



Georgia Department of Education

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

**2014 School Climate Star Ratings
Data Calculation Guide
For Principals and District Users**

Star Ratings for School Climate

The final Star Ratings for School Climate calculation consists of four domains: Survey, School Discipline, Safe and Substance-Free Learning Environment, and School Wide Attendance.

The data utilized in the Star Ratings for School Climate calculations are as follows:

- Survey
 - Georgia Student Health Survey II (GSHS II) - Elementary School
 - Georgia Student Health Survey II (GSHS II) - Middle School/ High School
 - Georgia School Personnel Survey (GSPS)
 - Georgia Parent Survey (GPS)
 - FTE-1 Student Count
 - Employee Count Certified/Classified Personnel Information
- School Discipline
 - Student Record Discipline
 - Student Record Student Count
- Safe and Substance- Free Learning Environment
 - Student Record Discipline
 - Student Record Student Count
 - Georgia Student Health Survey II - Middle School/ High School
- School Wide Attendance
 - Student Attendance Data from Student Record
 - Administrator, Staff, and Teacher Attendance Data from Certified/Classified Personnel Information

Survey

The Survey Score is calculated using data gathered from the Georgia Student Health Survey II (GSHS II – Elementary School or GSHS II - Middle School/High School), Georgia School Personnel Survey (GSPS), and the Georgia Parent Survey (GPS).

Participation

In order for survey responses to be included in this domain rating, a minimum 75% participation rate is required on the applicable GSHS II and GSPS surveys. For elementary schools, only 4th and 5th grade students are eligible to be surveyed, and thus only 4th and 5th grade student level student counts were included in the participation calculation. Primary schools which do not have 4th or 5th grade students but do have 3rd grade students are eligible to survey their 3rd grade students, and thus only the 3rd grade student count was used to calculate participation. The total number of surveys completed is compared to the total number of students or

personnel associated with the school as recorded in FTE-1 and CPI, respectively, to determine if the minimum participation rate is met. If the minimum participation rate was not met for the student perception or personnel perception score, then “LP” (Low Participation) will appear in these fields in the final report.

$$\text{Student Survey Participation} = \frac{\text{Number of GSHS II Survey Participants}}{\text{Number of Students Reported in FTE1}}$$

$$\text{Personnel Survey Participation} = \frac{\text{Number of GSPS Survey Participants}}{\text{Number of Personnel Reported in CPI}}$$

A minimum participation rate is not required for parents. All parent survey responses are included in the domain calculation. The * denotes that the total count of parent surveys completed was less than 15. “NP” in the field for Parent Perception indicates that no surveys were completed for the school.

Any combination of GSHS II, GSPS, and GPS survey responses is included in the Survey calculation.

Example: The school calculation may include the personnel participation and parent participation but not student participation, because the minimum 75% was not met for student survey responses.

Survey Questions

Specific survey questions from the GSHS II, GSPS, and GPS are included in this calculation. All of the surveys utilize a four point Likert Scale using the following ratings: 1 = Strongly Agree, 2 = Agree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Strongly Disagree. The questions from each of the surveys included in this calculation are listed below.

GSHS II – Elementary School

1. I like school.
2. I feel like I do well in school.
3. My school wants me to do well.
4. My school has clear rules for behavior.
5. I know what to do if there is an emergency at my school.
6. Teachers treat me with respect.
7. Good behavior is noticed at my school.
8. Students treat each other well.
9. There is an adult at my school who will help me if I need it.

10. Students in my class behave so that teachers can teach.

GSHS II – Middle/High School

1. I like school.
2. I feel successful at school.
3. I feel my school has high standards for achievement.
4. My school sets clear rules for behavior.
5. I know what to do if there is an emergency at my school.
6. Teachers treat me with respect.
7. The behaviors in my classroom allow the teacher to teach so I can learn.
8. Students are frequently recognized for their good behavior.
9. I feel my school counselor would be helpful to me if I needed assistance.
10. School is a place at which I feel safe.

GSPS

1. Teachers at my school treat all students with respect.
2. Teachers at my school frequently recognize students for good behavior.
3. Teachers at my school have high standards for achievement.
4. Teachers at my school set clear rules for behavior.
5. Students at my school demonstrate behaviors that allow teachers to teach and students to learn.
6. Students at my school know what to do in the case of a school emergency.
7. My students feel successful at school.
8. Students at my school feel the counselor would be helpful if they needed assistance.
9. I like my school.
10. I feel safe at my school.

