

# School Safety in Georgia

**Garry McGiboney**  
**Georgia Department of Education**

# State Laws - School Safety



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[ga DOE.org](http://ga DOE.org)

- Bullying: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4
- Conflict Management: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-739
- Disrupting a Public School: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181 – 20-2-1182
- Designated felony acts: O.C.G.A. § 15-11-63
- Off-campus behavior resulting in felony charge:
  - O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.5
  - School principal must be notified when a child commits certain acts: O.C.G.A. § 15-11-83
- Carrying and possession within school zones:
  - O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1
  - Allowing school personnel to carry weapons within school safety zones: O.C.G.A. § 16-11-130.1
- Expulsion of students who bring or possess firearms at school: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.1

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- Loitering on school property: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1180
- Mandatory Reporting
  - Student crimes reported to law enforcement:  
O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184
  - Report juvenile drug use: O.C.G.A. § 19-7-6
  - Child Abuse: reporting child abuse; failure to report:  
O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5
- Student Personal Safety: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-314
- School Safety Plans: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185
- School Safety Zones
  - Defined: O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1
  - Weapons in: O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1

# State Laws - School Safety



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- Alcohol and Drug Use
  - Development and dissemination of instructional materials; mandatory instruction: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-142
  - Mandatory instruction/prevention: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-144
  - Reporting juvenile drug use: O.C.G.A. § 19-7-6
  - Alcohol sales near school zones: O.C.G.A. § 3-3-21
- Suicide Prevention: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-779.1
- School security personnel authorized to carry: O.C.G.A. § 20-8-5
- School Climate Management Program for Improving School Climate: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-155 – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- School Climate Rating System: O.C.G.A. § 20-14-34
- School Climate Positive Behavioral Intervention: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-741 – implementation of PBIS for schools with low School Climate Ratings

# State Laws - School Safety



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- Discipline

- Annual Discipline Reports: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-740
- Authority of teacher over classroom: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738
- Chronic Disciplinary Problem Students: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-764 – § 20-2-768
- Model Code of Behavior and Discipline: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-155
- Corporal Punishment: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-730 – §20-2-732
- Disciplinary tribunals: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-750 – §20-2-759
- In-School Suspension: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-155, § 20-2-738
- Liability of educators: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1000
- Out-of-School Suspension: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738
- Reciprocal expulsion by other school systems: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.2
- Student Code of Conduct: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-735 - § 20-2-738
- Student conduct to be addressed in codes: O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.5
- Student expulsion for felony conviction: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-767 – § 20-2-768
- Violence against teachers: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.6

## State Board Rules – School Safety

- Student Safety: State Board Rule 160-5-3-.13 (student safety on school buses)
- Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO): State Board Rule 160-4-8-.16 (Defines “persistently dangerous” schools and allows public school choice for students who have been victims of a violent criminal offense.)
- Student Support Services: State Board Rule 160-4-8-.01 (alternative school, counseling)
- Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Training: State Board Rule 160-4-8-.04
- Student Discipline: State Board Rule 160-4-8-.15
- Suicide Prevention Training: State Board Rule 160-4-8-.19

# Federal Laws – School Safety



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Georgia's School Superintendent  
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- Gun-Free Schools Act: Requires local education agencies to expel from school for a period of not less than one year a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school or to have possessed a firearm at school: Part A, Subpart 3 under Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), of 1965, as amended 20 U.S.C. 7151
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Section 4108 – Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Students with focus on school climate, internet safety, drug-free schools, physical health, mental health, and safety planning

Georgia Department of Education

# Discipline Incident Types Reported to Georgia Department of Education



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- Alcohol
- Arson
- Battery
- Breaking & entering (Burglary)
- Computer Trespass
- Disorderly Conduct
- Drugs (Except Alcohol and Tobacco)
- Fighting
- Homicide
- Kidnapping
- Larceny / Theft
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Robbery
- Sexual Battery
- Sexual Harassment
- Sex Offenses
- Threat / Intimidation
- Tobacco
- Trespassing



# Discipline Incident Types Reported to the Georgia Department of Education



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- Vandalism
- Weapons – Knife
- Weapons – Other
- Other Incident
- Weapons – Handgun
- Weapons – Rifle/Shotgun
- Serious Bodily Injury
- Other Firearms
- Bullying
- Attendance Related
- Dress Code Violations
- Academic Dishonesty
- Student Incivility
- Possession of Unapproved Items
- Gang Related
- Repeated Offenses

# Discipline Incident Types

## 3-Year Trend



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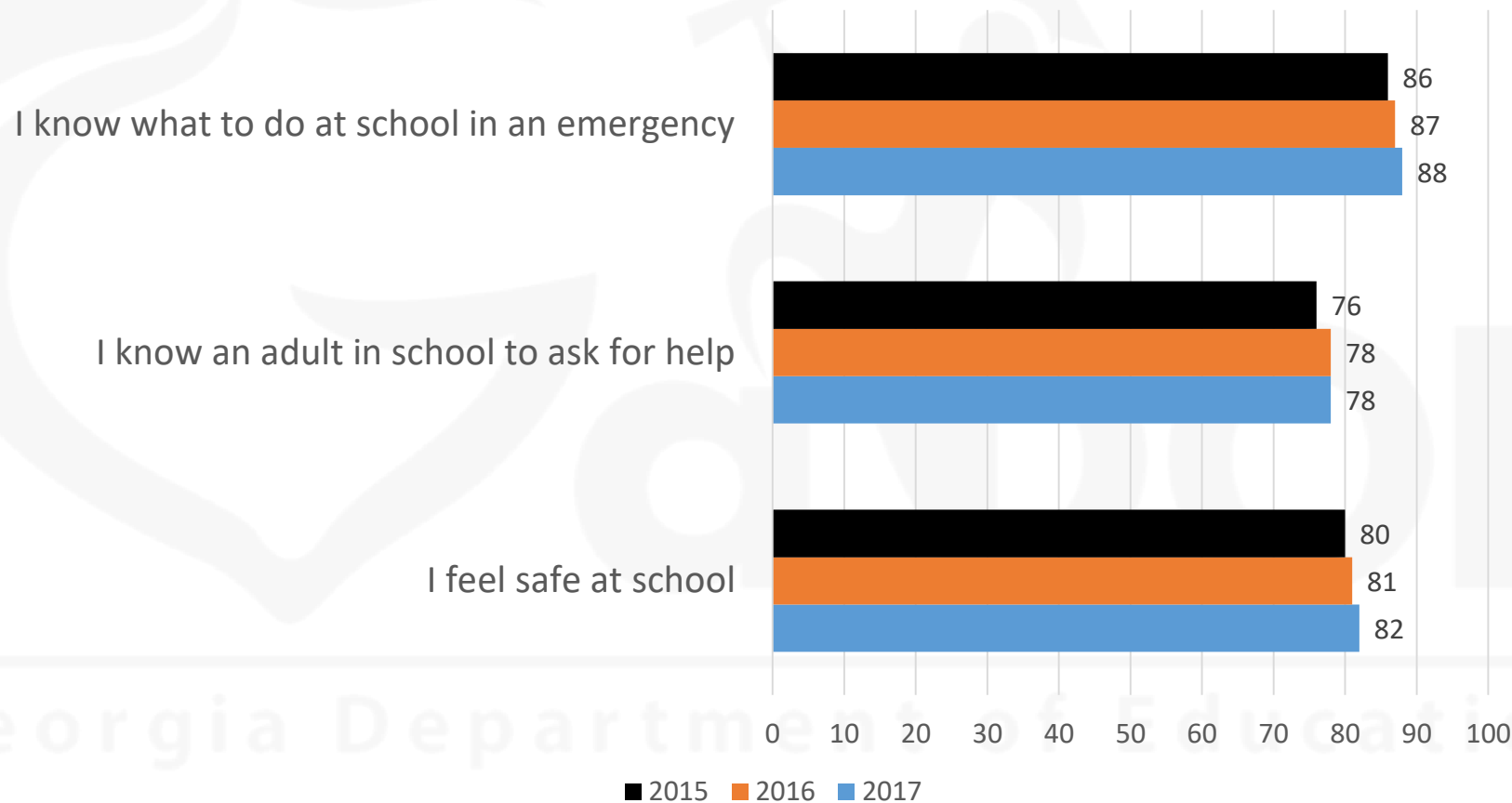
These discipline incident types have **decreased** over the last three years:

