



THE DIVISION OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
THE DIVISION OF WRAP AROUND SERVICES  
DeKalb County School District  
Board of Education Retreat

May 1, 2025





# Evolv & Centegix



Mr. Elijah Palmer, Chief of Staff

## EVOLV Weapons Detector Data SY24-25

- **Guns – 10 Total**
- **Two** handguns never entered school buildings, subjects arrested outside of school/off campus.
- **Four** handguns brought on campus by **non-students**, **one** by visitor, **two** in staff vehicles and **one** in staff bag.
- **Two** handguns recovered in the building after an improper staff search after an EVOLV alert.
- **One** handgun brought in through side door during student transition.
- **One** handgun detained at entrance after Evolv alert and proper search by staff.

### **Summation**

- Four handguns brought in by non-students.
- Two handguns recovered outside schools.
- One stopped by EVOLV.
- Three missed due to user error

## DCSD Weapons (EVOLV)

<b>2022-2023(Pre EVOLV)</b>	<b>2023-2024 (EVOLV Year 1)</b>	<b>2024-2025 (EVOLV Year 2)</b>
22 Guns	4 Guns	10 Guns
105 Weapons	31 Weapons	29 Weapons

# Centegix Data for SY24-25

## Alert Types

- Staff Alert - 1353 (**Student conduct, ill student, etc...**)
- Drill Full Lockdown( Level 3) – 9
- Severe Weather – (Tornado )– 1
- Drill Interior Lockdown – (Level 2) – 5
- Full Lockdown – (Level 3) – 63 (**Police Activity in the area, possible outside threat to school**)
- All Clear – 22
- Interior Lockdown –(Level 2) – 7 (**Police activity, low likelihood of threat to school**)
- Drill Severe Weather – Tornado -1

Total: 1461

## DCSD Centegix Data (Year 1 vs Year 2)

2023-2024 (Year 1)	2024-2025 (Year 2)
2504 Staff Alerts	1200 Staff Alerts
315 Full Lockdowns (Level 3)	65 Full Lockdowns (Level 3)
53 Drill Lockdowns	8 Drill Lockdowns
6 Severe Weather (Tornado)	1 Severe Weather (Tornado)
12 Severe Weather (Drill)	1 Severe Weather (Drill)



# Student Discipline



Dr. Kishia K. Towns, Chief of Wrap Around Services



## Discipline Trends: Suspension Data (SY 2024-2025)

- In-School Suspension (ISS) incidents decreased by **15%**.
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) incidents decreased by **28%**.
- Combined ISS and OSS incidents decreased by **24%** overall.

**1,657 less students were suspended in 24-25 SY**

**Decrease of 5,099 suspensions in 24-25 SY**

*These reductions reflect the district's continued commitment to promoting positive student behavior, implementing restorative practices, and providing proactive support interventions.*

## Behavioral Improvement: District Due Process Hearings (DDPH)

- Overall, **37% decrease** in District Due Process Hearings (DDPH) during the 2024–2025 school year (**510**) compared to the 2023–2024 (**806**) school year. (**296 less DDPH**)

*This significant reduction reflects the district's proactive efforts to address student behavior through early intervention, restorative practices, and enhanced support systems.*

## Behavioral Improvement: “Bullying Stops Here!” Campaign Impact

- **34% decrease** in state-reported bullying incidents from 2022 to 2024.
  - 22-23 SY (635); 23-24 SY (419)
- **73% overall decrease** in bullying incidents since 2011-2012.
  - 11-12 SY (1,548 incidents)
  - 23-24 SY (419 incidents) - **Reduction of 1,129 incidents**
- Bullying Prevention and Awareness training provided to **over 1,000 staff members**, including bus drivers, bus monitors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers since August 2024.

*This significant progress demonstrates the district’s commitment to creating safer, more supportive environments for all students.*

## Behavioral Support: Verbal De-Escalation Training Progress

- Over 300 district staff members trained since August 2024.
- 29 District Support Staff (Culture & Climate Coordinators, Social Workers, and PBIS District Coaches) trained as district trainers since January 2025.
- Up to 75 Assistant Principals are scheduled to complete Verbal De-Escalation Trainer certification by June 30, 2025.
- Goal: To have 100 new Verbal De-Escalation Trainings by June 30, 2025.

*This comprehensive training initiative equips schools with the tools to effectively manage challenging behaviors, promote positive school climates, and reduce disciplinary incidents.*

# Behavioral Support: Restorative Practices Training Progress

- 300+ staff members trained in Restorative Practices Circles.
- 85 District Support Staff trained as Restorative Practices Circle Trainers.
- 30 District Support Staff trained as Facilitating Restorative Conferences Trainers
- 12 additional District Support Staff will be trained as Restorative Practices Circle Trainers by June 30, 2025

*These training efforts strengthen the district's commitment to building positive relationships, resolving conflict constructively, and reducing disciplinary incidents through restorative approaches.*

## Disconnect to Reconnect: Academic & Behavior Benefits

- **Academic Focus:** Increased student engagement, fewer disruptions, and more focused instruction without mobile devices.
- **Behavioral Improvements:** Reduced technology misuse, fewer peer conflicts, and fewer discipline referrals.
- **Positive School Climate:** Calmer environments, stronger student connections, and improved social engagement in hallway and cafeteria behavior

The *Disconnect to Reconnect* initiative demonstrated a strong, positive impact on academic engagement, student behavior, and school culture. With continued monitoring, refinement, and stakeholder collaboration, this initiative has the potential to sustain and deepen its positive effects in future academic years.

