

SAFE Centers: Impact & Evaluation Update



DeKalb County School District
February 2026 Board Presentation
Division of Wrap Around Services



Safe Centers In Action

<https://youtu.be/P6ZLJpwCFMY>

Purpose of Presentation



- Provide an update on SAFE Centers impact and growth.
- Share data and evaluations
- Highlight Partnerships
- Aligned outcomes with DCSD Strategic Plan



What Are SAFE Centers?

- ▶ The SAFE (Student and Family Engagement) Centers are a collaboration of school services and community partnerships designed to equip our students academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally to be better scholars and productive citizens.
- ▶ The SAFE Centers are currently in 8 high schools within the district and provides wraparound services through community partnerships to support scholars' immediate needs in their school, home, and community.

Family Support Services

- Kindness Closet assisting with food, clothes, toiletries, and school supplies.
- Wellness checks for students and families.
- Family Support to aid in safety and stability.
- Support Group for Teen Parents.

Social and Emotional Wellness

- Mental and Emotional Health Counseling.
- Discipline Support through Restorative Practices.
- Substance Abuse/Vaping and Drug-Prevention.
- Mentorship Programs.
- Life Skills Group for Student Growth.
- Small Groups.

SAFE Center High Schools



Locations

- Cross Keys
- McNair
- Redan
- Stone Mountain
- MLK Jr.
- Lithonia
- Stephenson
- Towers



Evaluations & Feedback

Evaluation Tools

- Monthly Reports
- Student Surveys
- EHarvest Data
- Student Referrals

Feedback

- Increased Engagement
- Reduced Disruptions
- Strong Family Engagement



YTD Mental Health & Child Welfare Referral Data



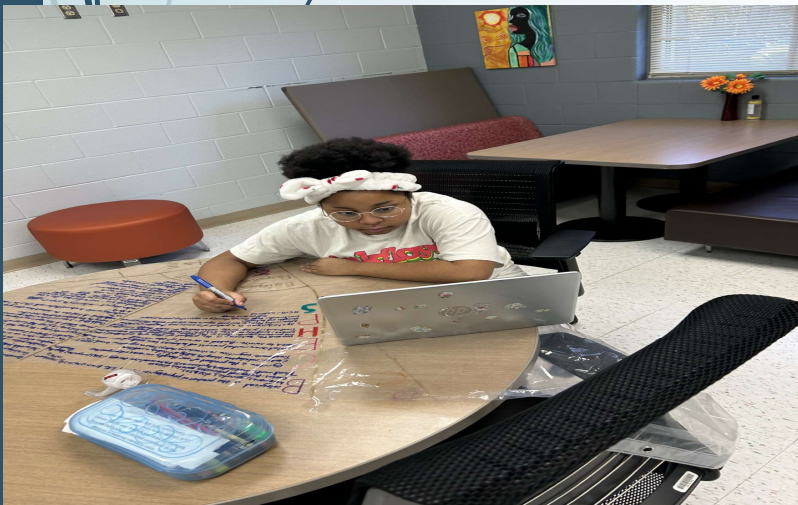
School Year/Reason	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026 First Semester
Emotional/Mental Health	1461	1351	1486	1023
Suicidal Ideation	690	611	563	294
Abuse/Neglect	909	894	857	387
Homeless	1127	1214	1394	778
Foster Care	218	166	116	67
Pregnancy	66	51	47	28

2024–2025 SAFE Center Impact Data



School	Student Contacts	Conferences with School Staff	Conferences with Partners Conducted	Conferences with Parent/Guardian	Student Groups	School-Based Mental Health Referrals	Hygiene Visits	Food Pantry Visits	Families Served During Food Distribution	Total Interventions
Cross Keys HS	1628	107	32	45	18	22	21	135	1354	1632
McNair HS	2293	49	60	82	82	23	96	251	951	3309
MLK Jr HS	4381	24	40	39	27	85	98	1755	1063	4467
Redan HS	1627	80	50	57	45	35	529	593	2892	1368
Stone Mountain HS	2514	74	57	20	42	28	128	610	1376	2408
Towers HS	1522	79	37	13	32	18	26	361	1317	163
TOTALS	13965	413	276	256	246	211	898	3705	8953	13347

SY26 Semester 1 SAFE Center Impact Data



Service Category	Number of Interventions
Student Contacts	4,824
Families Served at Food Distribution	2,640
Food Pantry Visits	713
Parent/Guardian Conferences	387
Hygiene Visits	251
Staff Conferences	182
Clothing Assistance	171
Partner Conferences	145
School-Based Mental Health Referrals	109
Student Groups	97
Parent Groups	11
Total Interventions	5,640

Student Ambassador Program

What is a SAFE Center Ambassador?

A student ambassador is a student leader who represents the SAFE Center to students, families, staff, and visitors. They act as a liaison with Center staff, assist with tours, events, recruitment, community service, and forums, and maintain year-round knowledge of SAFE Center programs and services.

Qualities of an EXCELLENT SAFE Center Ambassador

- ▶ Leadership abilities and capabilities
- ▶ Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- ▶ Enthusiastic, friendly, and approachable personality
- ▶ Punctual, flexible, and reliable
- ▶ Well presented
- ▶ Empathy
- ▶ Good judgment
- ▶ Good academic standing
- ▶ Good time-management skills

Partnerships



- Girls Inc. of Greater Atlanta
- Atlanta Vision Lions
- Easton Banks (EBLLC) Project GRAPE
- The Georgia Lions Lighthouse (GLLF)
- SOC Integrated Services
- Chris 180
- Pathways Transition Program
- Positive Growth
- Hazel Health
- SKIP-Save the Kids of Incarcerated Parents
- Kate's Club
- ACFB (Food Bank)
- AREACH
- Desires to Change
- Hope Hustlers
- UCHAMP
- Progress Place
- Mimi's Yoga Kids
- AFHK-The Blank Foundation
- CARON
- Desires to Change



Operational Strengths

- Collaboration with Internal Departments
- Creating and Maintaining External Partnerships
- Monthly Reporting
- Increased response time for students in crisis
- Staff Trainings
- Expanded Mental Health Capacity

Strategic Plan Goal Area 5

Mental Health and Wellness

SAFE Centers are directly aligned to Strategic Plan Goal Area 5 through the following programming:

- Partnership with mental health providers to deliver school-based services
- Addressing interpersonal relationships
- Vaping cessation programming
- Drug prevention programming
- Address basic needs, food, hygiene products, school supplies to maintain dignity

Through strong community partnerships and coordinated wraparound services, the SAFE Centers help ensure students are supported, connected, and ready to learn.

Challenges & Needs

- Funding
- Expanded Mental Health Capacity
- Space Limitations
- Data Platforms

Goals for 2026–2027

- Expansion of Centers
- Strengthen Ambassadors Training
- Increase Peer-Led Participation
- Increase partnerships
- Increase the Awareness of SAFE Centers Districtwide

Questions

Thank you for your continued support of the SAFE Centers. Together, we are strengthening community partnerships and providing coordinated wraparound services that help our students feel supported, connected, and ready to learn.





THANK YOU!

**WRAP AROUND & SUPPORT SERVICES
DIVISION OF WRAP AROUND SERVICES**

