# Georgia Department of Education – Joint Education Committee Meeting 2019


## Richard Woods

## State School Superintendent

# 4 Challenges Facing Education in Georgia

- Need for a well-rounded education (every child will not follow the same path or go to a four-year university)
- Shrinking tax base & resource gaps in rural Georgia
- Teacher respect, retention, & recruitment
- Lifting up all our schools

# Protecting & Promoting a Balanced Education

**Thank you!** Support of fine arts, CTAE, computer science, dual enrollment

## Truths

- Georgians expect outcomes *and* opportunities
- ELA and math are foundational, but we must also promote options that make kids want to come to school, stay in school, and get passionate about their future

## Needs

- Continue to support/expand initiatives and programs that increase opportunity and support a well-rounded education
- Hold to an “and/also” approach, not an “either/or” mentality that limits opportunity

# Strengthening Rural Georgia

## Truths

- Rural poverty is different from urban poverty
- Rural problems can't be addressed by Atlanta solutions
- Enrollment has essentially flatlined due to a drop in births – combine that with contracting tax base in rural areas
- Approximately a third of Georgia's school districts have not yet recovered from the Great Recession

## Needs

- Transportation: cost of buses, insurance, fuel
- Teaching workforce: state salary scale, grow your own
- Leadership pipeline, teacher leadership
- Dedicated funding stream to support opportunities (CTAE, computer science, dual enrollment, fine arts, AP/IB, world language, etc.)

**Thank you!** Fully funding QBE

# Supporting Our Teachers

| Top Causes for Public School Teacher Attrition in Georgia |
| --- |
| Number and emphasis of mandated tests |
| Teacher evaluation method |
| Level of teacher participation in decisions related to profession |
| Non-teaching school responsibilities/duties |

Based on a Georgia Department of Education survey of more than 53,000 Georgia public school teachers

**44%**

of new Georgia teachers are dropping out of the profession by year five

**2.7%**

of Georgia teachers said they would encourage their students to go into teaching

# Supporting Our Teachers

**Needs**

- High-stakes testing needs to be addressed: number – federal minimum, weight – still 70-80% of CCRPI scores
- Value teachers' opinions & insights
- Let teachers teach – we're asking them to be **parents, counselors, mental health experts, college/career advisors, school psychologists, and social workers**
  - Wraparound services and support staff
  - Whole child supports
  - Federal funds flexibility

**Thank you!** Teacher pay, school safety & mental health

**20.7%** Percentage of Georgia children living below the poverty line

**5** Children living in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18

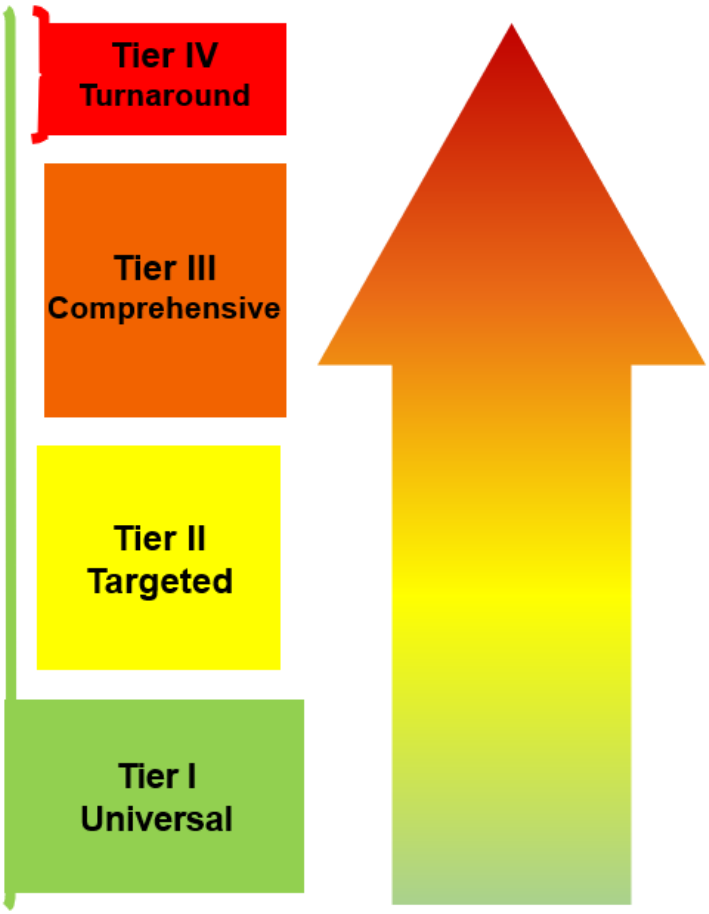
**13%** of Georgia households are food-insecure

