

School Safety

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As you join today, please use the chat box



Georgia Department of Education

Program Manager



Mark E. Muma

- Program Manager, School Safety
- Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency – School Safety Unit
- Fulton County Schools – Safety & Security
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta – Safety & Security

What does school safety mean to you?



Who is Responsible for School Safety in Georgia?



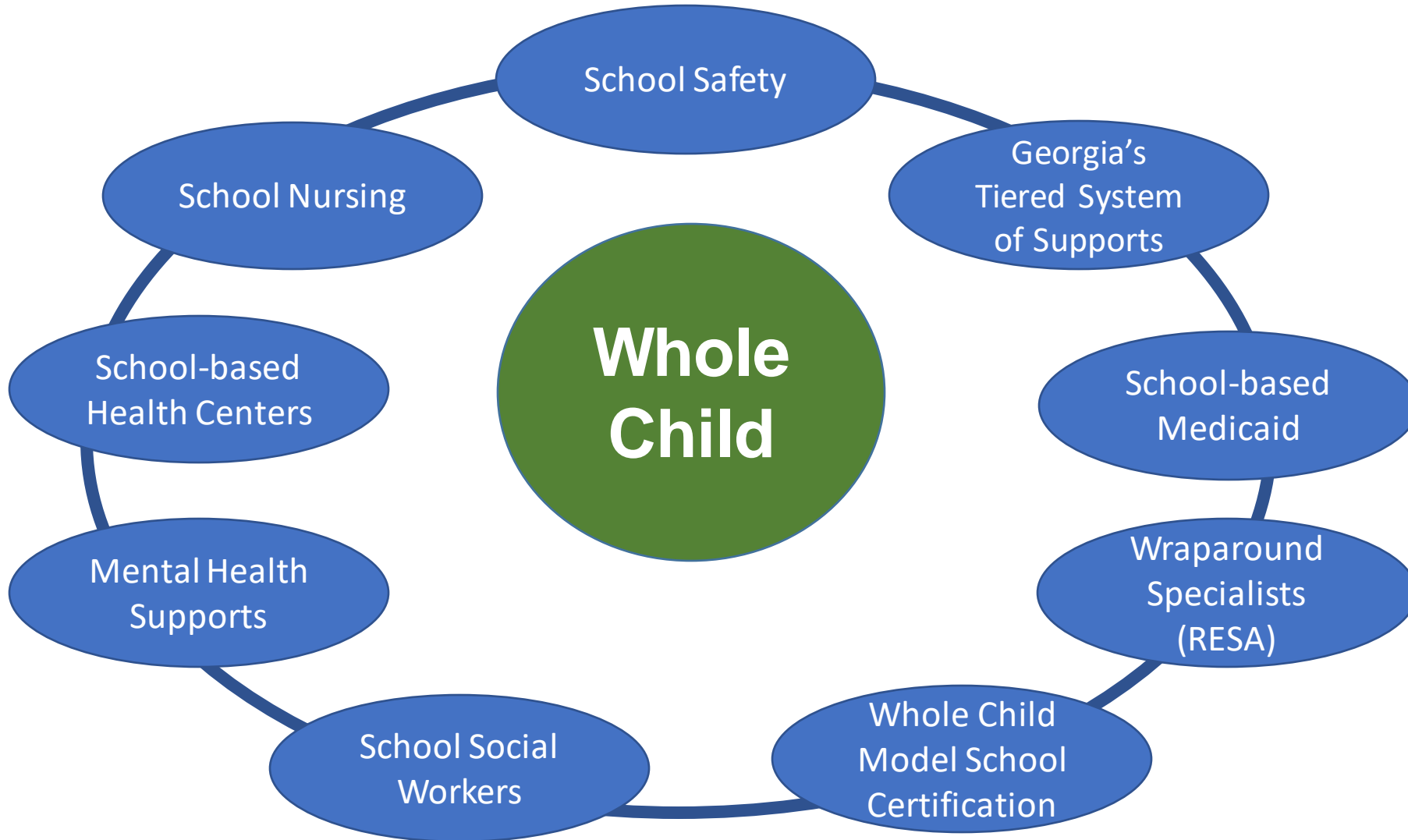
School Safety is everyone's responsibility!



