



# WHAT IS THE TRAUMA IMPACT RULE?

## The Trauma Impact rule requires that schools:

The full name for the Trauma Impact rule is Educational Performance Impact of Trauma on Students in Foster Care. Sometimes people refer to the rule as HB855, which was the number of the law that created this rule.

- 1.** Consider whether a child in foster care recently enrolled in the school has previous or current trauma that may impact the child's behavior or academic success, and;
- 2.** Take steps to address that trauma and support the child in school.

### Who is responsible for starting the Trauma Impact Rule process?

The school or local education authority (LEA) must determine the impact of trauma on a student's learning and take the steps to support the child. Once a school learns a newly enrolled student is in foster care - usually informed by a foster parent or the Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) - the school must:

- 1. Identify points of contact** from the school (counselors, special education providers) and DFCS (case manager, Education Support Monitor)
- 2. Conduct an Educational Impact Screening**
- 3. Schedule a Trauma Impact Meeting** with the points of contact
- 4. Create a trauma informed plan of support** (including Trauma Informed Education Support (TIES)) for the student based on the results of the screening.

### Should the school do a trauma assessment on the child?

NO. The school should NOT conduct a trauma assessment on the child. Instead, the school should follow steps 1 through 4 to identify the potential impact of the child's trauma on the child's education and decide which supports the school must provide to help the child succeed in school. An Educational Impact Screening is not a trauma assessment.

### Who should participate in the Trauma Impact Meeting?

Any adult involved in the child's education. Adults may include the child's case manager, the Education Support Monitor, the foster parent, school administrators, school counselors, teachers, and special education and mental health providers. The child should be permitted to attend the Trauma Impact Meeting.

### What information and materials should be reviewed during the Trauma Impact Meeting?

The participating adults should consider any information that helps them understand how a child's trauma may impact classroom behavior and educational success. This information may come from educational and disciplinary records, any Individual Education Programs (IEPs), Behavioral Intervention Plans (BIPs), 504 Plans or other special education documents, and any other information that DFCS considers relevant to the child's educational success.

To learn more, view our *Trauma Impact Rule* guide at [www.GaAppleseed.org](http://www.GaAppleseed.org).