Source: Talk Poverty yearly report

# Shifting Our Approach to Improving Schools

## Needs

- All Districts, All Schools, All Students – All Hands on Deck!
- Promoting continuous improvement, not punishing failure
- Proactive, not reactive
- Tiered and tailored support around locally identified needs




**Thank you:** support for ESSA, tiered system of supports

# Assessment & Accountability


## Dr. Allison Timberlake

## Deputy Superintendent, Assessment & Accountability

# Highlights

## Assessment

- High-stakes testing has been reduced in Georgia but we still test above the federal minimum
- Public concerns surrounding testing is centered on the number of tests but also the weight and use of tests
- GaDOE is building formative assessment tools that can truly inform teaching and learning and supporting innovation

## Accountability

- Georgians want a balanced system: opportunities & outcomes
- Just like for our students, we know our schools are more than test scores
- High-stakes testing make up 70-80% of the CCRPI calculation
- GaDOE is making strides so Georgians understand the performance of schools beyond summative scores

# Current Statewide Assessments

| Grade | Type | Test/Content Area |
|---|---|---|
| K | Formative | GKIDS |
| 1 | Formative | Keenville |
| 2 | Formative | Keenville |
| 3 | Summative | Georgia Milestones EOG: ELA, Math |
| 4 | Summative | Georgia Milestones EOG: ELA, Math |
| 5 | Summative | Georgia Milestones EOG: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies |
| 6 | Summative | Georgia Milestones EOG: ELA, Math |
| 7 | Summative | Georgia Milestones EOG: ELA, Math |
| 8 | Summative | Georgia Milestones EOG: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies |
| HS (9-12) | Summative | Georgia Milestones EOC: 9th Grade Lit; American Lit; Coordinate Algebra or Algebra I; Analytic Geometry or Geometry; Physical Science; Biology; US History; Economics |

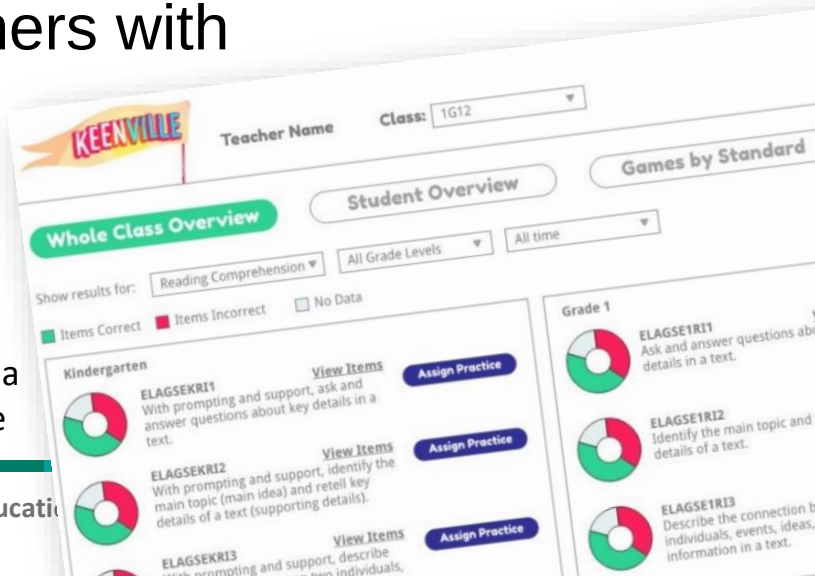
**GKIDS (mandated) & Keenville (optional) are formative assessments used to inform instruction and are not used for accountability.**

**Social studies at all grade levels and one set of high school EOCs are state-mandated but beyond the federal minimum.**

Dually enrolled students are not required to take certain EOCs.
Middle school students taking high school ELA, math, or science courses take only the EOC and not the EOG.
Students with significant cognitive disabilities participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) in lieu of Georgia Milestones.