## Social-Emotional Support: SAFE Centers Impact

- **133** student groups convened through SAFE Centers focused on:
  - Conflict resolution
  - Self-esteem building
  - Emotional regulation
  - Communication skill (Helping students avoid more serious school consequences)
- **171** referrals were made for individual mental health services, resulting in a decrease in acting out behaviors at school.
- **351** student conferences were conducted by SAFE Center Social Work Liaisons to provide targeted social-emotional support.

## Attendance Support: EveryDay Labs Impact

In Horizon Schools fully implementing **EveryDay Labs**:

- **23%** of chronically absent students improved to **nonchronically absent** status.
- **51%** of students improved their **attendance rate** after receiving EveryDay Labs Chronic Absence Nudges.\*
- **80%** of at-risk students **did not** become chronically absent.

*\* Data includes 6,729 students whose families received at least one text message and mail nudge.*



# Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)



Dr. Kishia K. Towns, Chief of Wrap Around Services



# Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

- 1 PBIS Coordinator
- 7 PBIS District Coaches
- 58 PBIS Schools
- 2 PBIS Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNET) Centers

## **PBIS MIRACLES Priority**

As of April 1, 2025, the Division of Wrap Around Services and Department of Student Relations PBIS District Team met our DCSD PBIS MIRACLE Priority Goal of increasing the number of combined PBIS schools and GNET centers from 50 to 60 by June 2025. This includes forty-eight PBIS schools and two GNET centers. Our ten new Cohort 9 schools successfully completed MTSS Tier I Readiness Training and PBIS Training, with 70 Leadership Team Members participating.

**Austin Elementary School**

**Bethune Middle School**

**Chesnut Elementary School**

**Dunwoody Elementary School**

**Kingsley Elementary School**

**Oak Grove Elementary School**

**Rock Chapel Elementary School**

**Snapfinger Elementary School**

**Stephenson Middle School**

**Stone Mountain High School**

# PBIS Impact

GaDOE DCSD PBIS State Recognition Outcome Data 2022-2023 vs. 2023-2024 School Years	School Climate Star Rating Outcome Data 2022-2023 vs. 2023-2024 School Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of schools implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports have had positive gains in State Level Recognition               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ From the 22-23 school to the 23-24 school year, schools receiving “Emerging” recognition increased from <b>21 to 22</b>.</li> <li>○ From the 22-23 school to the 23-24 school year, schools receiving “Operational” recognition increased from <b>13 to 15</b>.</li> <li>○ From the 22-23 school to the 23-24 school year, schools receiving “Distinguished” recognition increased from <b>0 to 1</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the 2022-2023 school year <b>38% (22/57)</b> of DCSD schools that received a School Climate Star Rating of 4 or higher were PBIS schools.</li> <li>• During the 2023-2024 school year <b>52% (25/48)</b> of DCSD schools that received a School Climate Star Rating of 4 or higher were PBIS schools.</li> <li>• The percentage of <b>PBIS schools earning a School Climate Star Rating of 4 or higher increased by 36.84%</b> from the 2022–2023 to the 2023–2024 school year.</li> </ul>

# PBIS Professional Learning (PL) Sessions

**Total # of PBIS Professional Learning Sessions = 57**

**Total # of Participants = 1,034**

Thirteen PBIS Retraining Sessions <b>(135 Participants)</b>	New Cohort 9 Schools MTSS Tier I Readiness Training and PBIS Training <b>(70 Participants)</b>	Two Bus Transportation Department PBIS Training <b>(201 Participants)</b>
Three Schoolwide Information System (SWIS) Trainings <b>(112 Participants)</b>	<i>PBIS Principals Meeting (70 Participants)</i>	Social Workers and Attendance Specialists PBIS Training <b>(80 Participants)</b>
New Cohort 9 Principals MTSS-PBIS Overview Training <b>(10 Participants)</b>	PBIS Behavior Specialist Training <b>(46 Participants)</b>	Culture and Climate Coordinators, Attendance Specialists, and Mental Health Coordinators MTSS-PBIS Training Overview <b>(35 Participants)</b>
Twenty-Five PBIS Principals Check-In Meetings <b>(35 Participants)</b>	MTSS Specialists Tier I Behavior System Training <b>(100 participants)</b>	PBIS District Team presented two session presentations at the Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support (GAPBS) Conference <b>(80 Participants)</b>
Six PBIS School Coaches Meetings <b>(60 Participants)</b>		

## PBIS Accomplishments

- DCSD has one Distinguished PBIS School, fifteen Operational PBIS Schools, and two Operational PBIS GNETS sites that have earned exemplar GaDOE PBIS State Recognition.
- Oak Grove Elementary School and Tucker High School are Association for Positive Behavior Support International Conference PBIS Film Festival Winners.
- During the 2023-2024 52% of DCSD Schools that earned a 4 or 5 School Climate Star Rating were PBIS Schools.
- Department of Student Relations PBIS District Team met our DCSD PBIS MIRACLE Priority Goal of increasing the number of combined PBIS schools and GNET centers from 50 to 60 by June 2025.
- DCSD PBIS video, Superintendent, Dr. Devon Horton
- The Student Relations PBIS District Team partnered with Metro RESA to ensure training and coaching systems met the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) GaMTSS PBIS School Recognition Criteria.
- PBIS District Team presented two session presentations at the Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support (GAPBS) Conference.
- PBIS District Coordinator and Five PBIS District Coaches are certified PBIS Trainers



Thank You!