- Arson
- Bullying
- Larceny/Theft
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Tobacco
- Serious Bodily Injury
- Dress Code Violations
- Possession of Unapproved Items
- Student Incivility

These discipline incident types have **increased** over the last three years:

- Academic Dishonesty
- Computer Trespass
- Vandalism
- Handguns

# Georgia Student Health Survey



# Georgia Department of Education School Safety Resources



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[ga DOE.org](http://ga DOE.org)

- Crisis Management and Prevention in Georgia Public Schools
- Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans
- School Safety Checklist
- School Safety Hotline
- Responding to a School Crisis
- Trauma's Impact on Children Exposed to Violence
- School Emergency Management Tool Box
- Bullying Prevention Toolkit
- Anti-Cyberbullying Toolkit
- Suicide Prevention Resources
- Human Trafficking Prevention/Intervention Toolkit
- Complex Trauma - Resource Guide for Youth

# Crisis Management and Prevention in Georgia Public Schools



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Georgia's School Superintendent  
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## Crisis Management and Prevention Information for Georgia Public Schools

Georgia Department of Education

**Prevention/Mitigation** is the action schools take to prevent a threatened or actual incident from occurring or reducing the likelihood that an incident will happen.

**Preparedness** focuses on ongoing actions that protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, networks, and property from a threat or hazard.

**Response** is the capability necessary to stabilize an crisis once it has already happened or is certain to happen in an unpreventable way; establish a safe and secure environment; save lives and property; and facilitate the transition to recovery.

**Recovery** the capability necessary to assist schools affected by a crisis in restoring the learning environment.

# Crisis Management and Prevention in Georgia Public Schools

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## Crisis Management and Prevention Information for Georgia Public Schools

Georgia Department of Education

### Sample Crisis/Emergency Response Procedures

- ❖ Emergency Kits
- ❖ Emergency Evacuation and Reunification
- ❖ Accident, Illness, Injury
- ❖ Bomb Threat, Suspicious Package
- ❖ Bomb Threat Call Checklist
- ❖ Closing School: Weather/Shelter-in-Place
- ❖ Death of Staff Member or Student/Suicide
- ❖ Fire
- ❖ Hazardous Materials/Nuclear Threat
- ❖ Intruder/Suspicious Person/Hostage/Barricade
- ❖ Student Disruption/Civil Disturbance
- ❖ Student Runaway/Abduction/Missing Student
- ❖ Report of Weapon on Campus
- ❖ When Shots are Fired
- ❖ Tornado
- ❖ Flooding

# Crisis Management and Prevention in Georgia Public Schools

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## Crisis Management and Prevention Information for Georgia Public Schools

Georgia Department of Education

- ❖ Earthquake
- ❖ Hurricane
- ❖ Utility Emergency/After-Hours Emergency
- ❖ Bacteria or Micro-organism Threat
- ❖ Helpful Tips and Information
- ❖ How to Deal with the News Media
- ❖ Quick Reference Guide
- ❖ Poison Control/Emergency

### Sample Crisis Preparedness and Response for Other Crisis Situations

- ❖ Stadium Emergency Evacuation
- ❖ Emergency Shelter Protocol
- ❖ Other Hazards (Railroads, Airport, Chemical)





# Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

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## School Safety Training

Training on school safety issues is provided through a series of statewide conferences, regional workshops and presentations provided at the request of local communities.

A local agency or school may request any of the following programs:

### Active Shooter

Incidents involving active shooters have become all too familiar.

Through this training we will identify a true active shooter, examine the history of active shooter incidents and discuss the possible responses to various active shooter situations. We will also explore pro-active steps that can be taken to possibly reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.







# Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

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## Bomb Threat Management

This course examines how to develop a Bomb Threat Management Plan to handle the many types of threats that may occur. This class discusses the types of threats, how and when to evacuate, as well as how to conduct searches for suspicious packages.

## Bomb Threat Search Techniques

This course examines the different search techniques that can be utilized to thoroughly and quickly search for suspicious packages after a bomb threat has been received. Also discussed in this program is who should search, where should we search, how to conduct a search, and what to do if a suspicious package or device is discovered.

## Bullying Prevention

This program identifies the types of bullies and discusses the bullying dynamic of why students are bullied and why bullies act the way they do. This class also examines prevention techniques that can be implemented in schools and the laws concerning bullying.



## Cafeteria Safety

This program discusses how to keep your school cafeteria and its staff safe and secure and their role in the emergency operations plan. It also discusses how to prepare for the possibility of natural or man-made disasters.

## Current Drug Trends in Schools

This program examines the types of drugs that are commonly utilized by students in schools. The class discusses various drugs, their signs and symptoms, and concealment areas often used by students.

## Emergency Operations Planning for Schools

This program examines the planning process and what aspects should be covered in the Emergency Operations Plan according to the law. This class also discusses self-assessment tips for reviewing a schools plan.

## **Gang Awareness**

This program examines the reasons why students become involved in gangs. It also examines how children are initiated in gangs, their basic signs and symbols, and provides suggestions that may help school administrators handle the growing problem of gang activity in schools. The information provided can be used during normal school hours as well as during after school activities.

## **Home Visit Safety**

This program examines the risks associated with home visits and identifies ways to reduce those risks to school personnel. This course discusses pre-planning, visual weapons screening, crime prevention methods, and how to recognize possible criminal activity.

## **Implications for Terrorism in Schools**

This program discusses the Homeland Security Threat Levels and what school safety and security techniques should be implemented in response to each threat level. Also discussed in depth is the Beslan, Russia school terrorism siege.

## **Severe Weather**

This course examines the weather-related dangers that pose specific risks to schools. This program also discusses the types of watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service, proper response procedures, and proper safe-sheltering areas within the school facility.

## **Site Safety Awareness**

This course discusses how to conduct effective site safety surveys. This course examines how to assess policy and procedures, site maps, perimeter control, as well as the safety and security of the entire school facility and its many components.

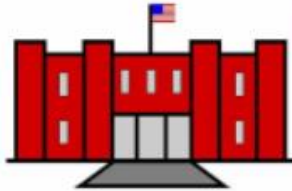
## **Teacher's Safety Course**

This course examines the teacher's role in the emergency operations plan and what they can expect in emergency situations. This class also discusses techniques for keeping a safe classroom environment.