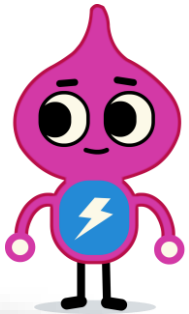
# Assessing Early Literacy and Numeracy Skills

- Keenville is a series of interactive challenges that actively engage students and formatively assesses key literacy and numeracy skills in real-time for 1st and 2nd grade students
- Keenville offers the opportunity to:
  - integrate assessment alongside instruction;
  - support and empower teachers with real-time information to differentiate instruction; and
  - hook students into the fun of learning.




Dashboards provide information to Georgia educators in real-time

# Keenville



- Engaging and **age-, developmentally-appropriate** challenges
- Formatively assesses **key literacy and numeracy skills**

- Provides ongoing **support and feedback**
- Based on **Georgia standards**
- Games include **multiple academic levels**

The Telegraph
macon.com

"The feedback from students and the feedback from teachers **has been phenomenal**.

It's like, '**Wow, where has this been**?'"

**-- Bibb County School District's Director of Testing**

# Georgia Milestones

**Spring 2018 Testing Volume**

EOG: 801,000+ students

EOC: 433,000+ students (tests)

Combined: 1,234,000+ students

**Online Testing**

This past spring, districts assessed approximately 88% of students online (82% EOG and 99% EOC)

Peak concurrency saw approximately 141,000 students testing simultaneously.

**No Major Statewide Issues**

There were some small, localized issues in some areas, primarily due to connectivity/bandwidth issues.

# Assessment Innovation

## Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority

- Federal assessment pilot (USED)
- 5-7 year pilot window to vet/refine new assessment systems and (possibly) scale up
- Georgia's application included 3 different assessment systems: Cobb Metrics, Navvy, and Georgia MAP
- Application submitted & currently under review
- GaDOE will need additional funding to oversee and provide technical support for the pilot

# CCRPI

- The College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) was redesigned under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) based on statewide stakeholder feedback.
  - Focuses on the opportunities and outcomes expected of all students.
  - Includes multiple measures and values educating the whole child.
  - Provides individualized targets and rewards progress
  - Provides scores on a 0-100 point scale for all indicators, components, and overall scores.
  - Features new online reports that are easier to navigate.
- The 2018 CCRPI reports were released in October 2018.

# CCRPI

**CCRPI Score**

**Content Mastery**
- English language arts achievement
- Mathematics achievement
- Science achievement
- Social studies achievement

**Progress**
- English Language Arts growth
- Mathematics growth
- Progress toward English language proficiency (EL students)

**Closing Gaps**
- Meeting achievement improvement targets

**Readiness**
- *Elementary:* Literacy, student attendance, beyond the core
- *Middle:* Literacy, student attendance, beyond the core
- *High:* Literacy, student attendance, accelerated enrollment, pathway completion, college and career readiness

