

Adversity and Attribution: Looking Beyond Behavior

Cheryl Galloway-Benefield
Program Manager, Safe and Supportive Schools
Office of School Safety and Climate



ATTRIBUTION

at·tri·bu·tion

noun

The action of regarding something as being caused by a person or thing.

Why = Human Nature

- Avoid danger
- Seek safety
- Navigate interactions
- Make sense of what's happening

Why is what drives not only everything we do, but also our emotional reactions to everything that happens to us.

- *Psychology Today*

What caused this to happen?



Effect



Why Industries

- Risk management
- Law Enforcement
- Medicine

- Biggest?

Kylie Jenner Surfaces with First Full-On Baby Bump Pic and Video

KYLIE JENNER FIRST FULL-ON BABY BUMP PIC AND VIDEO

f 13.6K



1,463

1/25/2018 3:00 AM PST

PEREZHILTON

PEREZTV GALLERIES QUIZZES FASHION MUSIC

June 11, 2018

George & Amal THEIR TWINS TURN 1!

EXCLUSIVE DETAILS!

WE LOST 100 LBS. 5 Women Share Their Secrets!

THE DUCHESS of SUSSEX

Meghan's New Life!

TRUE CRIME Growing Up in a Cult

WATCH OUR NEW SERIES PEOPLE MAGAZINE INVESTIGATES: CULTS June 4, 9 pm, E! on Investigation Discovery



Dating IRL??

Michael B. Jordan & Lupita Nyong'o Respond To Dating Rumors After That Elevator Kiss!

01/11/19 5:37pm PST

CLICK FOR DETAILS

POPSUGAR.

CELEBRITY FASHION FITNESS BEAUTY FAMILY LIVING CULTURE LATINA VIDEO SHOP



CRITICS' CHOICE AWARDS

CELEBRITY INSTAGRAMS

THE ROYALS

THE ROYALS

Presenting the 2019 Critics' Choice Awards Winners: Lady Gaga, Regina King, and More!

by QUINN KEANEY

These Photos of John Legend's Star-Studded 40th Birthday Party Left Us Shaken, Not Stirred

by KARENNA MEREDITH

It's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's First Outing This Year, Not That We Were Counting

by TORI CROWTHER

Meghan Markle Just Revealed Her Due Date, and It's So Soon!

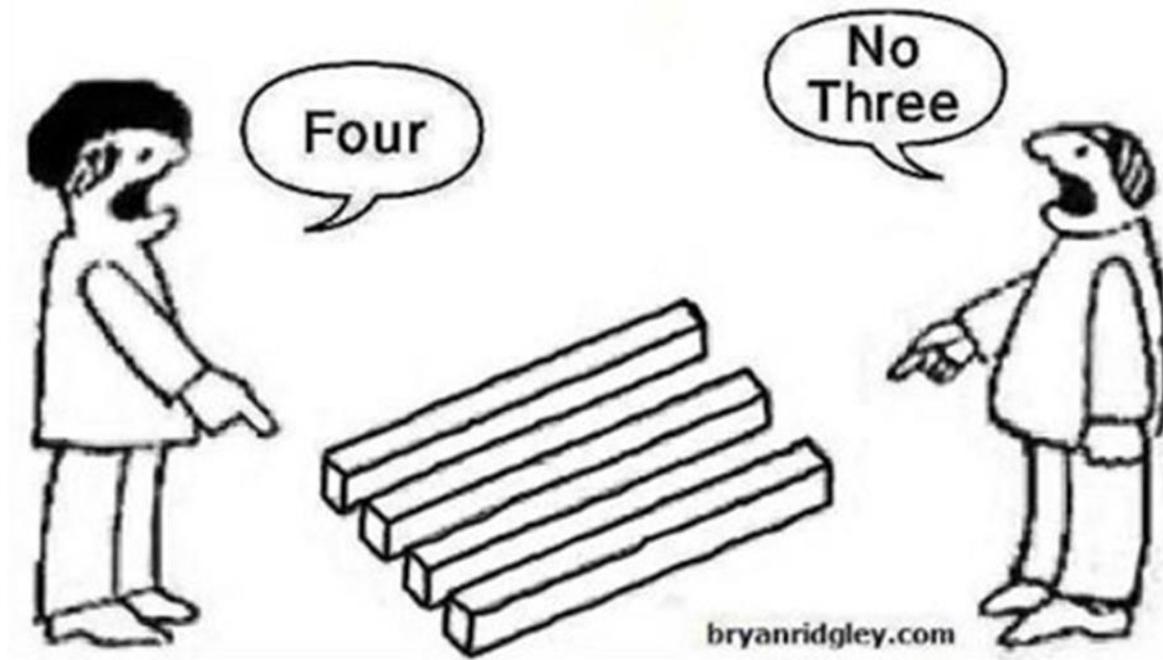
by MORGANE LE CAER

Understanding

We are constantly evaluating the behavior of others so that we know how to interact.