GPS

1. My child likes school.
2. My child feels successful at school.
3. My child's school has high standards for achievement.
4. My child's school sets clear rules for student behavior.
5. My child knows what to do in case of a school emergency.
6. I feel my child is safe at school.
7. Student behaviors in my child's classroom allow the teacher to teach.
8. Students at my child's school are frequently recognized for their good behavior.

Calculations

To obtain a final Survey score, (1) survey data are recoded, (2) aggregate responses for surveys are calculated, (3) climate perception score is calculated, (4) variance and inverse percentile rank are calculated, and (5) the total survey domain is calculated.

The first two steps are to recode the data and compute the aggregate survey response for each survey (GSHS II, GSPS, and GPS). The data are recoded in accordance with the table below.

Data Recoding
If the value of the response for any of the questions is "1", then recode the value to "3".
If the value of the response for any of the questions is "2", then retain that value of "2".
If the value of the response for any of the questions is "3", then recode the value to "1".
If the value of the response for any of the questions is "4", then recode the value to "0".

The sum of individual response values to all questions is calculated and divided by the number of questions answered. The average is reported to three decimal places.

$$\text{Average GSHS II} = \frac{\text{Sum of Individual Values for Answered Questions}}{\text{Total Number of Questions Answered}}$$

$$\text{Average GSPS} = \frac{\text{Sum of Individual Values for Answered Questions}}{\text{Total Number of Questions Answered}}$$

$$\text{Average GPS} = \frac{\text{Sum of Individual Values for Answered Questions}}{\text{Total Number of Questions Answered}}$$

Response Scores

Response scores for each of the survey averages (Average GSHS II, Average GSPS, Average GPS) are calculated by dividing each survey average by the number of surveys completed and multiply that value by 100. A school must have a minimum of two response scores to have a climate perception score. Response scores are reported to three decimal places.

Example 1: For a school having GSHS II, GSPS, and GPS scores

$$\text{Student Responses (GSHS II)} = 100 \left(\frac{\text{Average GSHS II}}{3} \right)$$

$$\text{Teacher, Staff, Administrator Response (GSPS)} = 100 \left(\frac{\text{GSPS}}{3} \right)$$

$$\text{Parent Response (GPS)} = 100 \left(\frac{\text{GPS}}{3} \right)$$

Example 2: For a school having only GSHS II and GSPS scores

$$\text{Student Responses (GSHS II)} = 100 \left(\frac{\text{Average GSHS II}}{2} \right)$$

$$\text{Teacher, Staff, Administrator Response (GSPS)} = 100 \left(\frac{\text{GSPS}}{2} \right)$$

School Wide Agreement

School Wide Agreement measures the congruency between the student, personnel and parent survey responses. The School Wide Agreement score is calculated by first calculating the variances of the climate perception scores and then determining the inverse percentile rank. The variance of the climate perception scores is calculated as follows.

$$\text{Variance} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N (S_j - \bar{S})^2$$

Where N is the number eligible surveys, S_j denotes the jth eligible survey, and \bar{S} is the average of all eligible surveys. In order to receive a variance score, the school must receive scores for two of the three perception ratings (student, personnel, or parent). If this minimum is not met, then “LP” (Low Participation) appears in the field.

The inverse percentile rank is calculated by subtracting the percentile rank from 100 and reported to three decimal places. If the school did not receive a variance score then “LP” (Low Participation) appears in the field as the inverse percentile cannot be calculated. The School Wide agreement is reported to three decimal places.

Inverse Percentile Rank = 100 – Percent Rank of All Variances in the State as Compared to the
Variance for Each Individual School

Survey Score

The final survey domain is then calculated by averaging the Response scores and inverse percentile rank and reported to three decimal places.

Survey Domain =

$$\frac{\text{Student Climate Response Score} + \text{Personnel Climate Response Score} + \text{Parent Climate Response Score} + \text{Inverse Percentile Rank}}{4}$$

School Discipline

The data for School Discipline come from the reported Student Record Discipline Data as submitted to the state. The score derived from this domain is the weighted suspension rate which is reported as the school discipline rate. The details of how this score is determined are explained below.

Weighted Suspension Rate

Student level discipline data are weighted according to the points displayed in the table below.

Weighting Rates	
Action	Points
No Action	0.0
Any # of ISS	0.5
1-2 OSS (Out of School Suspension)	1.0
3-4 OSS	3.0
5-9 OSS	5.0
10 or more OSS	7.0
Alternative School Assignment	6.0
Expulsion	7.0

Compute the sum of all of the individual suspension weights calculated in the previous step to three decimal places. This sum is then divided by the total number of students enrolled at the school as stated in the Student Record student count, and reported to three decimal places.