## **Threat Assessment in Schools**

## *— Ninth Annual —*

### **Safety in Our Schools**



**Education**

**Prevention**

**Management**

## **June 26-28, 2018**

Hosted by

**Columbus Georgia Convention and  
Trade Center  
801 Front Avenue  
Columbus, GA**

*Presented by*

**GEMA/Homeland Security**

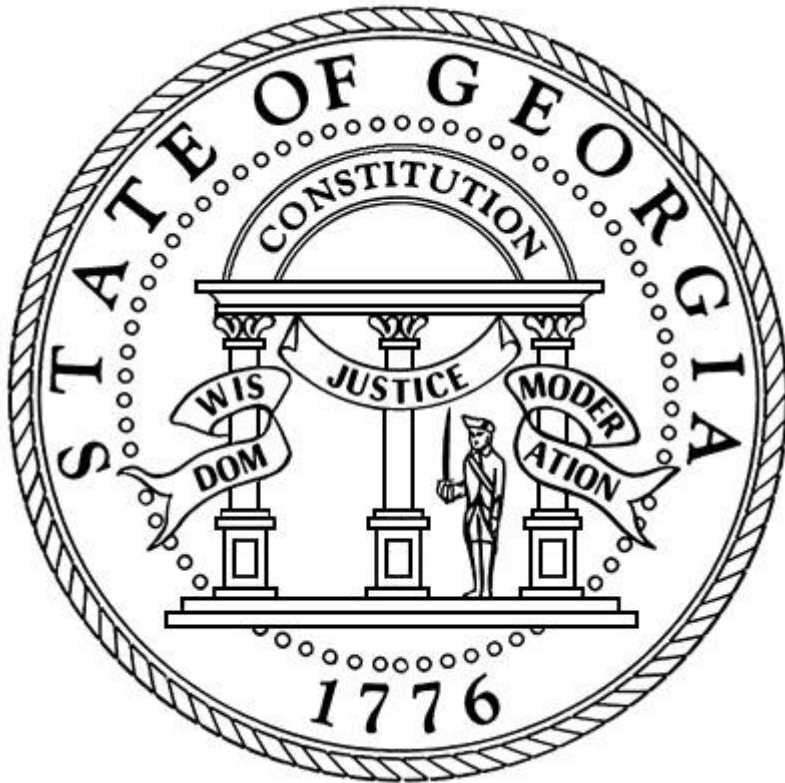
**Georgia Department of Education**

**U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Georgia**

**San Bernardino Elementary School Shooting  
Lessons Learned from Hurricane Irma  
Haralson County WATCH  
Terrorism Topic  
School Site Assessments  
CRASE  
Legislative Updates  
Stop-the-Bleed  
Food Defense  
School Attendance and School Safety  
Opioid Awareness  
Disaster Preparedness and Response**

**of Education**





2018

LEGISLATION

Georgia Department of Education

14 **SECTION 1.**

15 Subpart 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
16 relating to compulsory attendance for students in elementary and secondary education, is  
17 amended by revising Code Section 20-2-690.2, relating to the establishment of student  
18 attendance protocol committees, membership and protocol, summary of penalties for failure  
19 to comply, and reporting, as follows:

20 "20-2-690.2.

21 (a) The chief judge of the superior court of each county shall establish a student attendance  
22 protocol and school climate committee for ~~its~~ such county. The purpose of the committee  
23 shall be to ensure coordination and cooperation among officials, agencies, and programs  
24 involved in compulsory attendance issues, to reduce the number of unexcused absences  
25 from school, ~~and~~ to increase the percentage of students present to take tests which are  
26 required to be administered under the laws of this state, and to improve the school climate

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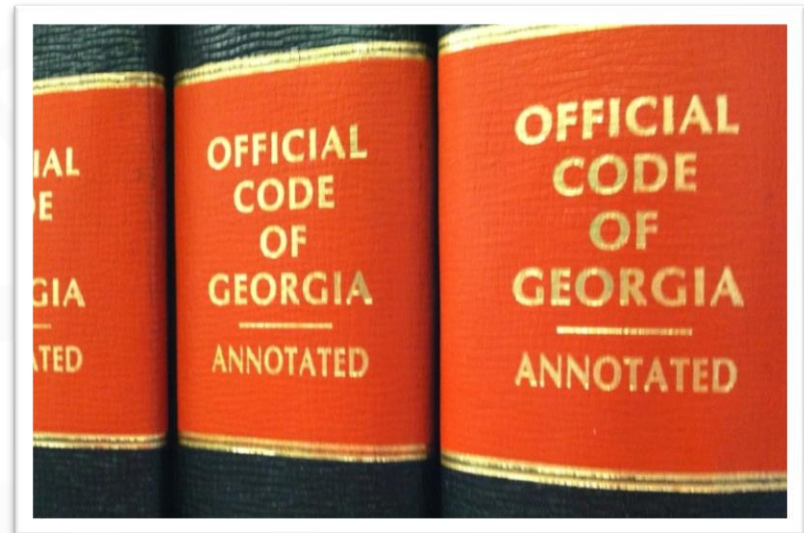
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- 43 (1) The chief judge of the superior court;
- 44 (2) The juvenile court judge or judges of the county;
- 45 (3) The district attorney for the county;
- 46 (4) The solicitor-general of state court, if the county has a state court;
- 47 (5) The Department of Juvenile Justice, which may include representatives from area
- 48 juvenile detention facilities as defined in Code Section 49-4A-1;
- 49 (6) The superintendent, a certificated school employee, and a local school board member
- 50 from each public school system in the county and a certificated school social worker from
- 51 each public school system, if any are employed by the school system;
- 52 (7) The sheriff of the county;
- 53 (8) The chief of police of the county police department;
- 54 (9) The chief of police of each municipal police department in the county;
- 55 (10) The county department of family and children services;
- 56 (11) The county board of health;
- 57 (12) The county mental health organization;
- 58 (13) The county Family Connection commission, board, or authority, or other county

87     (f) The committee shall review and make recommendations for policies relating to school  
88     climate for the purpose of promoting positive gains in student achievement scores, student  
89     and teacher morale, community support, and student and teacher attendance, while  
90     decreasing student suspensions, expulsions, dropouts, and other negative aspects of the  
91     total school environment. Such review may include school climate ratings established  
92     pursuant to Code Section 20-14-33 for each school in the county school system and any  
93     independent school systems, if applicable. The committee may review, if available,  
94     nonidentifying data from student health surveys, data on environmental and behavioral  
95     indicators, data on student behavioral and school-based reactions, and teacher and parent  
96     survey instruments. The committee may recommend the use of positive behavioral  
97     interventions and supports and response to intervention, trauma informed care training, and  
98     the optimization of local resources through voluntary community, student, teacher,  
99     administrator, and other school personnel participation.



## **State statute requires a School Climate Rating for each school**



## **Official Code of Georgia Annotated 20-14-33 School Climate Rating**

## What is the School Climate Star Rating?

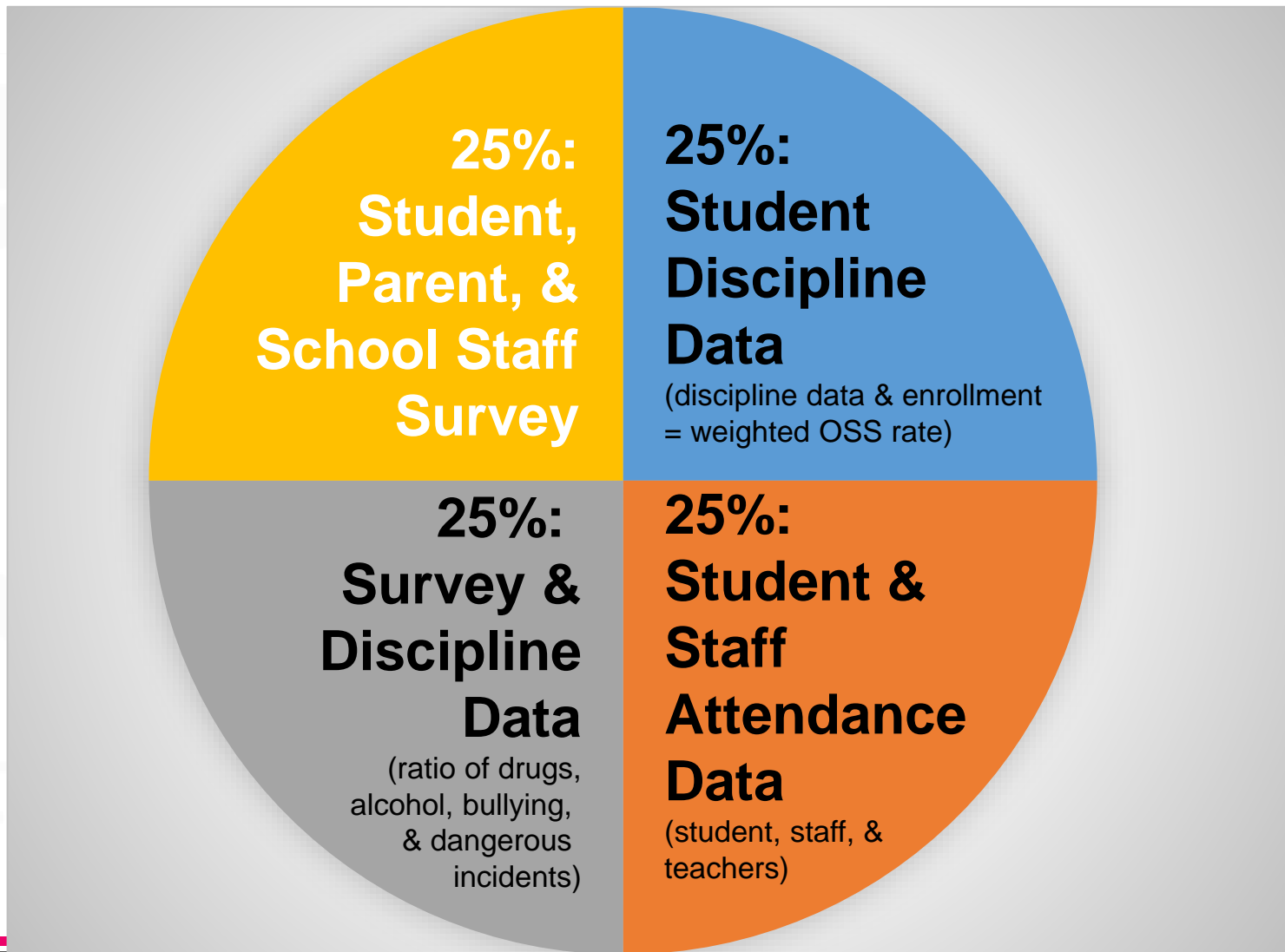
The **School Climate Star Rating** is a diagnostic tool to determine if a school is on the right path to school improvement and it addresses many elements of school safety.