- **Attribution Theory:**

- The attempt to understand the behavior of others by attributing causation to feelings, beliefs, intentions, personality or situations.
- Reactions (consequences) are determined by the assignment of cause to the behavior more than by the behavior.



**Your perceptions create your
reality**

**We don't see things as
they are.
We see them as we are.**

- Anais Nin

How we **characterize behavior** in large part determines how we react to the behavior.

Decisions are more often
driven by our reactions than facts.

-Khal Simon

Behavior

- a) the way in which one acts or conducts oneself, especially toward others.

- b) the way in which a person acts in response to a particular situation or stimulus.

- c) the way in which a person externally reacts to his or her environment

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Situation ✓
Stimulus ✓
Environment ✓





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Situation Stimulus Environment



**Everything we do, good
or bad, is a behavior and
every behavior has a
cause.**



Or....



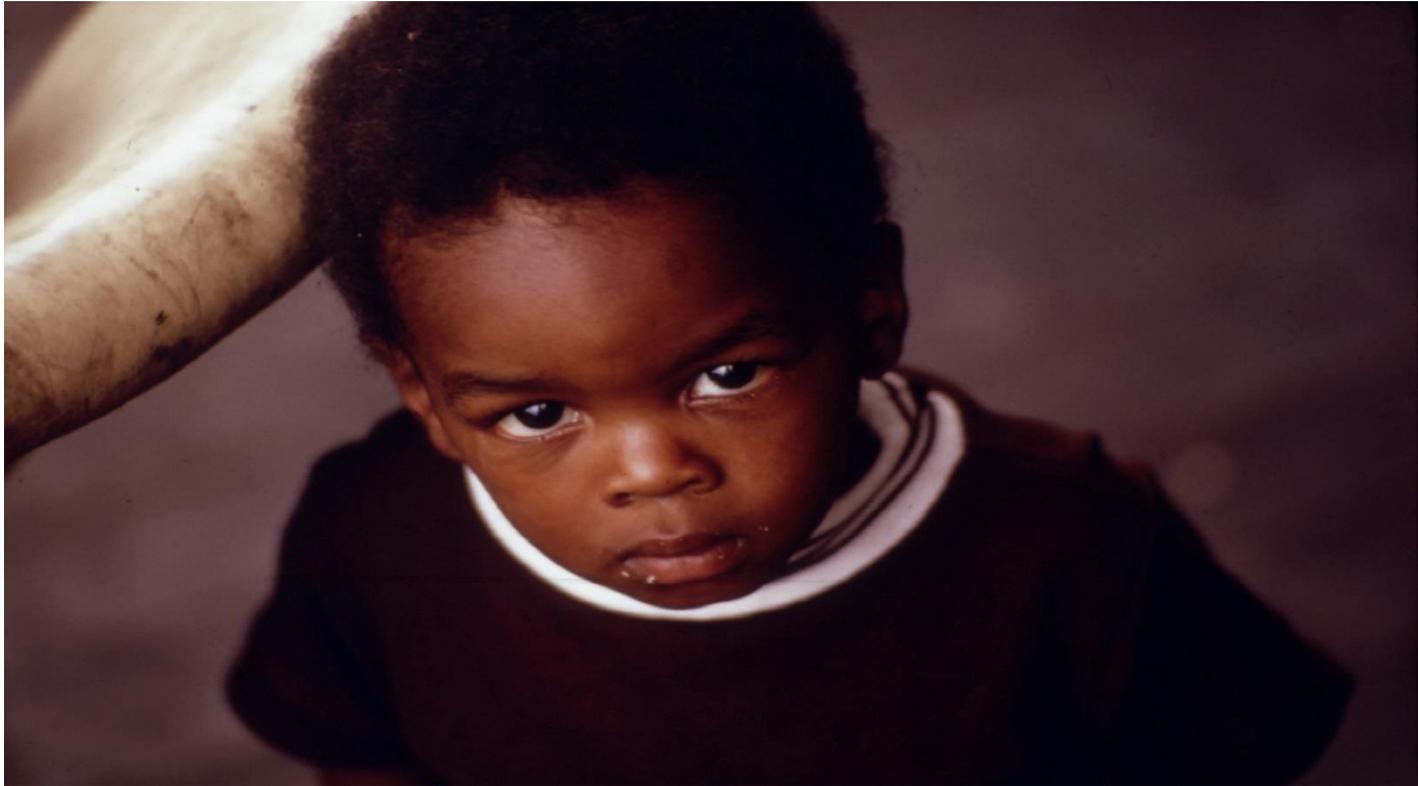
What about our students?