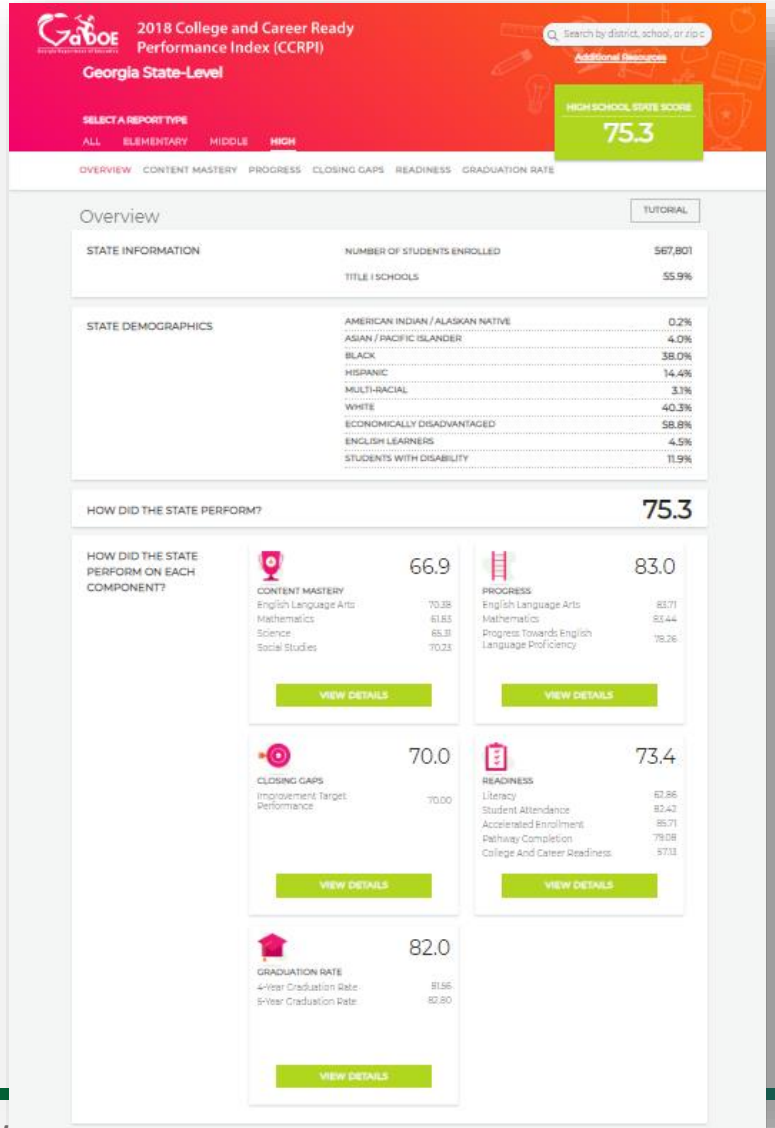
**Graduation Rate**

*High School Only*
- 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate
- 5-year adjusted cohort graduation rate

School climate star rating

Financial efficiency star rating

# New CCRPI Reports




- Simple and streamlined
- Easy to navigate
- Includes guiding questions and explanations to understand the calculations and help interpret the data
- Will include comparison to previous year's performance
- Can disaggregate all indicators by subgroup
- Engages users with the data – encouraging them to drill past the overall score

# School Safety


## Dr. Garry McGiboney

## Deputy Superintendent, Policy and External Affairs

# Highlights

- GaDOE's adopted framework for improvement is focused on supporting the **Whole Child**
- Must have **comprehensive approach** to school safety: hardening schools but also addressing school climate
- GaDOE is **collaboration** across the Department and **across state agencies** to increase support and training for districts, coordinate efforts, and address safety issues head on

"Workplace safety begins and ends with attention to all aspects of the climate. *Workplace climate is safety*."

RAND CORPORATION STUDY

# What is School Climate?

School climate IS workplace climate.

School climate, like workplace climate, is linked to safety and performance.

