



# Georgia

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with ASCD, developed the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) framework to highlight the need for schools to address all aspects of children’s physical, mental, and social well-being to help them learn and thrive. As part of the Together for Healthy and Successful Schools Initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Child Trends, the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and EMT Associates, Inc. identified key topic areas in each of the WSCC’s 10 components, and assessed whether and how states are addressing these issues in state statutes and regulations enacted as of September 4, 2017. This profile highlights both the extent to which Georgia’s statutes and regulations cover the WSCC components and the way in which the state approaches each of the selected topic areas.

The full set of topic areas, as well as applicable statutory and regulatory language, is available through the National Association of State Boards of Education's (NASBE) [State Policy Database on School Health](#). The national summary report and profiles for each state can be found on the [Child Trends website](#).

## Coverage of the WSCC in Georgia Statutes and Regulations

|  | GA  | Nation |
|--|-----|--------|
| Health Education                               | 78% | 68%    |
| Physical Education and Physical Activity       | 42% | 44%    |
| Nutrition Environment and Services             | 21% | 25%    |
| Health Services                                | 81% | 76%    |
| Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services | 80% | 69%    |
| Social and Emotional Climate                   | 65% | 65%    |
| Physical Environment                           | 61% | 74%    |
| Employee Wellness                              | 0%  | 7%     |
| Family Engagement                              | 44% | 52%    |
| Community Involvement                          | 80% | 67%    |

Key:  
 Low  
 Moderate  
 Comprehensive



Overall Coverage:

Broad

# Georgia's approach to selected topic areas by domain

Shading indicates how Georgia's laws cover topic

## WSSC Reference

|                                |               |                                     |                    |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Coverage of WSSC               | Not addressed | Addresses Coordinated School Health | Addresses the WSSC |
| State-Level Wellness Councils  | Not addressed | Encouraged                          | Required           |
| School-Level Wellness Councils | Not addressed | Encouraged                          | Required           |
| District Wellness Policies     | Not addressed | Recommended                         | Required           |

## Health Education

|   |               |                               |                              |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| National HE Standards                                   | Not addressed | Referenced                    |                              |
| HE Professional Development                             | Not addressed | Addressed                     |                              |
| Healthy Eating/Nutrition Curriculum                     | Not addressed | Required in some grade levels | Required in all grade levels |
| Mental and Emotional Health Curriculum                  | Not addressed | Required in some grade levels | Required in all grade levels |
| Personal Health and Wellness Curriculum                 | Not addressed | Required in some grade levels | Required in all grade levels |
| Violence Prevention (within Health Education)           | Not addressed | Required in some grade levels | Required in all grade levels |
| Bullying Prevention (within Health Education)           | Not addressed | Required in some grade levels | Required in all grade levels |
| Suicide Prevention (within Health Education)            | Not addressed | Required in some grade levels | Required in all grade levels |
| Social and Emotional Learning (within Health Education) | Not addressed | Required in some grade levels | Required in all grade levels |

## Physical Education and Physical Activity

|                                       |                                   |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| National PE Standards (SHAPE America) | Not addressed                     | Referenced  |  |
| PE Exemptions for Academics           | Not addressed                     | Allowed   |  |
| PE Exemptions for Illness             | Not addressed                     | Allowed   |  |
| PE Exemptions for Disabilities        | Not addressed                     | Allowed   |  |
| Adaptive PE Requirements              | Not addressed                     | Addresses inclusivity of PE activity                        |  |
| PE Substitutions                      | Not addressed                     | Allows substitution of other activities for PE requirements |  |
| District Waivers from PE Requirements | Not addressed                     | Allows districts to seek waivers from PE requirements       |  |
| PE Professional Development           | Not addressed                     | Addressed   |  |
| Physical Activity Throughout Day      | Not addressed                     | Encouraged  | Required   |
| Recess                                | Not addressed                     | Addressed or requires less than daily                       | Requires daily recess                                    |
| Sport Participation Fees              | Requires sport participation fees | Not addressed   | Sports participation fees prohibited or waivers provided |

## Nutrition Environment and Services

|  |               |  |   |
|--|---------------|--|---|
| Strategies to Increase Breakfast       | Not addressed | Recommended or restricted to certain schools or students | Required to ensure all students eat breakfast |
| Access to Potable Water Throughout Day | Not addressed | Recommended  | Required                                      |

## Nutrition Environment and Services (continued)

|  |                           |   |   |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|
| Competitive Food (Outside of School Meals) | Not addressed             | Addressed, does not meet federal requirements in all grades     | Meets federal Smart Snacks standards in all grades  |
| Unhealthy Marketing Restrictions           | Not addressed             | Recommends restricting to foods that meet Smart Snack standards | Restricted to foods that meet Smart Snack standards |
| Unpaid Meal Charge Policy                  | Restricts access to meals | Not addressed   | Supports access to meals                            |

