

CCRPI School Climate Star Ratings

In response to the compelling body of research that underscores the importance of school climate, Georgia is the first state in the nation to include school climate as an early indicator in its academic accountability system, the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI). The first School Climate Star Rating will be reported in the 2013-2014 CCRPI.

What is the School Climate Star Rating?

School climate refers to the quality and character of school life – a sustainable, positive school climate fosters youth development and student learning, which are essential elements for academic success, improving career skills and overall quality of life. The School Climate Star Rating is a diagnostic tool to determine if a school is on the right path to school improvement.

How is the rating calculated?

The School Climate Star Rating will be calculated using the following indicators:

- Results from the Georgia Student Health Survey II, the Georgia School Personnel Survey, and the Georgia Parent Survey
- Student discipline data
- Attendance records for teachers, staff, administrators and students.

Each component will be given equal value.

What does the rating mean?

Each school will receive a 1-5 star rating, with five stars representing an excellent school climate, and one star representing a school climate most in need of improvement.

The completed rating will provide school-level data on the following components:

- **School Climate** – a measure of student, teacher, and parent perceptions of a school's climate and the congruency between the three
- **Student Discipline** – a look into disciplinary practices and utilization of the research-based practices promoting positive interventions
- **Safe and Substance-Free Learning Environment** – student responses on use of illegal substances and the prevalence of violence, bullying, and unsafe incidents within a school
- **Attendance** – the average daily attendance of students, teachers, administrators, and staff members

Schools will have access to a comprehensive report which will allow them to identify areas in need of improvement, and plan targeted student interventions to improve achievement for all students.

Why school climate matters: A growing body of research indicates that schools with positive school climates have better test scores and higher graduation rates. A sustainable, positive school climate supports people feeling socially, emotionally and physically safe. By contrast, disruptive and aggressive behavior such as threats, bullying, teasing and harassment creates a hostile school environment that interferes with academic performance. This school environment also fosters increased absenteeism and truancy, because students feel unsafe at school. If a child is not physically and mentally in attendance, learning cannot take place. A positive school climate supports academic, social, and personal development.