Georgia School  
Climate  
Star Rating



# School Climate Star Rating

Scale: 1 (unsatisfactory) – 5 (excellent)



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98     the optimization of local resources through voluntary community, student, teacher,  
99     administrator, and other school personnel participation.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

Safety, Discipline, and School Climate

“Schools have adopted a variety of approaches to **improve school climate** in an effort to reduce student discipline problems and **increase school safety**.”

*-Quality Counts*

Georgia Department of Education

**School Climate** is the experience of school life and reflects norms, goals, values, social interactions, access, engagement, connections, teaching and learning practices, building quality, safety, and organizational practices.

*-National School Climate Center*

Georgia Department of Education

## 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** from staff and between and among students

**Teaching and Learning**: a **positive and professional** student-staff **relationship**

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

Research indicates that a positive school climate is critical to **overall school safety** (RAND Corporation; M. C. Wang, Haertel, and Walberg)

*"School climate is the only school characteristic that consistently correlates with school violence after taking into account other school features."*

RAND Corporation



# CODE OF CONDUCT

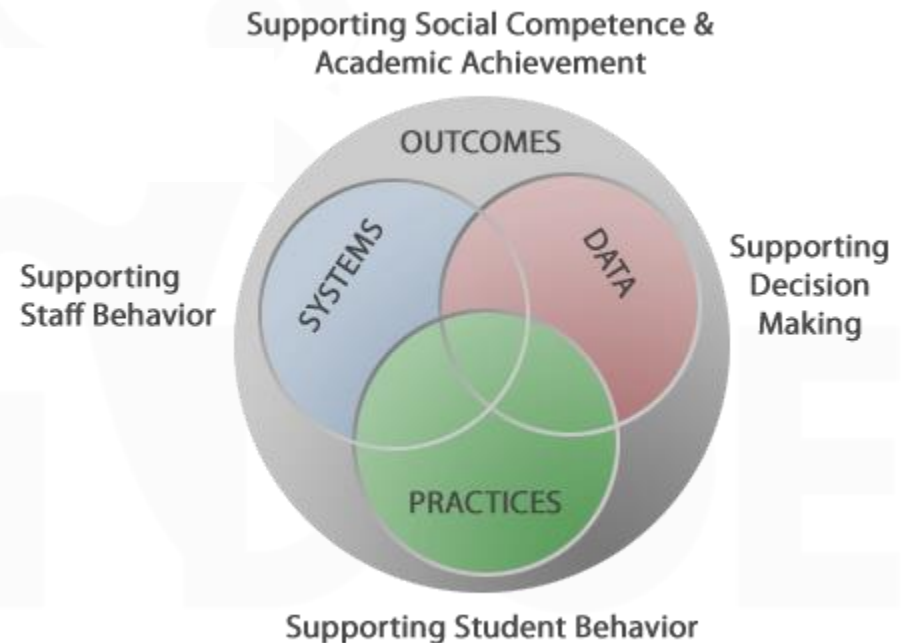
Safety, Discipline, and School Climate

“The majority of schools that recognize the need to improve school climate are using school-wide behavioral-management strategies, such as **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**.”

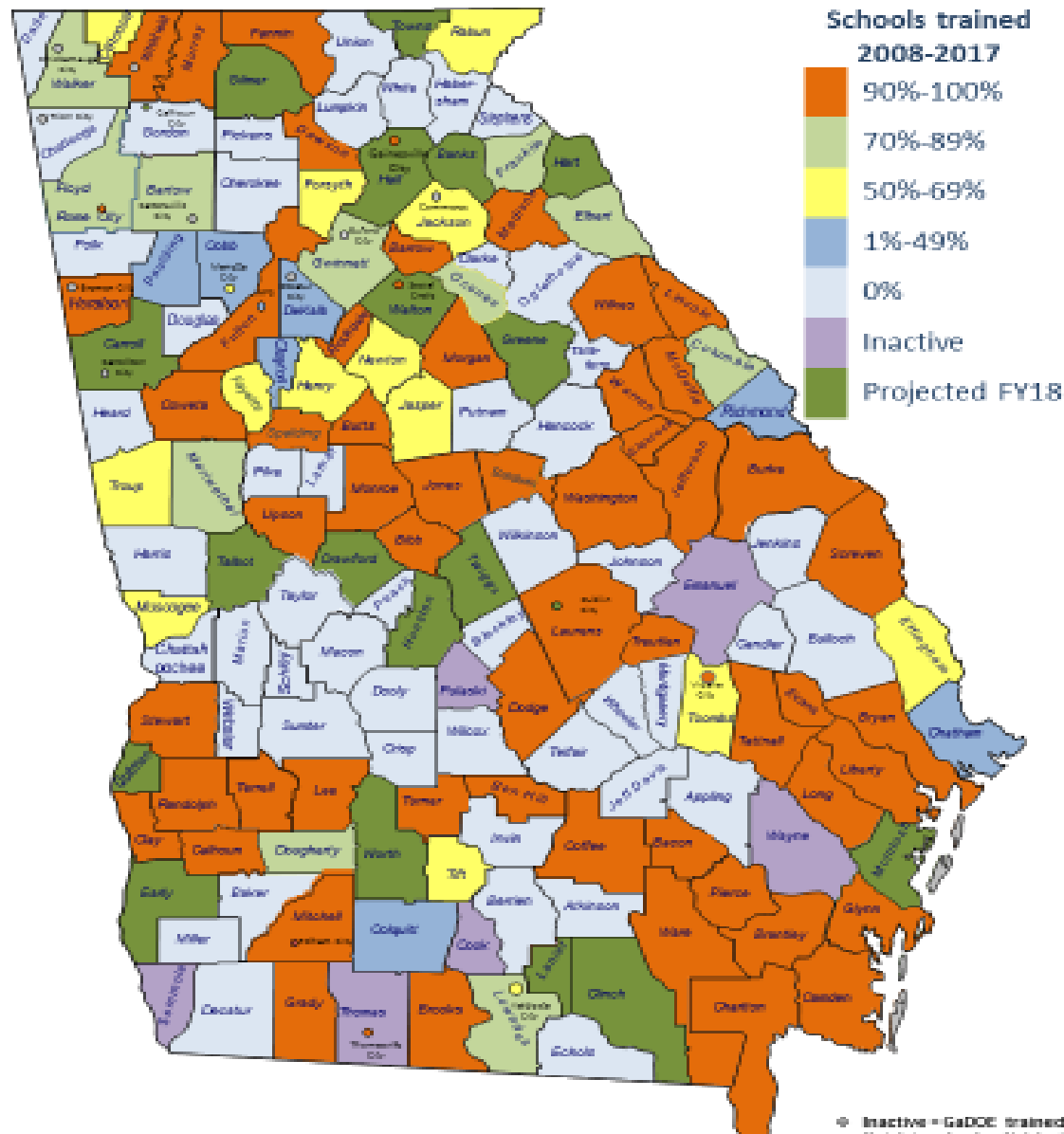
*-Quality Counts*

Georgia Department of Education

**PBIS** is an application of a systems approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design effective school climates that improve the link between research-based practices and the school climate in which teaching and learning occurs within a safe and secure environment.