Acting?

Reacting?

Does it matter?



Risk Factors

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Physical neglect
- Emotional neglect
- Parental mental illness
- Incarcerated relative
- Mother treated violently
- Household substance abuse
- Not being raised by both biological parents



Nadine Burke Harris: How childhood trauma affects health ... - TE...

https://www.ted.com/talks/nadine_burke_harris_how_childhood_trauma_a...

Got Your ACE Score?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

<https://acestoohigh.com/got-your-ace-score/>

10 Types of Childhood Trauma

- Five personal – physical abuse, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, physical neglect, and emotional neglect
- Five related to family members – alcohol/addiction, domestic violence, incarceration, mental illness, parental absence (divorce, death, abandonment)
- Each counts as one
- Physically abused + addicted mom + domestic violence = ACE score of 3

Subsequent to the ACE Study, other ACE surveys have expanded the types of ACEs to include:

- racism,
- gender discrimination,
- witnessing a sibling being abused,
- witnessing violence outside the home,
- witnessing a father being abused by a mother
- being bullied by a peer or adult
- involvement with the foster care system
- living in a war zone
- living in an unsafe neighborhood
- losing a family member to deportation

Risk Factors? Trauma? ACEs?

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Physical neglect
- Emotional neglect
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- Incarcerated relative
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**Does it
matter
what we
call them?**

ATTRIBUTION

at·tri·bu·tion

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The action of regarding something as being caused by a person or thing.

Label and Categorize



How many risk factors does it take to create a label?

Risk Factors? Trauma? ACEs?

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- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
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Risk Factors

are

Adverse Childhood Experiences

that are

Traumatic

Individual Factors Can Be Associated With Multiple Outcomes

Though preventive interventions are often designed to produce a single outcome, both risk and protective factors can be associated with multiple outcomes. For example, negative life events are associated with substance use as well as anxiety, depression, and other behavioral health issues. Prevention efforts targeting a set of risk or protective factors have the potential to produce positive effects in multiple areas.



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



Risk and Protective Factors Are Correlated and Cumulative

Risk factors tend to be positively correlated with one another and negatively correlated to protective factors. In other words, people with some risk factors have a greater chance of experiencing even more risk factors, and they are less likely to have protective factors.

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



BREAKING NEWS

Our children are not doomed.



The presence of protective factors, particularly safe, stable, and nurturing relationships, can often mitigate the consequences of ACEs.

Protective Factor

“a characteristic at the biological, psychological, family, or community (including peers and culture) level that is associated with a lower likelihood of problem outcomes or that reduces the negative impact of a risk factor on problem outcomes.”

