# COVID-19 Policy Response: School-Based Health

Last Updated: May 4, 2020 | Check for updates [here](#), and check out Voices for Georgia’s Children’s COVID-19 Response Resources [here](#).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Policy and Practice Changes</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Utilize relief and/or private funding to enable school-based health programs to start, continue, or expand</strong></td>
<td>Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (03/27/20) allows the Georgia Department of Education to allocate relief funding to Local Education Agencies ((LEAs)/school districts) to provide mental health services and supports and to meet the needs of populations served (e.g. students with disabilities, low-income children)</td>
<td>School/School district directive</td>
<td>• The U.S. Department of Education approved the GA Department of Education’s (GaDOE) Certification and Agreement for Funding application. GaDOE is proactively planning to structure the CARES Act stimulus funding to specifically address: o At-risk Student Populations o Distance/Remote Learning o School Meals o Mental and Physical Health o Supplemental Learning o Facilities/Equipment o Continuity of Core Staff and Services (04/29/20)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maintain and increase funding for SBHCs to the greatest extent possible for COVID-19 response and ongoing</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>General Assembly and Governor approval of the FY 2021 budget</td>
<td>• Prior to suspension of the legislative session, the GA House allocated funds for two Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) start-up grants including $250,000 for a primary care center in Wayne County and $250,000 for a school-based</td>
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<td>• Federal funding sources that can support SBHCs, include: <a href="#">Title X funding</a> and the <a href="#">Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant program</a></td>
<td>Congress legislative action that allocates relief funding for SBHCs</td>
<td>primary care center in Irwin County. (03/10/20)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and leverage federal funding sources to increase school mental health services and supports, including the GA Apex program; federal sources may include:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>General Assembly legislative action</td>
<td>• Unknown.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Title I, II, III or IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>• HRSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)</td>
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<td>• Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)</td>
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<td>Note: Behavioral health providers have reported an increase in the need for mental health services and anticipate a continued influx during and after the public health emergency</td>
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<td><strong>SERVICE PROVISION</strong></td>
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<td>Ensure that students have sufficient refills of prescriptions to get through a potential prolonged school closure</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>School/School district directive</td>
<td>• Governor Executive Order (EO): Permits licensed pharmacists to dispense a 90-day supply* to patients that have no remaining refills (<strong>excludes schedule II drugs</strong>). (03/20/20)</td>
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<td>Consider permitting school-based health centers to remain open if schools themselves are minimally staffed</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>School/School district directive</td>
<td>• Unknown.</td>
<td>• Georgia has five centers currently operating—due to having a separate entrance from the school</td>
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<td>• For operating School-Based Health Clinics (SBHCs), consider screening and triaging patients outside of the service site</td>
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<td>• SBHCs without separate entrances closed to minimize risk for teachers preparing student packets and operating meal programs</td>
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<td>Pursue opportunities to ensure students and families have internet access, including broadband connectivity</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>School administrative communication</td>
<td>• GaDOE is awarding over $21.5m to 55 school districts for digital/distance learning infrastructure, including devices, training, software, mobile hotspots. (04/28/20)</td>
<td>Georgia Counties:</td>
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<td>• Quality internet ensures a vehicle for children and families to receive services via telehealth.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) are working with non-profits to provide devices/hotspots for schools in need.</td>
<td>• Green County- has a mobile hotspot bus that is accessible to families; provides Chromebooks and iPads on loan</td>
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<td>• Governor Kemp and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) launched a new website to inform</td>
<td>• Oconee County- opening three school parking lots with Wi-Fi for families</td>
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<td>• Jackson County-provides bus stop Wi-Fi; engaged donors to provide MiFi (phone-sized wireless router) units</td>
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| Allow SBHCs with telehealth capabilities to pivot to delivery of services via telehealth | N/A | School/School district directive | • Unknown. | • Pickens County- local internet provider allows the public to use the service at their residential stores  
• Bibb county- distributes hotspots to students  
• Forsyth- provides MiFi units (which have the capacity to provide service to entire complexes) to students  

Note: All school districts are promoting free or reduced price internet access opportunities |

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<td>Inform parents about how to access health care services, including what opportunities exist to access services through the sponsoring health care agency of the SBHC</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>School administrative communication</td>
<td>• Unknown.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Consider providing phone cards to students and families</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>School district request for private donations (of/for phone cards)</td>
<td>• Unknown.</td>
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<td>• Many students and/or their parents have cell phones that require phone cards to add minutes, and are running low due to constraints posed by the public health emergency</td>
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<td>• Communication is a vital component of continuing service provision</td>
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