

Social and Emotional Supports

Fulton County Board of Education

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Below represents some, but not all, of the Social-Emotional Supports that are offered in the Fulton County School System to support students' social and emotional development in order graduate ready to pursue and succeed on their chosen path:

Student Success Skills

All FCS Students are taught our 6 Student Success Skills: Social Competence, Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Collaborative Problem Solving, Reflective Learning, and Sense of Belonging. All Student Success Skill standards are taught using the Rethink Ed program. This instruction happens 2-3 days per week for 15-20 minutes and is measured using a twice yearly via student inventory.

Text4Help

"Text4Help" is available to all FCS middle and high school students. It began in January 2018 through a partnership with the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Students can text 1-844-201-9946 and will be connected anonymously to a licensed mental health professional to talk and/or get connected with local mental healthy resources. This is available 365 days a year and 24 hours a day. Someone is always there to listen, our students are never alone.

Fulton County Schools (FCS) Tip Line Feature on FCS App and FCS Website

Fulton County Schools has a "Tip Line" function on the FCS app (available for iOS and Android phones) to report significant concerns anonymously, such as threats of harm to self or others, bullying, etc. This tool provides an easy way to "see something, say something." Tips can also be submitted at <https://www.fultonschools.org/fcstipline>. Reports of a threat may also be emailed to safety@fultonschools.org.

On-site Mental Health Partners

Fulton County Schools has developed a framework in which mental health partners are on the school campus and provide services to students. Students may access mental health providers on campus should they need that level of support and should their parents desire that option for them. Our partners provide individual therapy, groups, and parent events. We now have partnerships established in all FCS schools.

Student Crisis Response Protocol

The student crisis response protocol is used by all FCS counselors, school social workers and school psychologists when a student is suspected to be at risk for harm to self or others. Immediate mental health resources are provided to families and re-entry meetings are held once a student returns to school to ensure that effective transitioning takes place and to document a plan for addressing the needs and safety of the student and others.

Signs of Suicide (SOS)

Signs of Suicide Prevention Program is currently implemented in all Fulton County Middle and High Schools. The SOS Program is the only youth suicide prevention program that has demonstrated an improvement in students' knowledge and adaptive attitudes about suicide risk and depression, as well as a reduction in actual suicide attempts and is listed on SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. The SOS Program uses a simple and easy-to-remember acronym, ACT[®] (Acknowledge, Care, Tell), to teach students action steps to take if they encounter a situation that requires help from a trusted adult.

CARE Team

CARE (CAre REsponse and REcovery) team members are deployed whenever schools experience the death of a student, staff member or some other significant crisis. The focus is on recovery and grief support and to allow for ventilation and validation of emotions. FCS counselors, social workers, and psychologists are trained annually on these protocols. Students who need more intensive grief or mental health support are appropriately referred.

Steps-A/E: Skills in Schools

All School Counselors, Psychologists, and Social Workers have been trained to offer this specialized program to small groups of identified students. This program infuses evidence based skills into a delivery model specifically designed for the K-12 educational setting.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Youth Mental Health First Aid training has been provided to 800+ FCS staff and community members. The training provides education and awareness of mental health for those who work with children and youth. This training is available to any school or group that requests it.

PEAK Academies

Pursuing Excellence And Knowledge (PEAK) Academies provide academic, social, behavioral and emotional supports for students who are suspended (short-term or long-term) for serious code of conduct offenses, many of which exhibit mental health challenges. There are three PEAK Academies in our school system – North Fulton, South Fulton and Southeast Fulton.

School Counselors, School Social Workers and School Psychologists

All Fulton County Schools support personnel are trained to identify and refer students who may be experiencing mental health, social or behavioral issues. They provide consultation, intervention, evaluation and a plethora of other support services to students in need.

Social and Emotional Support (SES) School Social Workers

There are 10 Social and Emotional Social Workers in the Fulton County School System. These uniquely skilled personnel will provide intensive case management for our most at-risk youth for violence, provide social and emotional learning for schools, parents and community and crisis support at schools.

Behavioral Specialists

Fulton County Schools currently has a total of nine behavioral specialists who work with schools to identify students with behavioral needs and then assisting them by training and supporting on the implementation of behavioral interventions.

Think First, Stay Safe (K-5)

This program contains instruction on personal safety, online safety, and school climate which supports the K-5 health curriculum. Students learn important information to help keep them protected from unsafe behaviors and situations.

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS)

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach that establishes behavioral supports and school culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Fulton currently has 90 schools who have implemented the PBIS framework and have increased the number of schools who are operational from 23 in FY18 to 42 in FY19. We also now have 9 Distinguished PBIS Programs and home to the only Metro-Atlanta PBIS Distinguished High School.



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