Objectives

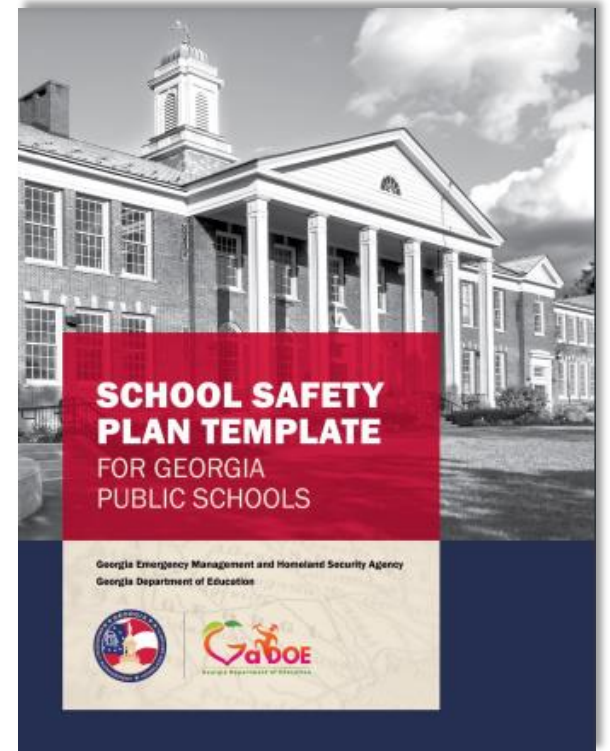
- Share the GaDOE School Safety approach that lives within the Office of Whole Child Supports
- Describe the School Safety Planning Process and explain the six steps to create a successful plan
- Provide information regarding Safe and Supportive Schools
- Explain the 2023 School Safety Legislative Updates