- *youth.gov*



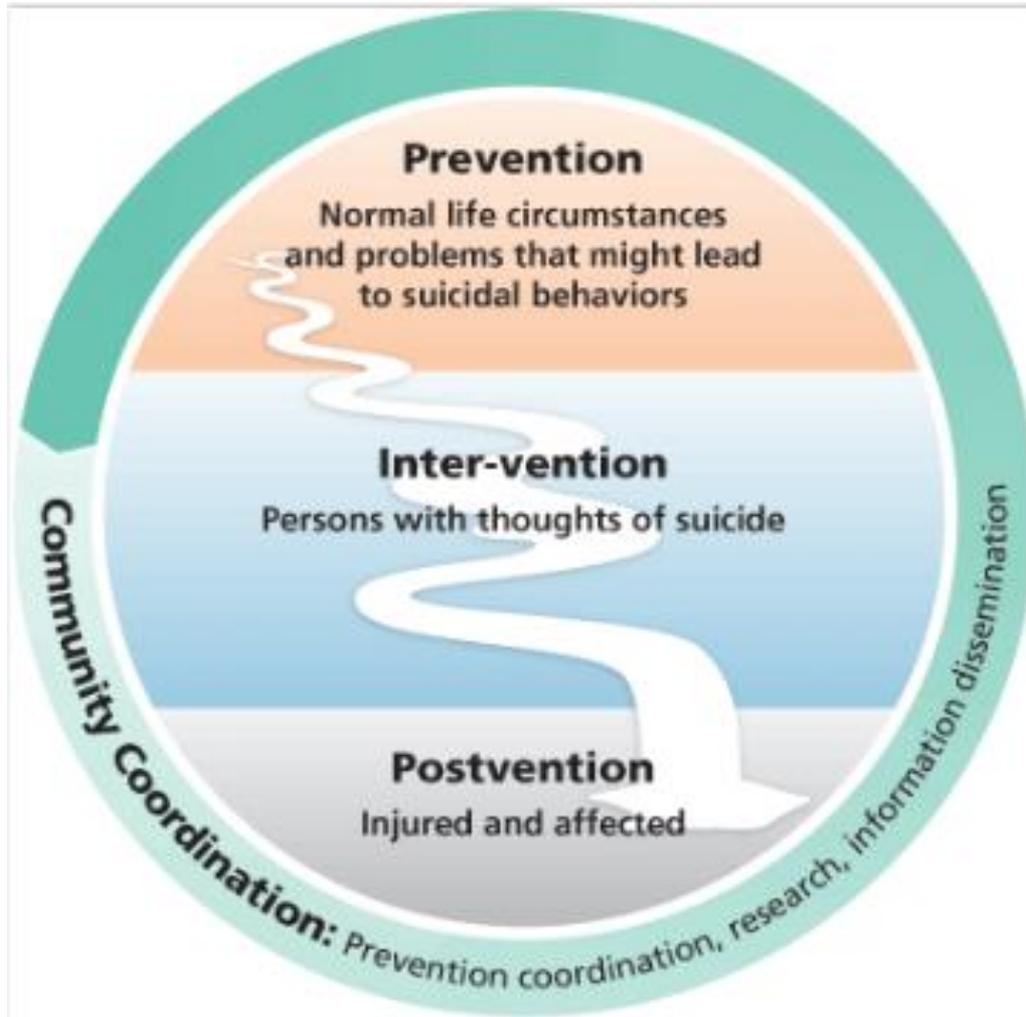
Protective factors are attributes that serve as buffers.

- Children's Trust Fund



Resiliency





Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention from Livingworks Education

Groundbreaking grant shown to mitigate impact of childhood trauma

Semple Elementary first-grade teacher Christina Carter read a story to her class about a child who faced stressful events every day, making it hard to focus at school. After the story, she gave her students a prompt — if Ms. Carter only knew. Some of the responses were eye-opening:



"If Ms. Carter only knew ... I get my sister ready in the morning and that's why we are always late."

"If Ms. Carter only knew ... I live with my grandparents because my mom and dad are both in jail."

And the most heartbreaking one...

"If Ms. Carter only knew ... she is the only one who loves me."

- Chandler, Adkins, and Finke



What is School Climate?





Memory of School

What does the survey data tell us?



The presence of protective factors, particularly **safe, stable, and nurturing relationships**, can often mitigate the consequences of ACEs.

BE WHO YOU

NEEDED

WHEN YOU WERE

YOUNGER.



Why was George suspended?

- would not share the trucks with the other students during center time and he hit two of his classmates
- slammed his classmate's finger in the door on the way to the playground
- routinely refused to eat his lunch and threw it in the trash, refused to explain his actions

What do we see?

- Persistent disruptive behavior
- Willful disobedience
- Disrespect
- Aggressive behavior

What did we miss?

- Neglect
- Family history of mental illness
- Malnutrition
- Multiple ear infections
- Chronic, serious gastrointestinal condition
- Inconsistent medical care

What's the impact?

- Authority figures
- Rules
- Compliance
- Development
- Language

LANGUAGE

- Language deals with meaning
- A child with a language deficit may have trouble communicating thoughts and feelings – **expressive language.**
- Or they may have trouble understanding the meaning of what's being said – **receptive language.**

SPEECH

- A speech disorder indicates trouble **producing certain sounds** accurately.
- Examples include articulation disorders, fluency disorders, and voice disorders.