# Key Components of School Climate

**Safety:** The physical and emotional safety of students and the rules and procedures in place to ensure student safety

**Relationships:** Social support in the school from school staff and between and among students

**Teaching and Learning:** A positive and professional student-teacher-school relationship

**Institutional Environment:** The physical environment of the school is welcoming, clean, well-kept, safe, and secure

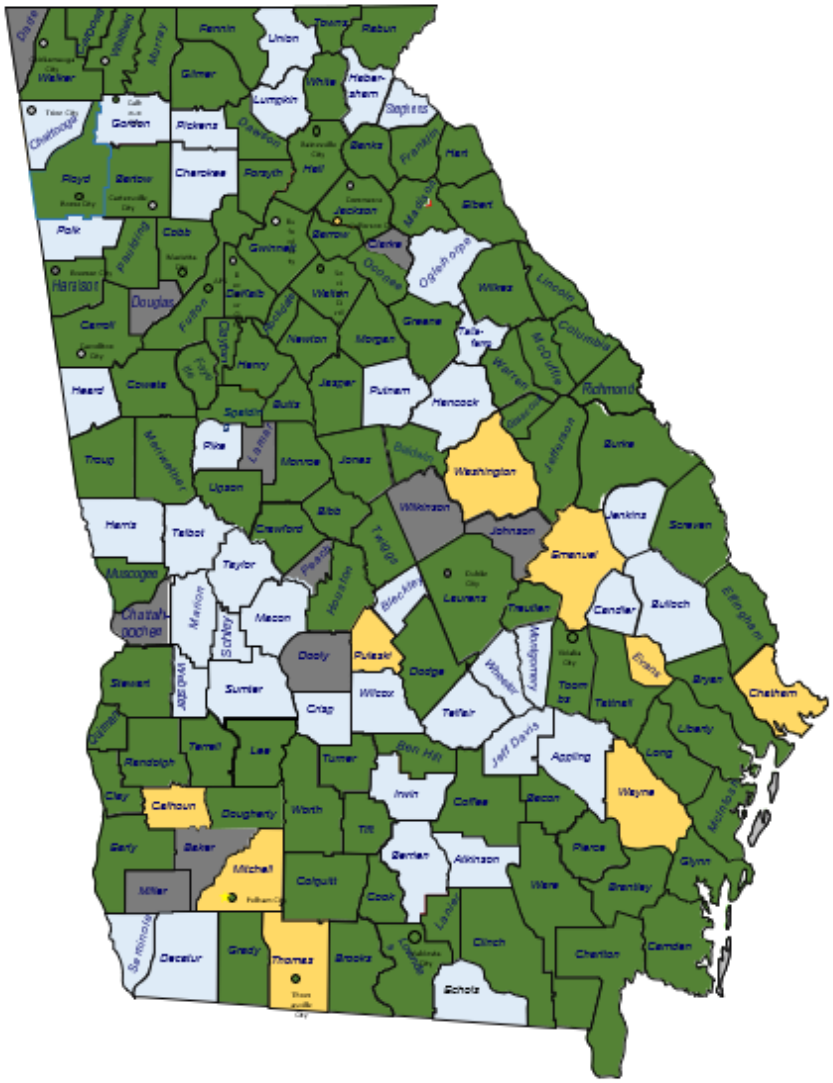
***Research indicates that a positive school climate is critical to overall school safety.***

# A positive school climate has been shown to…

- Improve a wide range of emotional and mental health outcomes for students
- Lower levels of drug use among students
- Reduce psychological problems among students
- Increase psychological well-being of students
- ***Create conditions at school conducive to safety*** (students share information with school staff members)

# Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

- The majority of schools that recognize the need to improve school climate and safety are using school-wide behavioral-management strategies, such as **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).**
- The ***Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Agency*** reviewed research on PBIS and endorsed the use of ***PBIS as a model to improve school climate and safety***.



