Executive Summary: **Read Baldwin County**

Directly aligned with *Get Georgia Reading*, *Read Baldwin County’s* (RBC) mission is to improve learning opportunities for children ages 3 to 8 years by supporting language development, community outreach, and professional learning networks for educators, caregivers, and families. Neuman’s (2009) seven essentials that break the poverty cycle informs RBC’s focus of strengthening families, coordinating services, and improving early educational opportunities before kindergarten. Our vision is all children in Baldwin County will experience early learning opportunities necessary for successful school experiences and pathways for productive adult lives. Our target population comprises those children at most risk. Approximately, 1,150 three to four year olds live in Baldwin County, with about 500 of those living at or below the poverty line. The Baldwin County Transition Network and LINC (Literacy in Neighborhood Communities) will reach out to early educators and families where they live. Community summer reading programs and *Read to Me* will support transition to school and provide additional support in grades k through 3.

The specific goals of RBC are (1) to provide coordinated services across priority areas of *Get Georgia Reading* through collaborative partnerships of educators, Georgia College faculty, and community agencies; (2) to disseminate evidence-based knowledge about effective and developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood to support language and literacy learning, social and emotional development, and health and nutrition; and (3) to provide reading support for K-3 students identified in school or attending after school tutoring in high needs areas of the school district.

The anticipated outcomes of RBC are: (1) to advance early learning in childcare centers and preschools, (2) to foster trusting relationships and provide information and support to families and caregivers, (3) to offer additional reading support in early elementary grades, and (3) to positively impact the kindergarten readiness and success in reading by third grade.