

Subject: Legislation: HB 763, School Climate, Safety, and Training Requirements

Superintendents, RESA Directors, and Principals,

As you know, several changes to current law and new laws will become effective July 1. One of those laws is [House Bill 763](#), which requires the **addition of school climate to the student attendance protocol committee**, as well as the **requirement that school safety plans be prepared, drills be conducted, and staff be trained**.

House Bill 763 amended O.C.G.A. [20-2-690.2](#) to change the name of the Student Attendance Protocol Committee that is established by the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of every county to Student Attendance and School Climate Committee – and adds a requirement that each committee review data and “*make recommendation for policies relating to school climate for the purpose of promoting positive gains in student achievement scores, student and teacher morale, community support, and student and teacher attendance, while decreasing student suspensions, expulsions, dropouts, and other negative aspects of the total school environment.*”

Regarding school safety plans, the legislation requires that every public school prepare a school safety plan with “*input from students enrolled in that school, parents or legal guardians of such students, teachers in that school, community leaders, other school employees and school district employees, and local law enforcement, juvenile court, fire service, public safety, and emergency management agencies.*” The legislation further states that “*every public school shall conduct drills with students, teachers, and other school personnel on the execution of school safety plans in such form and at such intervals based upon guidance from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency.*”

Also, please note the training requirements in HB 763: “*Training school administrators, teachers, and support staff, including, but not limited to, school resource officers, security officers, secretaries, custodians, and bus drivers, on school violence prevention, school security, school threat assessment, mental health awareness, and school emergency planning best practices.*”

Keep in mind that the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA) offers several training topics ([GEMA School Safety](#)) for schools and the GaDOE is working with RESAs and the National Alliance on Mental Illness to offer mental health awareness training. For more reference material on school safety and related topics, visit [GaDOE Safety and Health Resources](#).

If you have any questions, please contact me or Jeff Hodges jhodes@doe.k12.ga.us, Cheryl Benefield cbenefield@doe.k12.ga.us, Allan Meyer ameyer@doe.k12.ga.us, or Matt Cardoza mcardoza@doe.k12.ga.us.

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