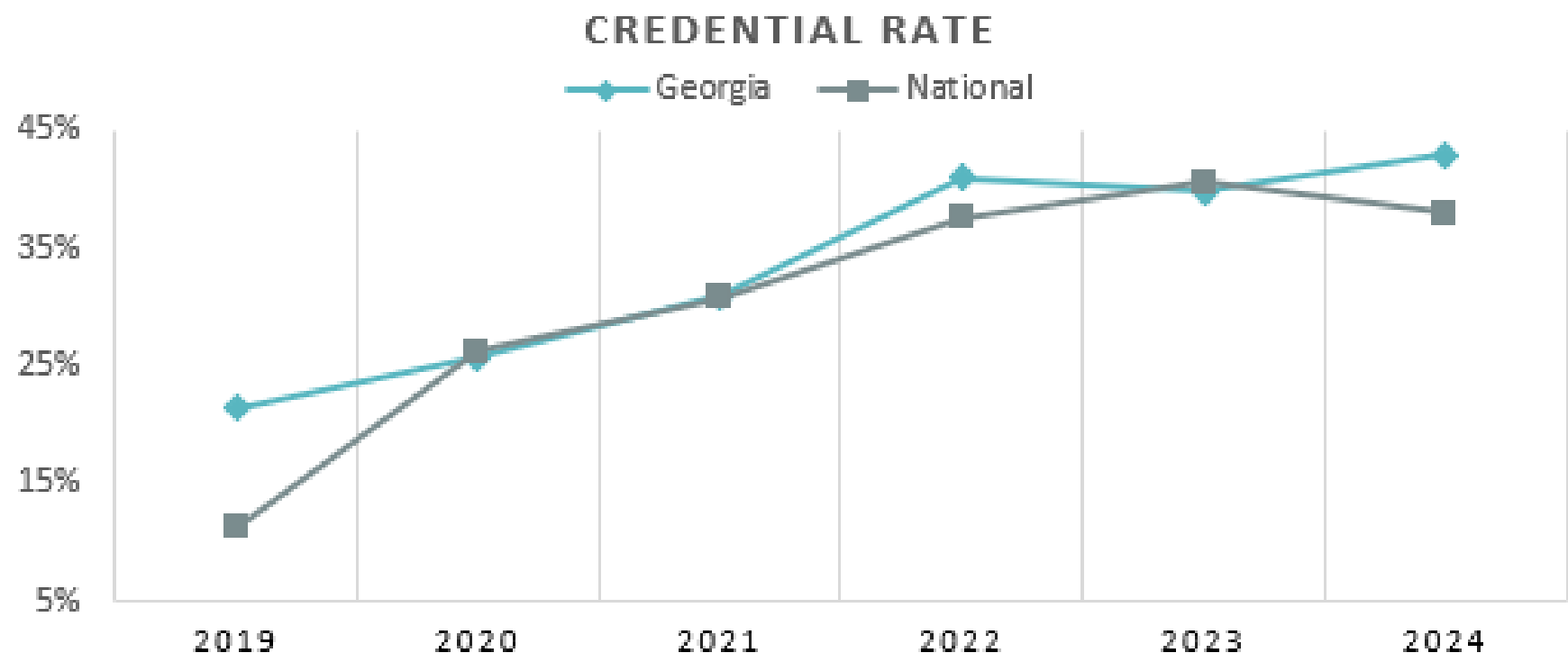


# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Median Earnings



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Credential Rate



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

## Continuous Improvement

| PTS Apps |      | PTS VS DOE |      | PTS to VR |     | VR APPS |     | Services |      | Successful Closures |    | Employment Rate |
|----------|------|------------|------|-----------|-----|---------|-----|----------|------|---------------------|----|-----------------|
| 122      | 570  | 925        | 3431 | 21        | 96  | 44      | 258 | 202      | 787  | 5                   | 36 | 26%             |
| 21%      |      | 27%        |      | 22%       |     | 17%     |     | 26%      |      | 14%                 |    |                 |
| 109      | 419  | 490        | 2114 | 17        | 96  | 50      | 205 | 104      | 652  | 5                   | 30 | 71%             |
| 26%      |      | 23%        |      | 18%       |     | 24%     |     | 16%      |      | 17%                 |    |                 |
| 55       | 315  | 377        | 2031 | 18        | 96  | 44      | 132 | 61       | 524  | 1                   | 24 | 50%             |
| 17%      |      | 19%        |      | 19%       |     | 33%     |     | 12%      |      | 4%                  |    |                 |
| 286      | 1304 | 1792       | 7576 | 56        | 288 | 138     | 595 | 367      | 1963 | 11                  | 90 | 39%             |
| 22%      |      | 24%        |      | 19%       |     | 23%     |     | 19%      |      | 12%                 |    |                 |

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## **GVRB Board New Business & Old Business**

Tom Wilson, Chairman

[GVRB\\_Board@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:GVRB_Board@gvs.ga.gov)



# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

## GVR Board Public Comments & Adjournment

Tom Wilson, Chairman

[GVR Board@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:GVR Board@gvs.ga.gov)