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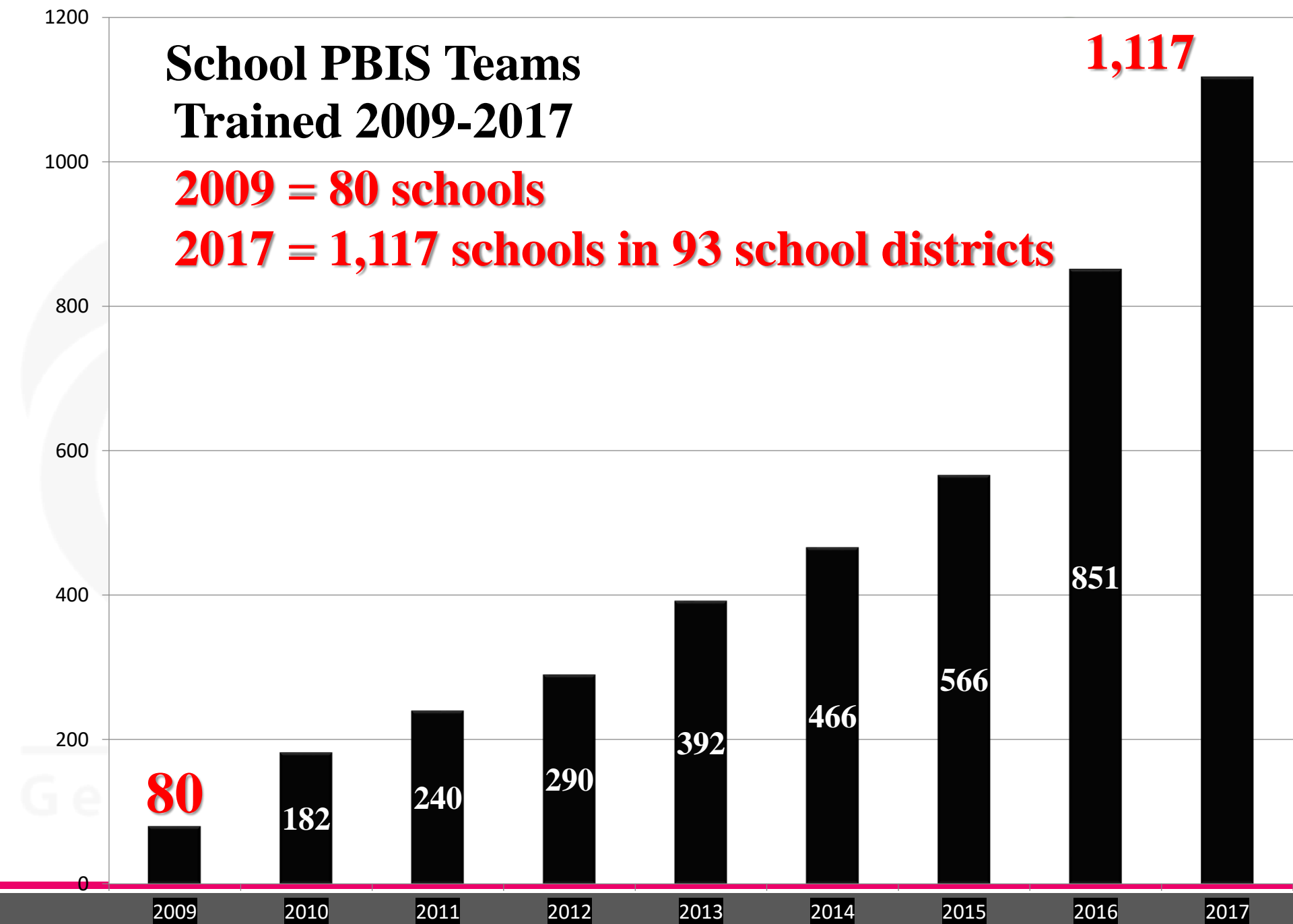


# School PBIS Teams Trained 2009-2017

**2009 = 80 schools**

**2017 = 1,117 schools in 93 school districts**

**1,117**

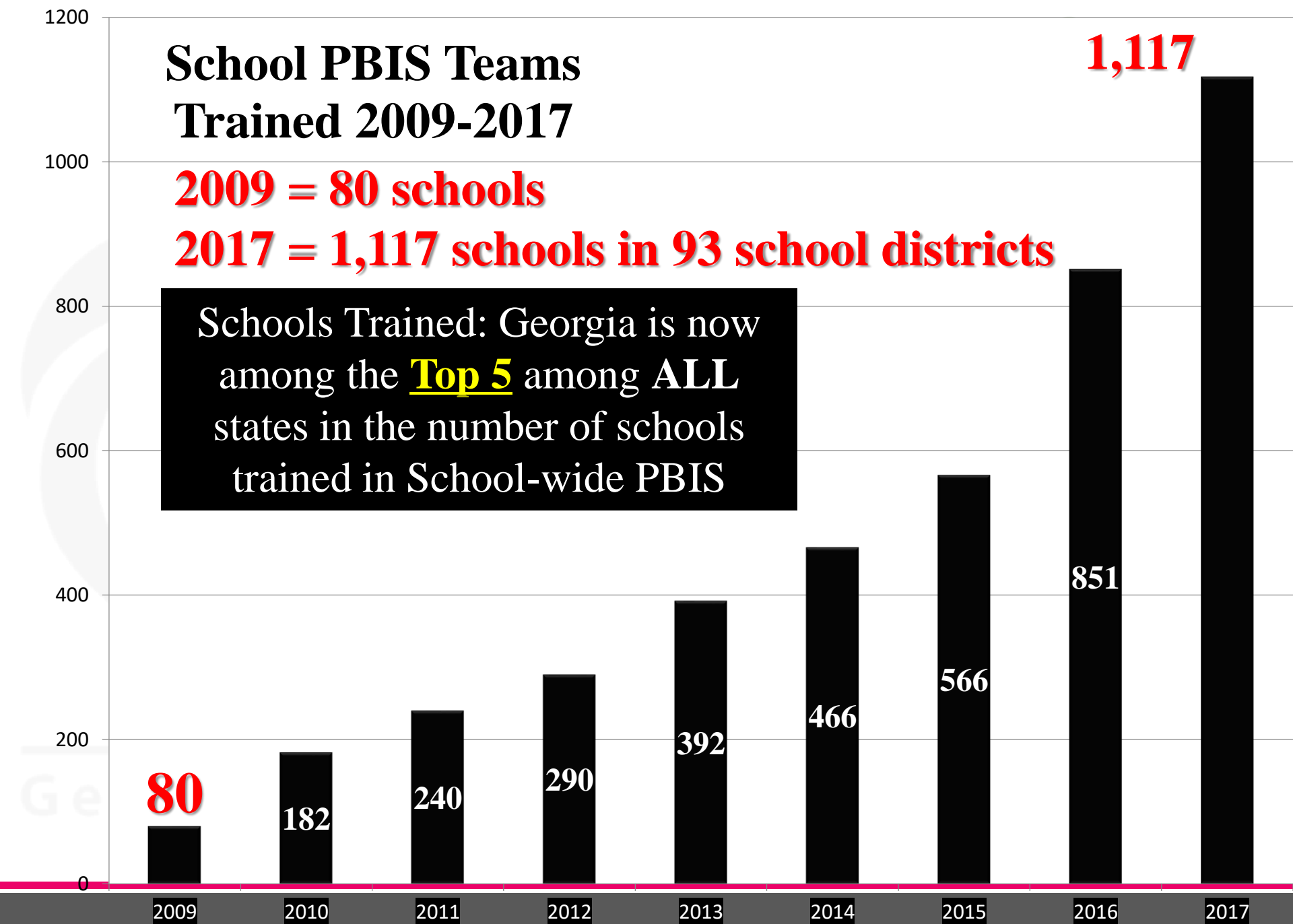


# School PBIS Teams Trained 2009-2017

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Schools Trained: Georgia is now  
among the **Top 5** among **ALL**  
states in the number of schools  
trained in School-wide PBIS



