

FAQs: Student Enrollment and Records for Georgia Public Schools



On July 1, 2025, Georgia's *House Bill 268 – the Comprehensive School Safety & Student Wellbeing Act* became law, becoming one of the broadest school safety and student support laws in the nation. It affects nearly every part of school life — from security to behavioral health, student records, attendance rules, and discipline. These FAQs address the law's impact on processes for enrolling a child in school and what records must be shared.

Enrollment Basics

? Who can enroll my child in a public school in Georgia?

- A **parent of legal guardian**
- A **grandparent with a power of attorney** (if living in Georgia and caring for the child)
- A relative acting as a **kinship caregiver** (if living in Georgia and caring for the child)
- The **child themselves**, if they're emancipated

The school may ask for papers showing the person enrolling the child is responsible for their care.

? What are the standard enrollment documents required to enroll a student?

- **Proof of age** – Birth certificate, passport, military ID, or other acceptable document
- **Proof of residency** – Lease, mortgage, property-tax bill, or current utility bill
- **Social security number** (or signed waiver form)
- **Certificate of immunization** (Form 3231)
- **Medical screening certificate** (Form 3300) for vision, hearing, dental and nutrition screenings
- **Certified academic transcript and disciplinary record** for students transferring after sixth grade

Student Records and Privacy

? What are the new record requirements under HB 268?

If your child is in grades 4–12, you'll also need to disclose in writing any serious criminal or discipline history, including if your child has been found delinquent of a designated felony. You must provide certified copies of the related court or school records showing the date, the offense, and what happened, dating back 24 months.

? What if I can't get all the records right away?

Don't worry — your child can still start school. Schools can enroll your child for up to 10 days while you're gathering records. During that time, the school might let your child start in temporary remote learning or have a short meeting to decide if it's okay to attend in-person classes.

If the school doesn't get the records in 10 days, it can withdraw your child until everything is turned in. If you're having trouble getting the records, talk to the school right away to request more time.

Note: You don't have to share every past charge or school discipline issue—only the specific offenses listed in HB 268, including if your child:

1. Has been found delinquent of a designated felony
2. Is serving a suspension or expulsion or has a pending hearing
3. Has committed certain crimes on school property or at a school event
4. Was charged with committing a crime by the school and referred to police
5. Has been identified as a chronic discipline problem
6. Has a behavior correction plan in place

If you're not sure, contact Georgia Appleseed, your local juvenile court, or an attorney for help.

? Do I have to share my child's entire juvenile court history with the school?

No. You only need to report if your child was found delinquent of one of the offenses listed in HB 268 (see Note).

? My child is seeing a therapist outside of school. Do I have to share those records?

No. Private therapy records are confidential under federal privacy laws, and HB 268 doesn't require you to share them unless you want to or a court specifically orders you to. Schools may ask parents to sign a release so they can coordinate care with your child's therapist, but that is not required.

? The school wants me to sign a release or a waiver of my child's privacy rights. Do I have to sign it?

No. You never have to sign a blanket release just to get your child enrolled. If the school asks for one, you can ask which specific records the school wants and why. You may offer to share the records required by law, or sign a waiver limited to just those records, or say no to signing an unlimited or blanket release.

Law Enforcement Records

? Are child's juvenile justice records confidential?

In general, yes; however, HB 268 does require sharing certain records (see above), such as any that show your child committed a felony or an act that disrupted the school. The Department of Education plans to issue more guidance on the privacy of student records in December 2025.

? Do I have to inform the school if my child is stopped by police but not arrested or found guilty of a crime?

No, but starting July 2025, police must report any official encounter they have with a child aged 6–16 to the school, **unless the child was only a witness.**

? My child had to talk with the school resource officer at his school. Will that record be part of my child's education file and follow him to his next school?

It is still not clear if records maintained by school resource officers are considered law enforcement records or school records. Check the Department of Education's website and your local school district for more information or contact Georgia Appleseed for assistance.

Parent Rights and Protections

? What rights do I have as a parent?

- Right to **notice**: You must be notified when a new school receives your child's records.
- Right to **review**: You can request and correct your child's records.
- Right to **privacy**: You can refuse broad waivers and control third-party access.
- Right to **appeal**: If a school denies enrollment or re-enrollment based on disciplinary or criminal history, you can make a written request for a hearing to the local board of education or superintendent under Section 20-2-1160 of the Georgia Code.

Need Help?

If you have questions about how HB 268 affects your child's school enrollment or privacy rights, contact: Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, info@gaappleseed.org, <https://gaappleseed.org/resource/school-safety-law/>