Example:

Student ID	# of ISS*	# of OSS**	Alternative Schools Assignment	Expulsion	Final Student Suspension Weight
S1	0	0	No	No	0.000
S2	2	2	No	No	1.000
S3	0	4	Yes	No	6.000
S4	1	5	No	Yes	7.000
S5	4	0	No	No	0.500
TOTAL					14.500

* In School Suspension

** Out of school Suspension

$$\text{Weighted Suspension Rate} = 100 \left(1 - \frac{\text{Sum of the Individual Weighted Suspension Rates}}{\text{Total Number of Students Enrolled at the School}} \right)$$

School Discipline Rate

The School Discipline Rate is the weighted suspension rate. Both numbers are reported to three decimal places

Safe and Substance-Free Learning Environment

Safe and Substance-Free Learning Environment is calculated using data collected through Student Record on reported incidents in the school and survey data from the Georgia Student Health Survey II -Middle School/High School.

Reported Incidents Data

Data are collected from Student Record by school according to the recorded incident. The total number of incidents is calculated using data for the following categories:

- Academic Dishonesty
- Alcohol
- Arson
- Battery
- Bullying
- Burglary
- Computer Trespass
- Disorderly Conduct
- Drugs not Alcohol

- Fighting
- Gang Related
- Homicide
- Kidnapping
- Larceny/Theft
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Robbery
- Sexual Battery
- Sexual Harassment
- Sex Offenses
- Threat/Intimidation
- Tobacco
- Trespassing
- Vandalism
- Weapon: Knife
- Weapon: Handgun
- Weapon: Rifle
- Weapon: Other Firearm
- Serious Bodily Injury
- Other: Attendance Related
- Other: Dress Code
- Other: Possess Unapproved Item
- Other: Student Incivility
- Other: Discipline Incident
- Repeated Offenses
- Other Non-Discipline Incident

Reported incidents are divided into several sub-domains. Three of the sub-domains are Drug Related Incidents, Bullying and Harassment Incidents, and Violent Incidents. Each domain comprises multiple categories from the incidents list. The total number of incidents across all categories and the three separate domains used for this purpose are calculated and reported to three decimal places. "Total incidents" refers to the total number of incidents reported across all 35 of the categories. They are as follows.

Drug Related Incidents Domain	Bullying and Harassment Incidents	Violent Incidents	Total Incidents
Alcohol Drugs: Not Alcohol Tobacco	Bullying Threat/Intimidation	Arson Battery Burglary	Total number of incidents across all categories

		Fighting Gang Related Homicide Kidnapping Robbery Sexual Battery Sexual Harassment Sex Offenses Weapon: Knife Weapon: Handgun Weapon: Rifle Weapon: Other Weapon: Other Firearm Serious Bodily Injury	
--	--	--	--

Participation

In order to not unfairly disadvantage schools with low incident rates, the following steps are taken. A state total incidents-to-FTE ratio is calculated for each school. From these computed ratios, all schools with a score less than or equal to 1 are selected to serve as a subset of the total state data. The corresponding mean and standard deviation are calculated using this subset of the state data. The ratio cut-off to determine if the scores will be reported is the State Mean – Standard Deviation and is reported to three decimal places. Any school having a corresponding ratio less than or equal to the State ratio cut-off score will receive an “LI” (Low Incident) for that reporting area.

Year	State Mean	State Standard Deviation	State Cut-Off
2014	.263	.248	.015

Example

School	Violent Incidents	Drug Related Incidents	Bullying and Harassment Incidents	Total Incidents across all domains	FTE	Ratio
School 1	0	0	0	1	509	.001
School 2	LI	0	LI	11	810	.014
School 3	5	0	3	9	451	.020
School 4	60	13	7	752	1077	.698

Reported Incidents Calculation

The inverse-percentage is calculated for each of the 3 domains above and is reported to three decimal places. This inverse percentage is the sub-domain score within the Safe and Substance-Free Learning Environment Domain.

$$\text{Violent Incidents (Data)} = 100 \left(1 - \frac{\text{Total Violent Incidents}}{\text{Total Incidents}} \right)$$

$$\text{Drug Related Incidents (Data)} = 100 \left(1 - \frac{\text{Total Drug Related Incidents}}{\text{Total Incidents}} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Bullying \& Harassment Incidents (Data)} \\ = 100 \left(1 - \frac{\text{Total Bullying \& Harassment Incidents}}{\text{Total Incidents}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Example

School	Violent Incidents	Drug Related Incidents	Bullying and Harassment Incidents	Total Incidents	FTE	Ratio
School 1	100%	100%	100%	1	509	.001
School 2	LI	100%	LI	11	810	.014
School 3	44.44%	100%	66.67%	9	451	.020
School 4	92.0%	98.3%	99.1%	752	1077	.698

Georgia Student Health Survey Data

The Safe and Substance Free Learning component is calculated using collected survey data. The Bullying and Harassment Incidents (Data), Student Drug Abuse (Data), and Violent Incidents (Data) School Climate Rating is calculated using data gathered from the Georgia Student Health Survey II for middle and elementary school.