Active PBIS District

Never Participated

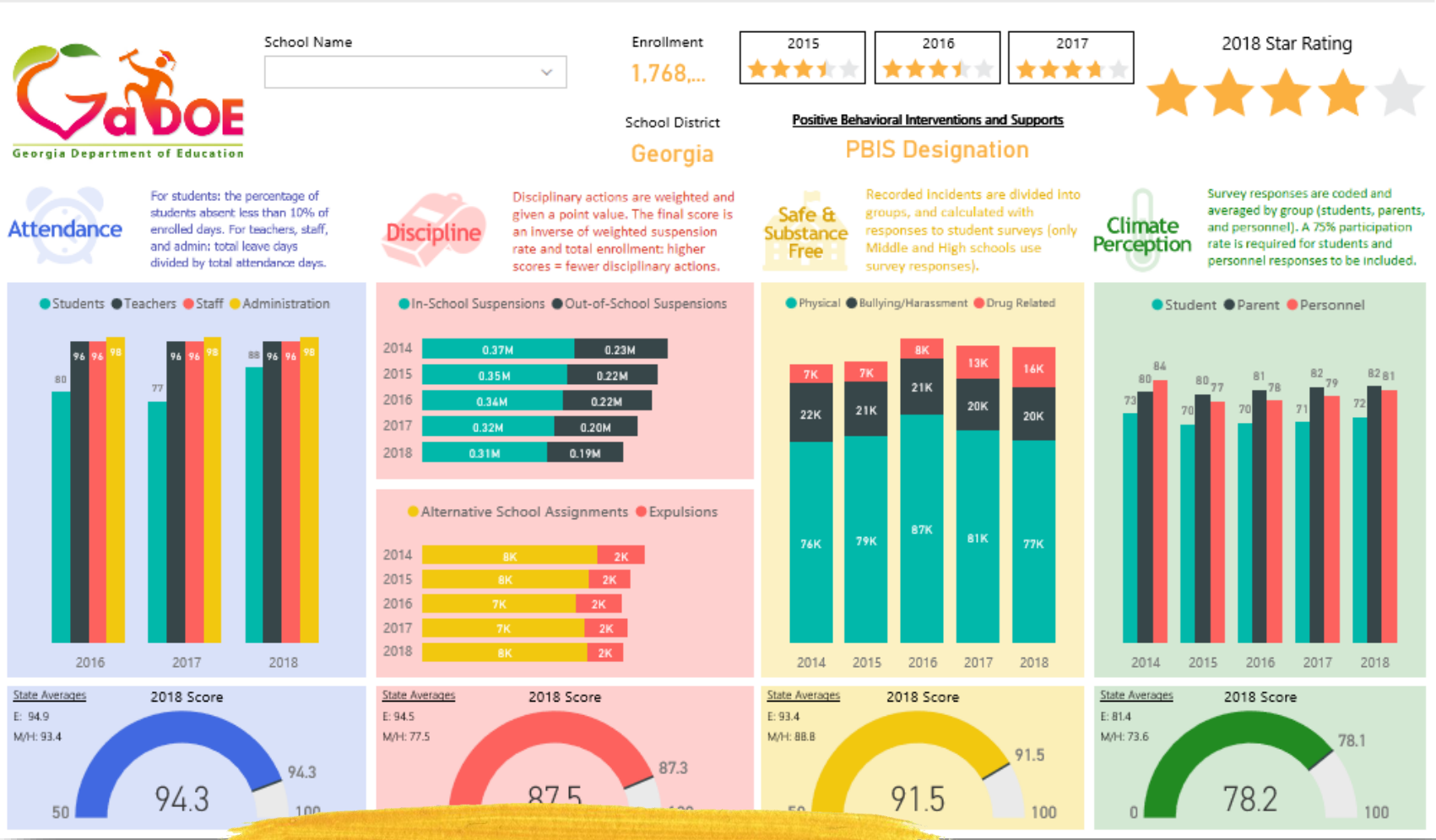
Inactive

Projected FY19

**PBIS-Trained Schools**

- 2008 = **80** PBIS-Trained Schools
- 2018 = **1,361** PBIS-Trained Schools
- School climate specialist position at 16 RESAs

# School Climate Dashboard




**GeorgiaInsights.com**

# Georgia Legislature's Comprehensive Safety Package

- **School Climate** added to Student Attendance Protocol Committee
- **Safe School Plans** with input from local law enforcement
- Evaluate and Refine **Security Measures**
- Update and Exercise **Emergency Plans**
- Enhance Crisis **Communication Plans**
- **Training** on School Violence Prevention, School Security, School Threat Assessment, School Emergency Planning, and Mental Health
- Safety Equipment/Safety Enhancement **Funding**
- Mental Health Awareness Training **Funding**

GaDOE is partnering with NAMI and RESAs to provide mental health awareness training for teachers and other educators.

***Trusting relationships and a positive school climate are the most effective means of ensuring school safety, much more so than metal detectors.***

-National Association of Secondary School Principals

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Georgia Department of Education

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