



POSITIVE LEARNING CLIMATE

School climate refers to the quality and character of school life—the “culture” of a school. We’re working to foster and support sustainable, positive school climates that promote youth development and student learning—in fact, GaDOE has received national recognition for our efforts and focus on positive school climate and the state implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

It’s essential that students have a safe, healthy, and positive environment for learning, so we’re also making sure students have the opportunity to stay physically active and eat fresh, Georgia-grown foods throughout the day.

In schools with safe, healthy, and positive learning climates, students are in the right space to learn.

85% of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) schools have 4- or 5-star climate ratings

OUR EFFORTS

Providing fresh meals to students.

GaDOE is partnering with the Georgia Department of Agriculture to promote Georgia-grown meals in schools. Our department supports the 20/20 Vision — 20% of Georgia schools serving 20% Georgia-grown meals by 2020. GaDOE has also worked with districts to increase the number participating in the Farm-to-School program.



Developing a measurement of school climate.

The School Climate Star Rating draws on student, teacher and parent perceptions and data on student discipline, safe and substance-free learning environments, and attendance to produce a one- to five-star informational rating for school and parent use. Schools with a School Climate Rating of 5 on average score 25 points higher on the CCRPI.

Implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

PBIS is an evidence-based, data-driven framework proven to reduce disciplinary incidents, increase a school’s sense of safety, and support improved academic outcomes. The number of schools implementing PBIS has risen from 241 to over 800.

Making sure our students have the opportunity to stay physically active.

GaDOE is partnering with the Department of Public Health in urging schools to participate in Power Up for 30 — committing to 30 minutes of physical activity every day. Within a year’s time, the number of schools participating has increased from 595 to 872.

Collaboration: Early Learning Climate Videos

GaDOE partnered with Metro RESA and DECAL to develop five Early Learning Climate videos, which show teachers, parents, and school leaders the importance of a positive learning environment. The videos were produced by GPB and funded by a grant from the David, Helen, and Marian Woodward Fund. View them at bit.ly/climatevideos.



The systematic study of school climate has led to a growing body of research that attests to its importance in a **variety of overlapping ways**, including **social, emotional, and intellectual** development.

— Dr. Garry McGiboney, GaDOE Deputy Superintendent for External Affairs and Policy

EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD

Focusing on social/emotional learning. GaDOE was awarded a grant from CASEL to begin the process of developing K-12 social/emotional standards.

Providing resources to prevent bullying. We’re assisting schools in the development of bullying prevention strategies and activities through a Bullying Prevention Toolkit.

Supporting safe environments and crisis prevention. Anyone who needs to report a safety issue in a Georgia school can call 1-877-SAY-STOP, Georgia’s toll-free, anonymous school safety hotline.

Shaking up school meals. GaDOE’s School Nutrition division and partners are working to further enhance the flavor of school meals with the addition of herbs and spices. We’re developing updated, kid-tested and -approved recipes and spice blends, and developing training videos and other resources for school nutrition professionals across the state.



Words of Wisdom

Dr. Joseph Barrow

Superintendent, Fayette County Schools

A DISTRICT PERSPECTIVE ON PBIS

“To become a world-class school system, we must not only **change our practice**, but we must look at changing the attitudes, beliefs and opinions of our stakeholders. **PBIS is helping us** do that not just with our students, but perhaps more importantly, with the adults in the building.”



Read more testimonials at educatinggeorgiasfuture.org.

COMPONENTS OF THE SCHOOL CLIMATE STAR RATING



KEY FEATURES OF PBIS

Social skills instruction.

Positive acknowledgement.

Positive and proactive discipline.

Fair and corrective discipline.

Social behavior expectations.

Parent training and collaboration.

Active supervision and monitoring.