Survey Questions

Specific survey questions from the GSHS II Middle/High School surveys are included in this calculation. The majority of questions have student's self-report frequency of use within the last 30 days. There is one additional question found on the High School GSHS II Survey which

has students respond with either “yes” or “no” which is not listed on the GSHS II Middle School. The survey questions included in this calculation are listed below.

GSHS II Elementary

There are no questions from this survey included in this domain.

GSHS II Middle/High School

Student Drug Abuse Domain

In the last 30 days I have used alcohol.

In the last 30 days I have used smoking tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, pipes).

In the last 30 days I have used chewing tobacco (dip, snuff, spit tobacco).

In the last 30 days I have used marijuana (grass, pot).

In the last 30 days I have used cocaine (powder, rock, freebase, crack).

In the last 30 days I have used inhalants (sniffing or huffing glue, solvents, gas).

In the last 30 days I have used steroids.

In the last 30 days I have used ecstasy.

In the last 30 days I have used methamphetamines (meth, ice, crank).

In the last 30 days I have used hallucinogens (LSD, mescaline, etc.).

In the last 30 days I have used prescription medications that were not prescribed for me.

Bullying and Harassment Incident Domain

During the past 30 days I have been bullied or threatened by other students (30 days).

During the past 30 days I have been picked on or teased at school (Strongly Agree – Strongly Disagree).

Violent Incidents Domain

During the past 30 days I have brought a weapon (gun, knife, club) to school.

During the past 30 days I have participated in illegal gang activities.

High School Only: During the past 12 months have you been in a physical fight on school property? (Yes/No)

Recode Data

Data are recoded for each of the questions above for each category. A value of “0” is assigned for each survey response coded as “0 Days”. A value of “1” is assigned if the student responded between “1 Day” and “30 Days” for any of the questions in any of the 3 domains.

If a student responded with a number other than “0” for multiple questions within a domain, then that survey is given a “1” for the first responded questions and all other questions are coded as “0.” This results in a “1” in that domain for that student survey.

Calculation of Data

The aggregate score is then computed for each of the domains by school and for the total number of surveys completed.

The inverse percentage is calculated by the three incident domains and reported to three decimal places.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Bullying and Harrassment (Survey)} \\ & = 100 - 100 \left(\frac{\text{Sum of Responses for Bullying and Harrassement}}{\text{Total Number of Surveys Completed}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Student Drug Abuse (Survey)} = 100 - 100 \left(\frac{\text{Sum of Responses for Student Drug Abuse}}{\text{Total Number of Surveys Completed}} \right)$$

$$\text{Violent Incident (Survey)} = 100 - 100 \left(\frac{\text{Sum of Responses for Violent Incidents}}{\text{Total Number of Surveys Completed}} \right)$$

Safe and Substance-Free Learning Environment

The final domain score is an average of all non-missing and non-LI sub-domains reported to three decimal places. The total of the domains is added and divided by the total number of sub-domains for which there are data.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Safe and Substance – Free Learning Environment} \\ & = \frac{\text{SSFLVI(Data)} + \text{DRI(Data)} + \text{BHI(Data)} + \text{VI(Survey)} + \text{SDA(Survey)} + \text{BH(Survey)}}{6} \end{aligned}$$

SSFLVI = Safe and Substance-Free Learning Violent Incidents

DRI = Drug Related Incidents

BHI = Bully and Harassment Incidents

VI = Violent Incidents

SDA = Student Drug Abuse

BH = Bullying and Harassment

School Wide Attendance

School Wide attendance includes student attendance data, staff attendance data, teacher attendance data, and administrator attendance data. The student attendance data come from the Student Record attendance data. The staff, teacher, and administrator attendance data come from the Certified/Classified Personal Information (CPI) data.