Office of Whole Child Supports Team

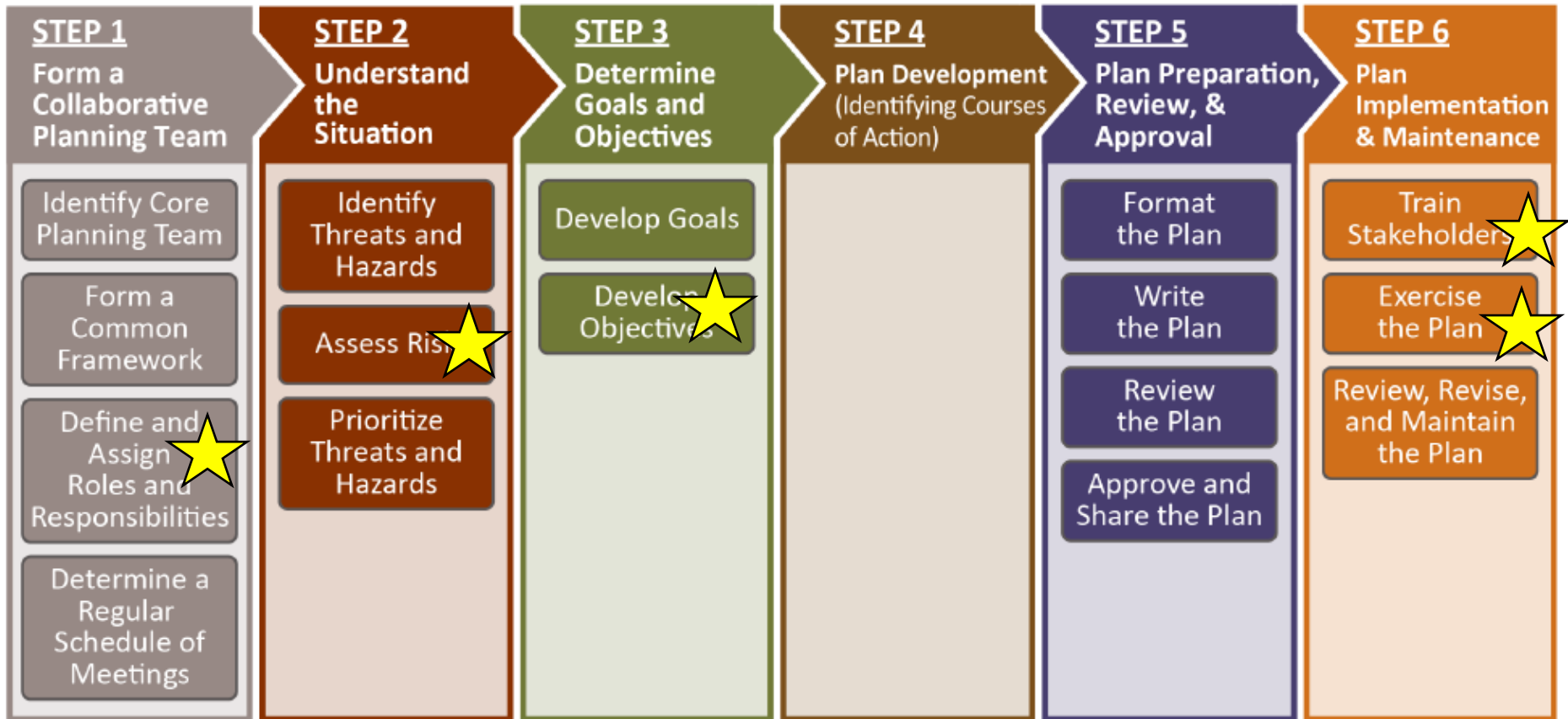


Where Do I Start?

- Building your campus school safety team
 - Multi-disciplinary approach
 - Administrator(s)
 - Counselor
 - Social Worker
 - School Nurse
 - Teachers
 - Custodian
 - Students
 - External Partners – Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, Hospitals, Juvenile Court, etc.