## Health Services

|   |               |   |   |
|---|---------------|---|---|
| School-based Health Services              | Not addressed | Addressed, but no formal program          | Addresses on-campus health centers or clinics |
| Preventive Health Screenings - Elementary | Not addressed | Encouraged                                | Required                                      |
| Preventive Health Screenings - Middle     | Not addressed | Encouraged                                | Required                                      |
| Preventive Health Screenings - High       | Not addressed | Encouraged                                | Required                                      |
| Preventive Dental Screenings - Elementary | Not addressed | Addressed                                 |   |
| Preventive Dental Screenings - Middle     | Not addressed | Addressed                                 |   |
| Preventive Dental Screenings - High       | Not addressed | Addressed                                 |   |
| Asthma Plans                              | Not addressed | Addressed                                 |   |
| Diabetes Plans                            | Not addressed | Addressed                                 |   |
| Allergy Plans                             | Not addressed | Addressed                                 |   |
| Vaccination Waivers                       | Not addressed | Allowed for religious or moral reasons    |   |
| School Nurse Availability                 | Not addressed | Addressed, but nurse availability limited | Requires full time nurse in every school      |
| Referrals to Community Health Providers   | Not addressed | Addressed                                 |   |

## Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services

|  |               |                      |                        |
|--|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| School Counseling - Elementary                       | Not addressed | Encouraged           | Required               |
| School Counseling - Secondary                        | Not addressed | Encouraged           | Required               |
| School-based or School-linked Mental Health Services | Not addressed | Encouraged           | Required               |
| Professional Development for Mental Health           | Not addressed | Encouraged           | Required               |
| Early Identification and Referral                    | Not addressed | Screening authorized | Encouraged or required |
| Professional Development for Trauma                  | Not addressed | Encouraged           | Required               |
| Professional Development for Suicide Prevention      | Not addressed | Encouraged           | Required               |
| Suicide Prevention Policy                            | Not addressed | Encouraged           | Required               |

## Social and Emotional Climate

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Multi-tiered, Positive Behavior Supports           | Not addressed   | Encouraged  | Required  |
| Social-Emotional Learning or Character Development | Not addressed   | Encouraged  | Required  |
| Professional Development for Cultural Competency   | Not addressed   | Encouraged  | Required  |
| Chronic Absenteeism Early Warning Systems          | Not addressed or limited to transfer to law enforcement | Encourages or requires early warning, parent conferencing, and parental sanctions | Encourages or requires comprehensive student supports |
| Limits on Exclusionary Discipline                  | Not addressed   | Discourages Use   | Requires limits on use of suspension and expulsion    |
| Alternatives to Exclusionary Discipline            | Not addressed   | Encouraged  | Required  |

## Social and Emotional Climate (continued)

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Policy    | Not addressed   | Includes some components of U.S. Department of Education recommendations | Includes all components of U.S. Department of Education recommendations            |
| Professional Development for Bullying Prevention | Not addressed   | Encouraged   | Required   |
| Hazing Policy                                    | Not addressed   | Encouraged   | Required   |
| Dating Violence Policy                           | Not addressed   | Encouraged   | Required   |
| School Resource Officer Training                 | Not addressed   | Encouraged   | Required   |
| Limits on Referrals to Law Enforcement           | Requires referral for any offense in violation of criminal code | Not addressed or authorizes schools to refer to law enforcement          | Requires districts to establish formal procedures for referrals to law enforcement |
| Equitable Discipline Practices                   | Not addressed   | Monitoring required  | Monitoring and remediation required  |

## Physical Environment

|                              |  |   |  |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Corporal Punishment          | Permitted                              | Neither permits or prohibits use                | Prohibited   |
| Restraint and Seclusion      | Not addressed                          | Limits use with some protections                | Limits use and includes comprehensive protections              |
| Emergency Operations Plans   | Not addressed                          | Required, but no plans for reviews or updates   | Required, with regular reviews and updates                     |
| Multi-hazard Practice Drills | Not addressed                          | Required without interagency coordination       | Required, with required or encouraged interagency coordination |
| Tobacco-free Environments    | Not addressed or prohibits student use | Prohibits any use, may include limited policies | Requires comprehensive policies                                |

## Physical Environment (continued)

|  |               |            |          |
|--|---------------|------------|----------|
| Alcohol and Drug Use Intervention Programs | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required |
| Chemical Hazards Protections               | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required |
| Water Quality Protections                  | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required |
| Air Quality Protections                    | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required |

## Employee Wellness

|                                 |               |            |          |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| Staff Wellness Programs         | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required |
| Staff Stress Management Program | Not addressed | Addressed  |          |
| Staff Health Assessments        | Not addressed | Addressed  |          |

## Family Engagement

|   |               |            |          |
|---|---------------|------------|----------|
| Family Engagement Plans                                 | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required |
| Family Engagement in Local Governance                   | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required |
| Professional Development on Family Engagement           | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required |
| Family Engagement in Policy making on School Discipline | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required |

## Community Involvement

|   |               |            |                           |
|---|---------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Community Involvement in Local Governance     | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required                  |
| School-Community and Interagency Partnerships | Not addressed | Encouraged | Required                  |
| Community Use of Public School Facilities     | Not addressed | Authorized | Authorized and encouraged |