

Gwinnett County Public Schools officials were examining the report, including the methodologies used in the study, and were not prepared to comment Friday, a spokeswoman said. Marlyn Tillman, co-founder of the Gwinnett Parent Coalition to Dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline, said she thinks the results show there's "a whole lot of work to be done." "We're just a step up from the bottom," she said. "Education has got to adjust itself. We can't use 1950s methodologies on a 21st century world. I've seen movement (in that direction), and I'm pleased there is some movement, but we've got to move it along faster and better." An undereducated community is a danger to the future of our society, Tillman said. People who are undereducated earn less money than educated community members. "We're not going to be able to have a tax base that sustains where we live," she said. "People who are undereducated are not going to contribute to the tax base. They won't have time to contribute to the community, because they'll be working a minimum-wage job, if they're fortunate." Furthermore, Tillman said, having a large undereducated population causes the educated members of the community to move away. John H. Jackson, president and CEO of the Schott Foundation for Public Education, said the rate at which black males are being pushed out of school and into the "pipeline to prison" far exceeds the rate at which they "It is not enough to focus on saving the few. We must focus on systemic change to provide all our children the opportunity to learn," Jackson said. "By providing these data, we hope to provide educational advocates and policymakers the platform needed to make policy decisions that are educationally sound, not politically feasible. America and its states and communities will not thrive in the 21st century without providing all students — including black males — a fair and substantive opportunity to learn." To view the national summary and individual state reports, visit www.blackboysreport.org.