

April 2014

Youth Writers Initiative

The Georgia Children's Cabinet is partnering with me to recognize the talents of youth writers and emphasize writing skills as a tool for creative expression. The Cabinet consists of state agency leaders as well as community partners who work to align policy and create targeted communications to mobilize all Georgians to see that our children have an opportunity to thrive. Each month the Cabinet chooses to highlight a different topic affecting our youth. "The youth writers initiative will empower our children and give an authentic youth voice to our work," said Katie Jo Ballard, co-chair of the Cabinet.

In concert with the Cabinet's upcoming highlights, a youth will be selected to showcase his or her work. We are partnering with Commissioner Avery Niles of the Department of Juvenile Justice, Major General James Butterworth of the Georgia National Guard, and Commissioner Keith Horton of the Department of Human Services. Each of these state agencies has unique programs to equip young people with the tools to be successful. By engaging in the Youth Writers Initiative, the participants will be recognized for their writing skills. The finalist whose work is selected will represent their respective agency and have the opportunity to interview their leader. Their composition will be featured online.

Georgia's Children are our most valuable asset. We want them to dream big and work toward reaching their goals. Learning to write creatively and effectively is an important skill for achieving future success.