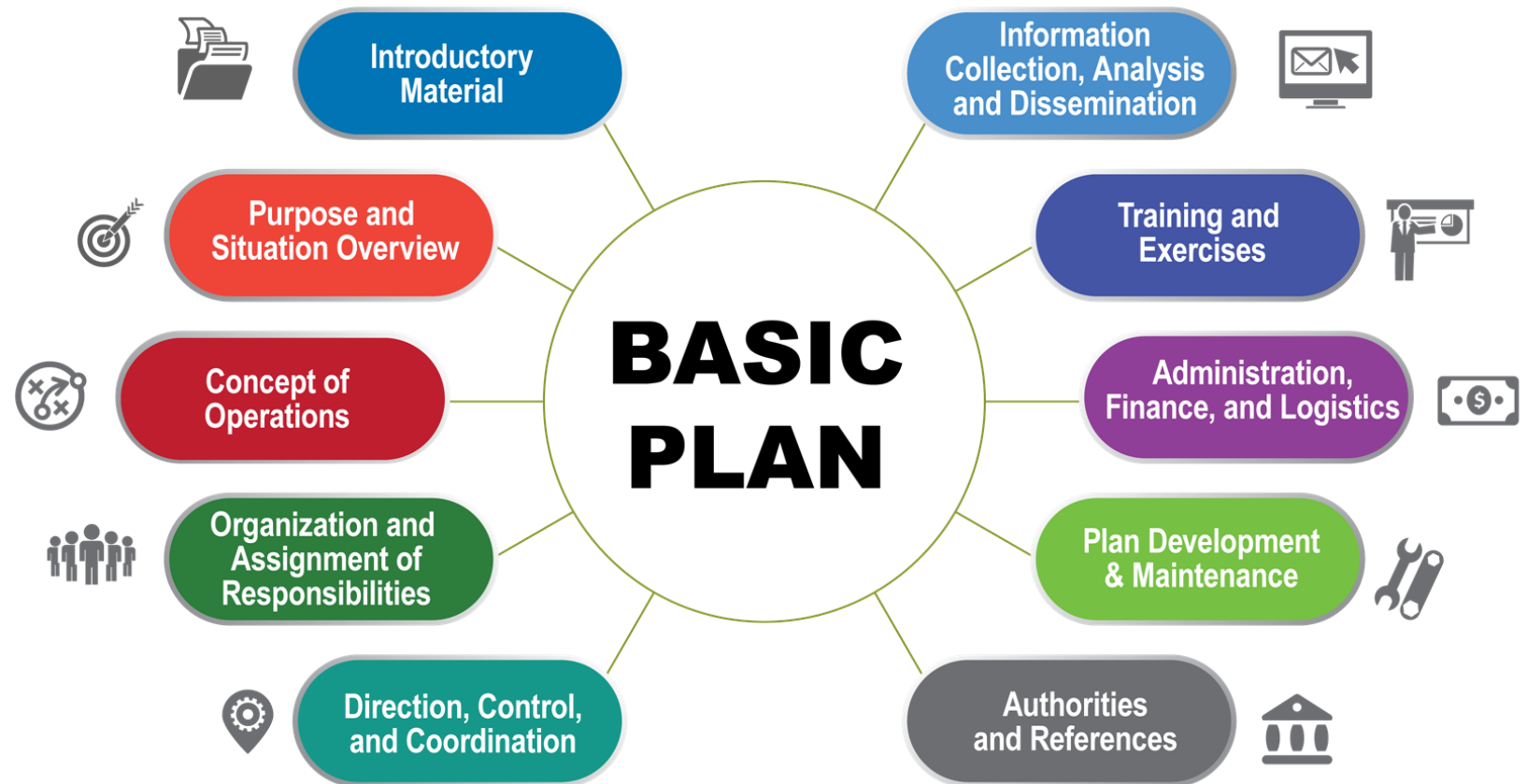


Steps to a Successful Emergency Planning Process



What should be in our plan?

Basic Plan vs. an Annex



Should I have Annexes in my plan?



Family Reunification

- Are you using another school?
- Do you have an existing MOU with your reunification site?
- How will you direct parents to the new location?
- Have you traveled the path with your safety team?
- Can the location be secured by law enforcement to assist in an orderly reunification?
- Will interviews be necessary prior to student release?
- How would you handle a student that's unaccounted for?

Communications

How do you communicate with your stakeholders?

- Internal
 - During an emergency, how do you communicate with your staff and students?
 - Overhead announcements (Plain Language)
 - Radio
 - E-mail
 - Mass Notifications System
- External
 - During the same emergency, how do you communicate with local first responders, parents and community members?
 - E-mail
 - Website
 - Mass Notifications System
 - Does your system require an individual to opt-in?
- Do you have pre-scripted messages that can be used?

Safe and Supportive Schools

- Georgia Center for School Safety
- Surveys (Georgia Student Health Survey, Georgia Parent Survey, and Georgia School Personnel Survey)
- School Safety Hotline
- School Safety Assessments (collaboration with GEMA/HS)
- Bullying Prevention and Response
- Student Discipline
- Character Education
- Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TAADRA)
- Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO)

A photograph of two young students, a boy and a girl, smiling in front of a yellow school bus. The boy is wearing a blue denim jacket and a backpack. The girl is wearing a white shirt and a backpack, holding a green folder. The background shows other students and the bus.

Georgia's Center for School Safety

Georgia Center for School Safety

- The Georgia Center for School Safety is a collaborative effort between GaDOE and GEMA/HS to provide a clearinghouse for school safety resources, training, and technical assistance.
- <https://www.gacss.org/>

School Safety Hotline

1-877-SAY-STOP (729-7867)

Safe Schools Hotline
(Anonymous/Confidential)
Report drugs, weapons, bullying, threats, or
other safety issues.
Toll-Free **1-877-SAY-STOP**
24 hours a day/7 days a week
Co-Sponsored by the
Georgia Department of Education and the
Georgia Department of Public Safety

- The School Safety Hotline is an anonymous, toll-free, 24-hour hotline designed for crisis prevention.
- Callers pass on information through the Hotline initiating immediate and appropriate action by operators with the Georgia Department of Public Safety.
- Hotline reports are forwarded to GaDOE for follow-up.
- Over 80% of Hotline calls are related to bullying.

Bullying Prevention Toolkit

Bullying Prevention

Many school districts are seeking tools to use in the development of bullying prevention strategies and activities. The purpose of this webpage is to provide information to aid efforts to prevent and respond to bullying behavior.

Georgia's Bullying Law

In 2015, the Georgia General Assembly expanded the definition of bullying through House Bill 131, also known as "The End to Cyberbullying Act". HB 131 modifies the definition of bullying to include acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment. Learn more.