# School PBIS Teams Trained 2009-2017

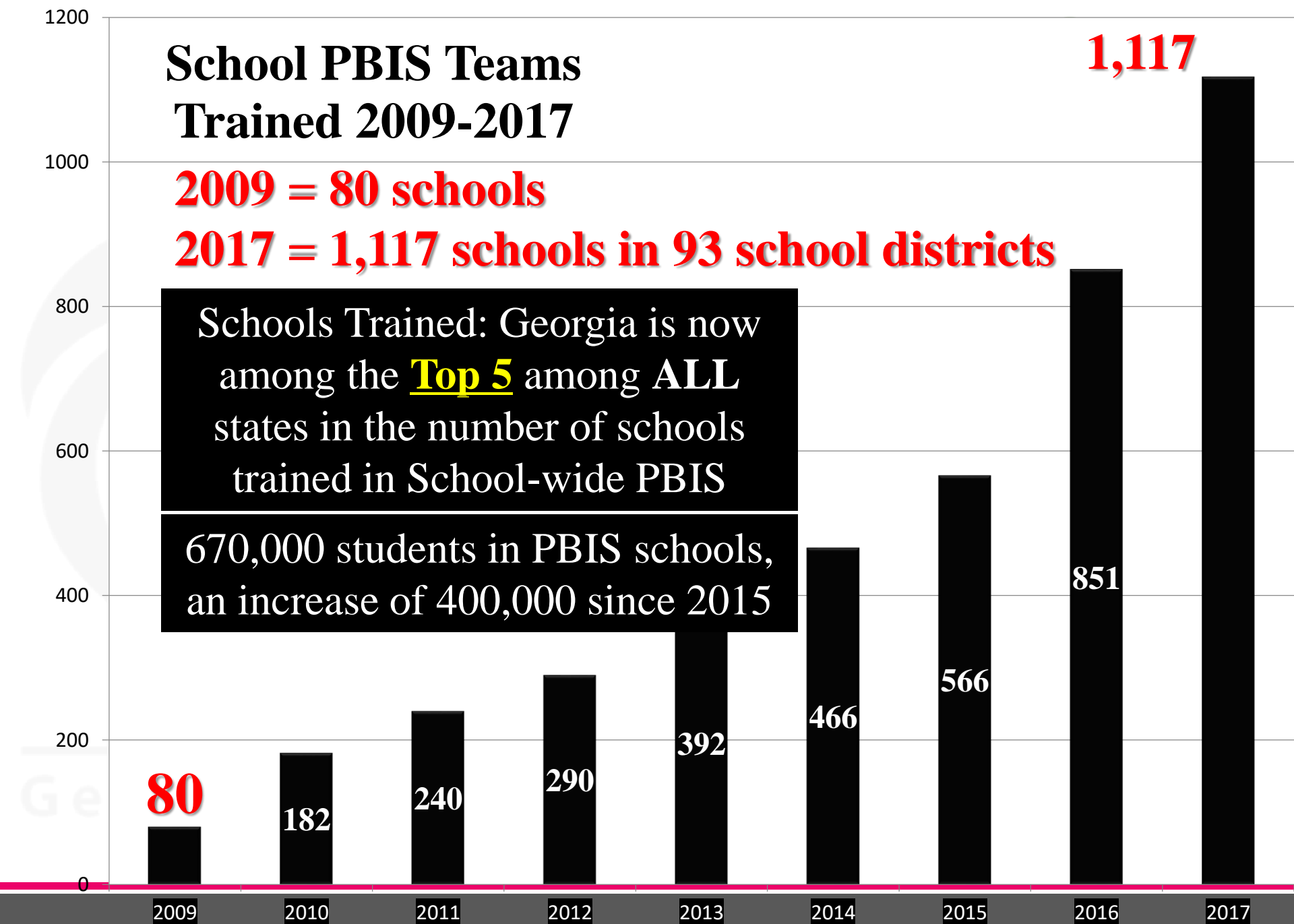
**1,117**

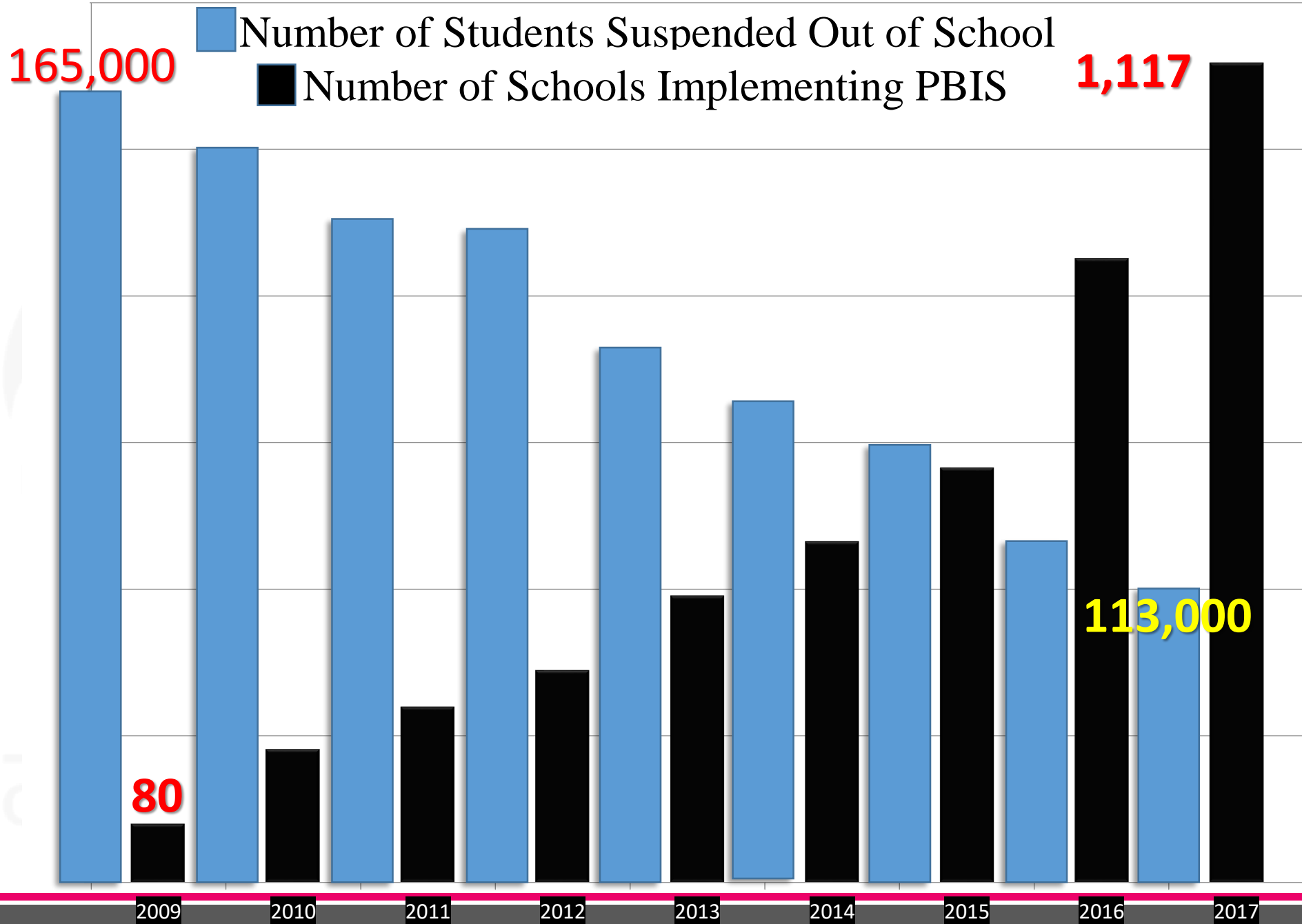
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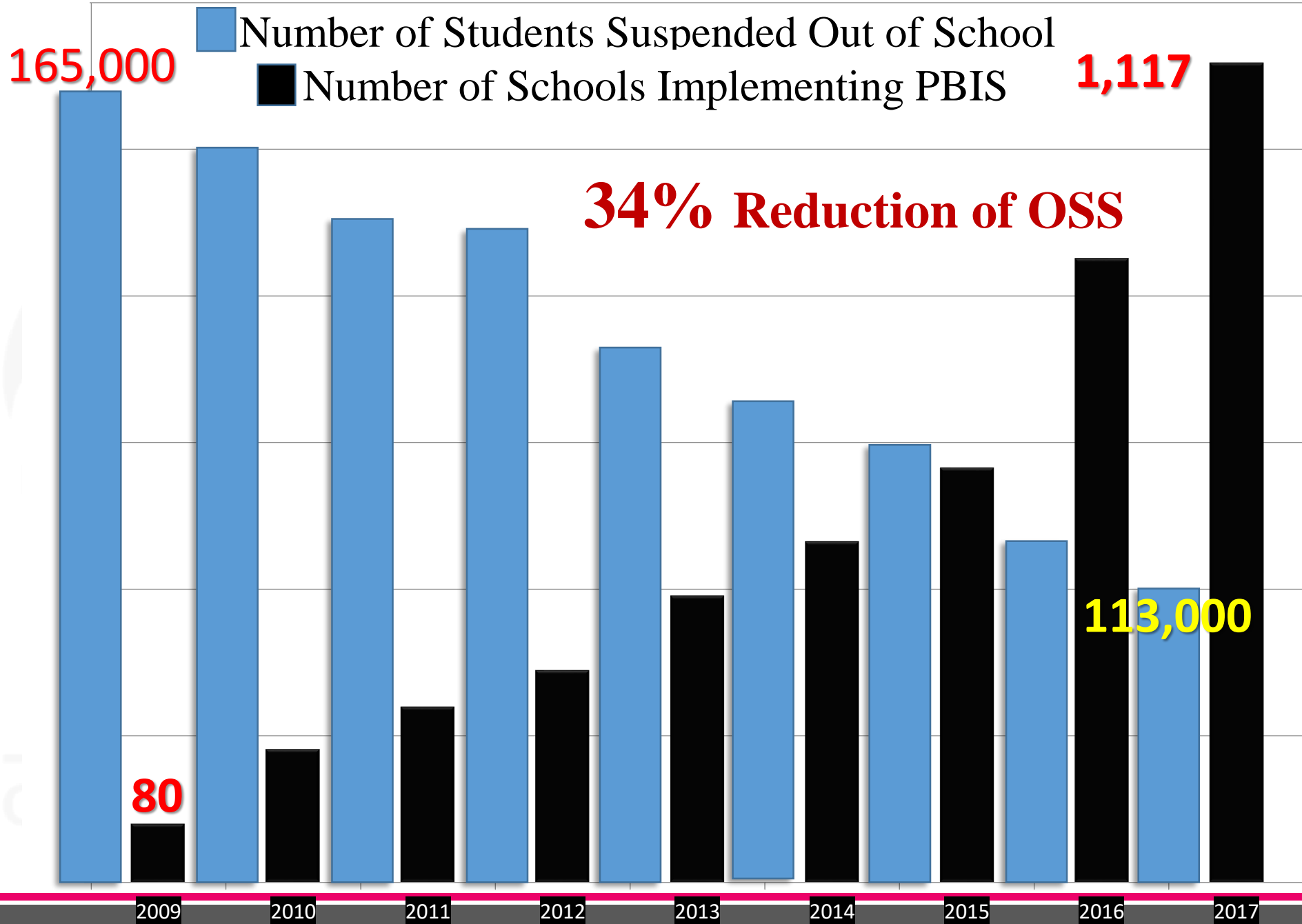
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670,000 students in PBIS schools,  