Student Attendance Data

Student Days absent are summed and then divided by the sum of total days present and total days absent to calculate the attendance rate for the school and reported to three decimal places.

$$\text{Student Attendance Rate} = 100 \left(\frac{\text{Total Days Present}}{\text{Total Days Present} + \text{Total Days Absent}} \right)$$

Administrator, Staff, and Teacher Attendance Rate

Staff, Teacher, and Administrator Attendance are calculated using data reported to the State through the Certified/Classified Personal Information (CPI). Here, we utilize full-time personnel, employed for the entire school year. For teachers and administrators the “Certified Days” serve as the frequency measure for days attended. Staff member attendance rates are calculated using “Classified Contract Days” count. For staff members who have both “Classified Contract Days” and “Certified Days” in the system, the “Classified Contract Days” count is utilized.

The “Total Leave Days” is the total number of sick leave days reported to the State through the CPI. In the event that an individual employee’s “Total Leave Days” exceeds 30, then that value is recoded back to 30. For example, if a Teacher has a total of 60 “Total Leave Days” reported in the system, then that number is recoded back to “30” for the purposes of this calculation (e.g. extended medical leave). Employee duplicates, such as the same employee listed twice with different job codes, are left in the system as is and included in the calculation.

An aggregate of the “Total Leave Days”, “Certified Days” and “Classified Days” is calculated by each of the three job categories (Administrator, Teacher, and Staff). Then the average attendance is computed as outlined below and reported to three decimal places.

The average attendance is computed as follows for the administrator, teacher, and staff job categories and reported to three decimal places.

$$\text{Administrator Attendance} = 100 \left(1 - \frac{\text{Total Leave Days}}{\text{Total Certified Days}} \right)$$

$$\text{Teacher Attendance} = 100 \left(1 - \frac{\text{Total Leave Days}}{\text{Total Certified Days}} \right)$$

$$\text{Staff Attendance} = 100 \left(1 - \frac{\text{Total Leave Days}}{\text{Total Classified Days}} \right)$$

School Wide Attendance

The four attendance rates are then averaged and reported to three decimal places, to determine the final attendance rate value for this domain.

School Wide Attendance

$$= \frac{\text{Student Attendance} + \text{Administrator Attendance} + \text{Staff Attendance} + \text{Teacher Attendance}}{4}$$

In the event that a school did not report Administrator, Staff, and/or Teacher attendance, the final score is divided by the total number of reported domains. For Example, if Student Attendance and Staff Attendance were the only reported categories, the School Wide attendance would be calculated as follows.

$$\text{School Wide attendance} = \frac{\text{Student Attendance} + \text{Staff Attendance}}{2}$$

Initial Score

The initial score is an average of the four previously calculated domains reported to three decimal places.

Initial Score =

$$\frac{\text{Survey} + \text{School Discipline} + \text{Safe and Substance-Free Learning Environment} + \text{School Wide Attendance}}{4}$$

Personalized Climate

Personalized Climate provides an opportunity for a school to earn 5 additional points to be added to their Initial School Climate Rating. Personalized Climate points are earned when the school submits and has approved, by the State, a plan which includes a research/evidence-based program or practice that supports the four domains of School Climate.

Final Score and Final Star Rating

Final Score

The final score comprises the initial score and the personalized climate score reported to one decimal place. Star Ratings are assigned based on the final score as follows.

$$\text{Final Score} = \text{Initial Score} + \text{Personalized Climate}$$

Final Star Rating

The final score, calculated in the previous step, is used to determine the final star ratings. There is an average state score and standard deviation for elementary schools (K-5) and an average state score and standard deviation for middle schools, high schools, and K-12 Schools. The table below shows how the Final Score translates into a Star Rating.

Stars	Determination
5	Higher than one standard deviation above the State mean
4	Between the state mean and one standard deviation above the state mean
3	Between the state mean and one standard deviation below the state mean
2	Below one standard deviation below the state mean
1	Below 2 standard deviations below the state mean

Stars	2014 Elementary	2014 Middle, High, and K12
5	≥ 94.8	≥ 88.6
4	≥ 90.3	≥ 82.5
3	≥ 85.8	≥ 76.4
2	≥ 81.3	≥ 70.3
1	< 81.3	< 70.3

Notes:

1. Residential Treatment Centers do not receive a Star Climate Rating and are given a score of "NA."
2. Schools receiving multiple CCRPI reports due to school configuration will have only one climate score which will be reflected across all reports for that school. School Climate Star Ratings are calculated for the building as a whole and not by grade band. The final star rating is calculated based on the one grade band which the school is aligned with (Elementary or Middle, High, and K12) in the facilities database.