



SCHOOL CLIMATE

School Climate is how a school feels to children, parents, teachers, and other school workers. In a school with positive school climate, children feel safe. They feel encouraged and supported. Children feel it is okay to make mistakes.

Schools with positive school climate have fewer discipline issues.

Why does school climate matter?

Children in schools with a positive climate learn more in their academic classes. They develop better social skills. They are better at handling stress. Children in these schools miss fewer school days than kids in schools with poor climates. A positive climate also reduces violence and bullying.

Children with learning and behavior challenges can especially benefit from schools with a positive climate.

How can I learn more about my school's climate?

Visit your child's school and volunteer to help the school.

You can also find out more about your school's climate at www.georgiainsights.com/school-climate-overview.html. At this website, the Georgia Department of Education rates each school's climate. The website gives each school up to five stars.

How do I improve my school's climate?

- Ask your child's teachers and principal how they are improving school climate.
- Visit your child's school or volunteer to help the school. How does the school climate feel to you? Tell your school what you think.
- Find out how often your school suspends or expels students at www.gaappleseed.org/initiatives/toolkit/suspension-rate.
- If the school does not have a school climate program, tell them about school climate. You can learn more about school climate and school discipline at www.schoolclimate.org.
- Read our guide on Improving Student Behavior and PBIS to learn about the PBIS school climate program. Tell your school about PBIS.