an increase of 400,000 since 2015





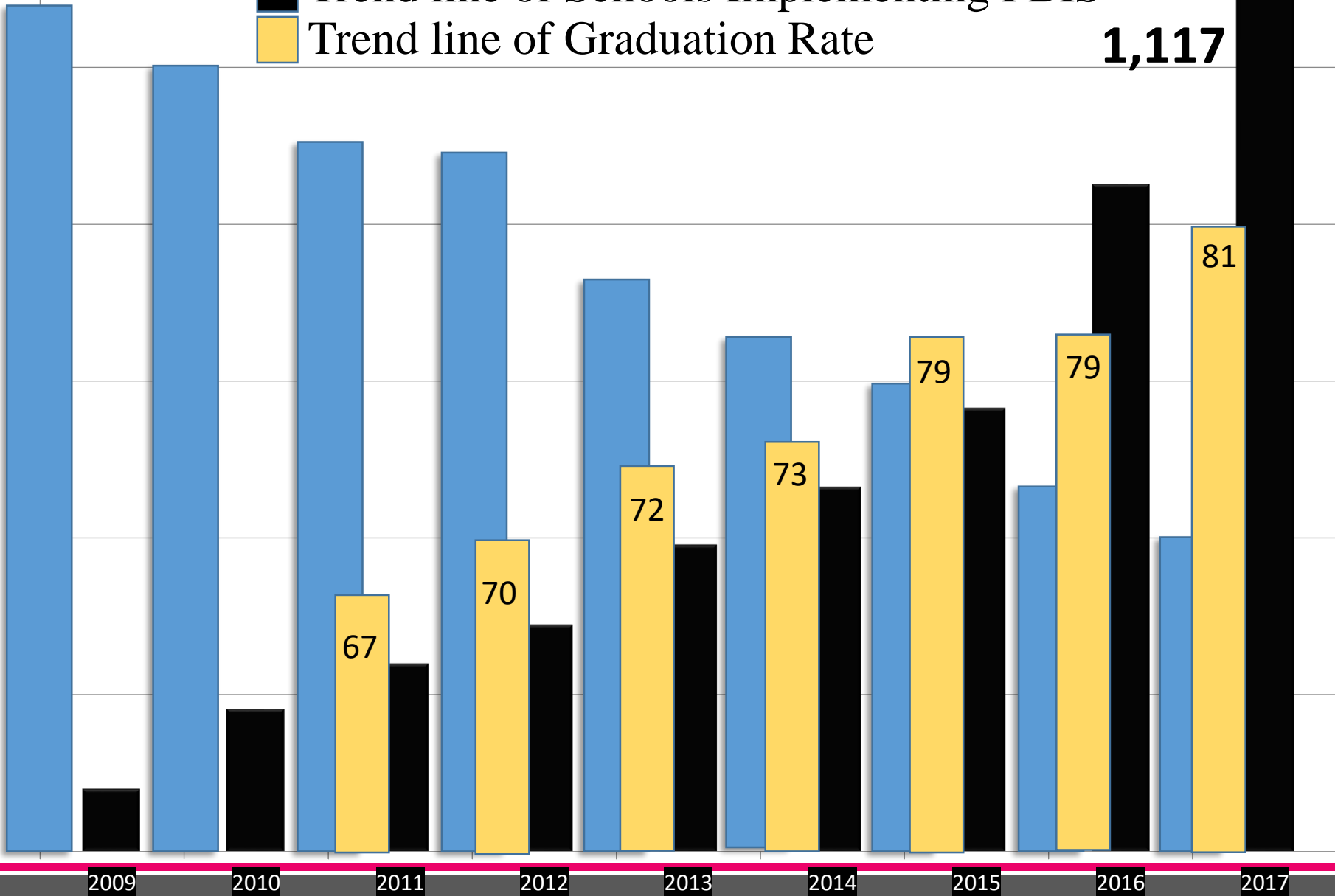




165,000

Trend line of Students Suspended Out of School  
Trend line of Schools Implementing PBIS  
Trend line of Graduation Rate

1,117



113 "20-2-1185.