When children don't have language, their behavior becomes their language.

Judge Peggy H. Walker
Douglas County Juvenile Court



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SIGNALS

Social-Emotional and Mental Health
Development for Children and Teens

SIGNALS Webinars



Webinar 1: Attribution Theory

Webinar 2: Misdiagnosis and Missed Opportunities

Webinar 3: Language, Emotional Regulation, and Behavior

Webinar 4: Language Acquisition

Webinar 5: Social Emotional Engagement

<https://namiga.org/signalswebinars/>

In Georgia, 1,501,680 people are struggling with hunger - and of them 503,370 are children.

1 in 7 people



struggles with hunger.

1 in 5
children

struggles with hunger.

People facing hunger in
Georgia
are estimated to report needing

\$749,671,000

more per year to meet their food needs.

The average cost of a meal in Georgia is \$2.93. Data from Feeding America's *Map the Meal Gap* 2017 study. [Learn more](#) |



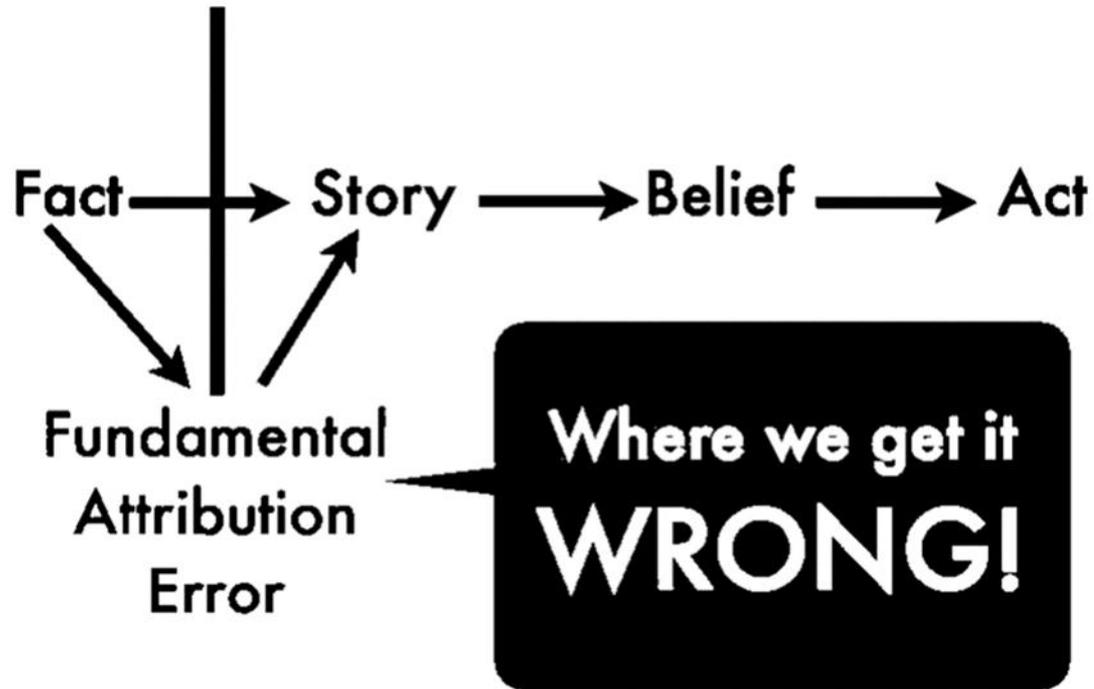
“When kids are **hungry**, they have an increased possibility for **behavioral** issues like hyperactivity, aggression or anxiety. Their moods can change. When they are feeling that physical hunger, **it impacts their emotional and their mental well-being, causing them to act out in different ways.**”

Pioneer and Herald Review. Sep 20, 2017

Behavior Barriers

- Hunger
- Lack of sleep
- Infection – sinus, tonsils, ears
- Cavities
- Glasses
- Chronic disease
- Worry