Bullying Prevention Resources

- StopBullying.gov
- PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center
- Bullying Flow Chart
- GaDOE Policy for Prohibiting Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment and Intimidation

2023 Legislative Updates School Safety

Passed By Both Chambers:

- HB 147 - 'Safe Schools Act' **requires intruder alert drills in all public schools:** provides for a school safety and anti-gang endorsement to be issued by the Professional Standards Commission for eligible certified personnel
- HB 18 - Amended FY23 Appropriations Bill provides funds for security grants in the amount of **\$50,000 per school for school security enhancements (Signed by Governor Kemp)**
- HB 402 - Requires public schools to provide water safety education information upon initial enrollment to parents and guardians of students under 18 years of age, and directly to students 18 years of age and older
- HB 440 - Authorizes public and private schools to stock a supply of undesignated ready-to-use glucagon
- SB 45 – Provides for the implementation of seizure action plans; requires GaDOE to develop training guidelines and model seizure action plans

Did Not Pass

- SB 32 - 'Alyssa's Law' requires local education agencies to implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting disparate emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple state and local first responder agencies in the event of a school security emergency.

House Bill 147

- Intruder Drills must be completed by October 1st of each year
- Each school is encouraged to work with your local school board, emergency managers, emergency responders and school staff to design a drill representing a scenario **based on your school needs**
- If you have campus specific questions, please contact your GEMA-HS Homeland Security Coordinator

House Bill 147

- The Safe Schools Act requires all public schools to submit school safety plans to their local emergency management agency, local law enforcement and GEMA-HS for approval

House Bill 147

- School Safety and Anti-Gang endorsement
 - A collaborative effort amongst:
 - Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency
 - Georgia Department of Education
 - Georgia Public Safety Training Center
 - Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

FY23 Security Grants

- Signed by the Governor on March 10, 2023
- Provides \$50,000 for each public school in the state to enhance campus security
- Limited to equipment, training and infrastructure improvements
- Managed via reimbursement for relatable expenses incurred after March 10, 2023
- Reimbursement requests must be submitted no later than March 1, 2024

Equipment, Training and Infrastructure Examples

- Access Control
- Security Cameras
- Radios
- Radio Repeaters
- AED's
- First Aid Kits
- Stop the Bleed Kits
- Security Related Training

Employee Assistance Update

- Beginning August 1st 2023, all campus-based School Resource Officers will become eligible to receive services from the Georgia Public Education Employee Assistance Program
 - Programs that are available include:
 - Legal Consultation
 - Financial Consultation
 - Child and Elder Care Referrals
 - Confidential Counseling

What barriers do you have?

- What part of your school safety plan do you have the most challenges with?

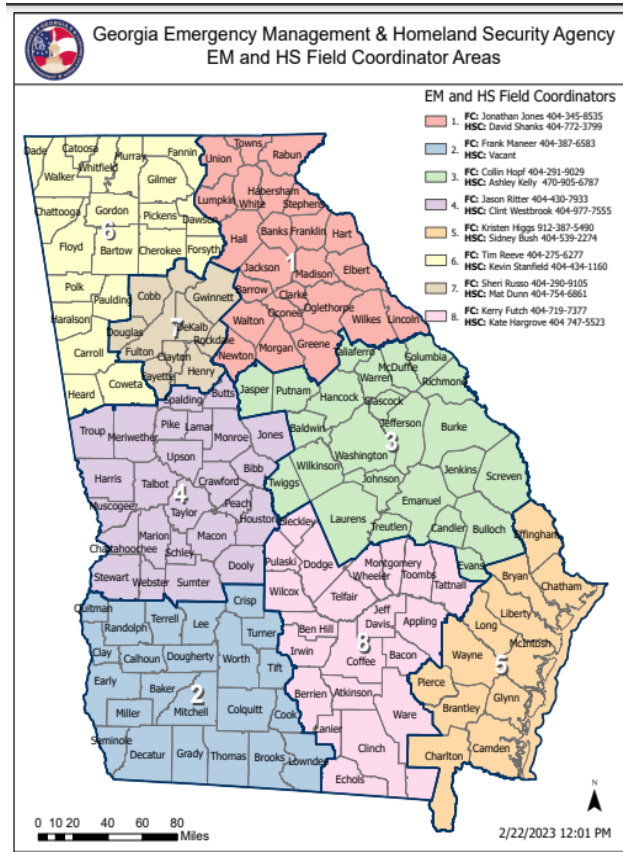
- What would you like assistance with?

What are some other resources?

- Georgia Association of School Nurses
- Georgia Association of School Resource Officers and Educators
- School Social Workers Association of Georgia
- Georgia Association of School Psychologists
- Georgia Association of Pupil Transportation
- Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
- Georgia Sheriff's Association

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Homeland Security Agency Contacts



www.gema.ga.gov

QUESTIONS?

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