114 (a) Every public school shall prepare a school safety plan to help curb the growing  
115 incidence of violence in schools, to respond effectively to such incidents, and to provide  
116 a safe learning environment for Georgia's children, teachers, and other school personnel.  
117 Such plan shall also address preparedness for natural disasters, hazardous materials or  
118 radiological accidents, acts of violence, and acts of terrorism. School safety plans of public  
119 schools shall be prepared with input from students enrolled in that school, parents or legal  
120 guardians of such students, teachers in that school, community leaders, other school  
121 employees and school district employees, and local law enforcement, juvenile court, fire  
122 service, public safety, and emergency management agencies. As part of such plans, public  
123 schools shall provide for the coordination with local law enforcement agencies and the  
124 local juvenile court system. School safety plans shall include, at a minimum, the following  
125 strategy areas:

- 126 (1) Training school administrators, teachers, and support staff, including, but not limited  
127 to, school resource officers, security officers, secretaries, custodians, and bus drivers, on  
128 school violence prevention, school security, school threat assessment, mental health  
129 awareness, and school emergency planning best practices;  
130 (2) Evaluating and refining school security measures;  
131 (3) Updating and exercising school emergency preparedness plans;  
132 (4) Strengthening partnerships with public safety officials; and  
133 (5) Creating enhanced crisis communications plans and social media strategies.

134 School safety plans of private schools may be prepared with input from students enrolled  
135 in that school, parents or legal guardians of such students, teachers in that school, other

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- 126      (1) Training school administrators, teachers, and support staff, including, but not limited  
127      to, school resource officers, security officers, secretaries, custodians, and bus drivers, on  
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135      in that school, parents or legal guardians of such students, teachers in that school, other

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Students' unmet mental health needs can be a *significant obstacle* to student academic, career and social/emotional development and **can compromise school safety**  
(Froeschle and Meyers)



Mental illness is one of the **top five** health conditions for children in the United States.

*(Zupp)*

**26%** of children in the United States will witness or experience a traumatic event before they turn age four.

*(National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention)*





**Schools** are often one of the first places where mental health crises and mental health needs of students are recognized and initially addressed.

*(Froeschle and Meyers)*



If not addressed, the student's mental health deteriorates.

*(Froeschle and Meyers)*



*“A positive school climate helps children that are struggling with family issues, trauma issues, and personal adjustment issues because a sense of safety and security is therapeutic.” (Sugai)*

- **PBIS** (*RESAs*)
- **Mental Health First Aid** (*Mental Health America*)
- **Signals I** (*NAMI*)
- **APEX Project** (*GaDBHDD*)
- **Suicide Prevention** (*GaDOE, NAMI, MHA, BHDD, DPH, GBI, Mercer U., GSU, American Academy of Pediatrics, SPAN-GA, Behavioral Health Link, Willowbrooke, Amerigroup*)
- **Trauma-Informed Schools** (*Child Welfare Training Consortium – state agencies, advocates, NGOs*)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Step Violence Prevention** (*State DFCS grants*)

## FY 2019 State Budget

**24.20.3** Provide funds for *student mental health awareness training* as a component of school climate and safety.

**24.20.4** Promote student, parent, and public awareness of the mental health *Crisis Access Line* through mobile application (in addition to phone lines), and utilizing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program and mental health awareness training.



Georgia Crisis  
& Access Line  
**1-800-715-4225**  
mygcal.com

Georgia Department of Education



Monitored 24/7 by the Georgia Department of Education and  
the Georgia Department of Public Safety



*April 25, 2018*

ATLANTA—Gov. Nathan Deal announced the launch of ***See Something, Send Something***, a smartphone app that directs citizen concerns to local law enforcement.

***See Something, Send Something*** operates statewide and nationwide, allowing citizens to report suspicious activity and concerns about safety and security.



Georgia Department of  
Public Safety

138 Such plans of public schools shall be submitted to the local emergency management agency  
139 and the local law enforcement agency for approval.

140 (b) A public school may request funding assistance from the state for facilities,  
141 technology, or other safety improvements or initiatives, such as the installation of safety  
142 equipment, including, but not limited to, video surveillance cameras, metal detectors,  
143 alarms, communications systems, building access controls, and other similar security  
144 devices. The Department of Education shall establish criteria that will be applied in  
145 reviewing funding requests pursuant to this subsection which shall take into consideration  
146 the physical security needs of the public school in evaluating how the school safety plan  
147 and funding request will support such physical security needs. Funding may be provided  
148 to a public school in accordance with a school safety plan prepared by the school and  
149 approved by the local board of education, the local law enforcement agency, the  
150 Department of Education, and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland  
151 Security Agency; provided, however, that a public school shall be required to match the  
152 state funding with local funds unless the school can demonstrate a substantial hardship.



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144 **FY 20 State Budget**  
145 **Section 50: Georgia General Obligation Funds - New Bonds**  
146 **50.2.3.9 [Bond # 9]**  
147 **\$16,000,000 in 5-year bonds for school facility safety grants**

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# Recommendations

## Recommendations

- ***Ensure that current funding continues and enhance funding*** to allow school systems and communities to identify and address the physical and mental health needs of all children:
  - Expand PBIS to focus on the importance of school climate and the link to school safety
  - Expand APEX to provide mental health evaluations and interventions for students in distress
  - Expand mental health awareness training for educators, SROs, parents, volunteers, and communities
  - Expand suicide prevention training for educators, SROs, parents, volunteers, and communities
  - Expand trauma-informed training for schools (e.g. Haralson County School System WATCH/Handle with Care program)
  - Expand drug education to confront the opioid crisis
  - Expand 2<sup>nd</sup> Step Violence Prevention program (in conjunction with PBIS)

## Recommendations

- ***Expand bond funding and/or provide grants*** to allow local school systems to enhance safety:
  - Renovate all main entrances to secure and control access into the school (e.g., safety vestibule/double entry door system)
  - Renovate and ensure that all exterior doors can be locked from the inside and integrated into the school's alarm system in the event an attempt is made to pry open the door or a door is left ajar for a brief period of time
  - Renovate to equip all classrooms with doors that can be locked from the inside by the classroom teacher
  - Renovate to equip all classrooms with duress/panic button that signals the school front office, SRO, and alerts 9-1-1
  - Renovate to equip main office and administration areas with duress/panic buttons that signals the SRO and alerts 9-1-1
  - Employee ID system with high visibility features and employee photograph

## Recommendations

- ***Expand bond funding and/or provide grants*** to allow local school systems to enhance safety:
  - Visitor ID system that provides Temporary Visitor ID badge, picture, and records the name, time, and date of the visit
  - New or updated surveillance (camera) systems that include mobile surveillance which allows off-site monitor for prevention, intervention, and law enforcement response
  - Communication systems that intersect school system and law enforcement communications
  - Card Access Systems that can be programmed for certain areas of the school, activated at certain times, and for certain events
  - School safety architectural experts review all architectural plans for new schools and renovations using Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards
  - Require schools to record/document practice of Safe School Plan

## Recommendations

### *Additional recommendations:*

- Expedite "Stop-the-Bleed" training to all schools
- Assist school systems in developing school-community partnerships to enhance safety measures for students beyond school property (e.g., Neighborhood Watch programs)
- Consider the presence of school resource officers, local police, and/or security guards as intervention and response and require training in children and adolescent mental health and communications
- Explore the availability and credibility of school safety alert systems that combine technology along with trained professionals to reveal threats to schools in emails, documents, shared files, images, photos and more
- Utilize the newly formed Governor's School Leadership Academy (2017 – HB 338) to train school principals on school climate/safety and crisis response principles and practices



## Conclusion

- School safety is a complex challenge for everyone
- One strategy alone will NOT address all elements of school safety
- It will take a combination of attention to:
  - School climate
  - School facilities
  - Support personnel
  - Student behavior and well-being
  - Appropriate security hardware
  - Effective safe school planning and procedures
  - Awareness and training
  - Coordination between schools, local law, fire, and emergency experts
  - Prevention and intervention programs and strategies that address the mental health needs of students
  - Teachers, parents, students, administrators, legislators, businesses, citizens and others working together

*“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.”*

*— Einstein*

Georgia Department of Education