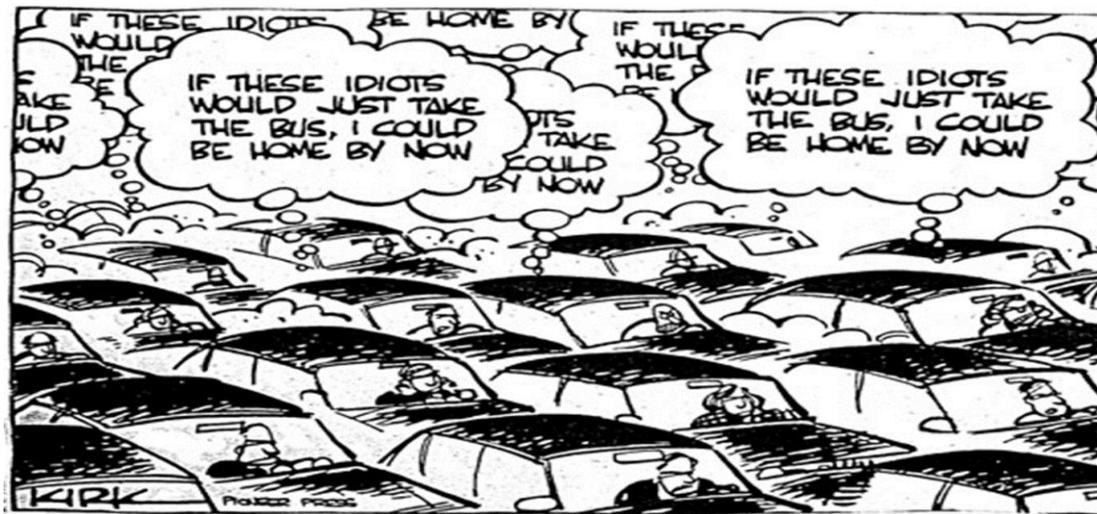




Your perceptions create your reality

Your perception
can be deceptive.

...when you find yourself having an abruptly negative reaction to something someone else has done, fire up your empathy muscles and **ask yourself**... *why* they did what they did.



Looking Beyond Behavior

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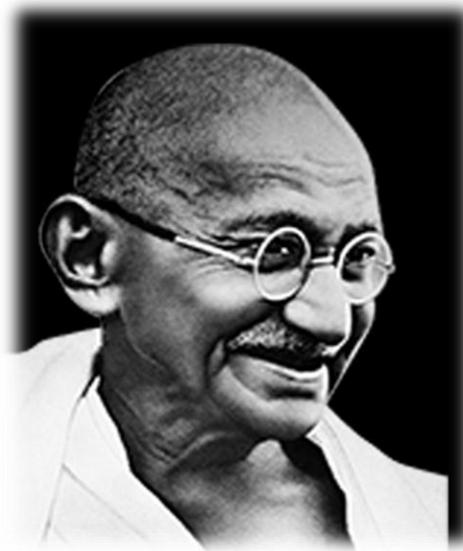
"Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be."

- Rita Pierson, Educator

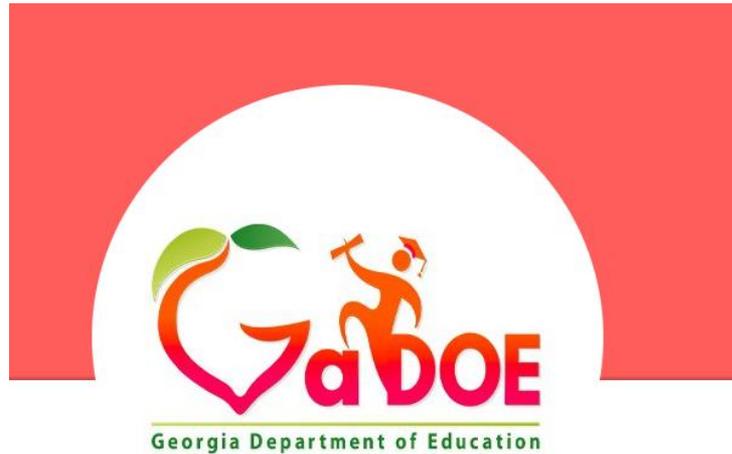


I want someone to look at me and say,
“Because of you I didn’t give up.”

-Mahatma Gandhi



@gadoesafeschool



SafeSchoolsGeorgia

@GaDOESafeSchool

Promoting positive school climate
through safe and supportive practices in
Georgia schools.



Safe and Supportive Schools

- Cheryl Benefield:
cbenefield@doe.k12.ga.us
- Jeff Hodges:
jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us