

GEORGIA APEX PROGRAM

2020



OVERVIEW

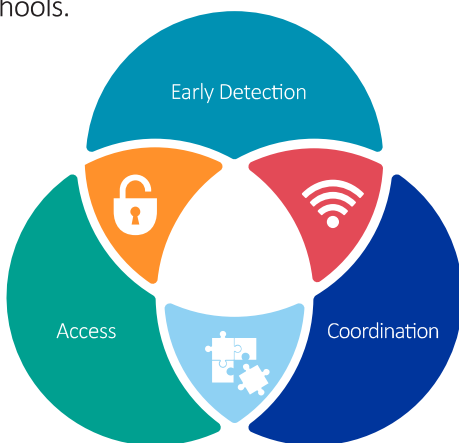
The Georgia Apex Program (Apex), funded by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), strives to build capacity and increase access to mental health services for school-aged youth, Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade, throughout the state.

Apex recognizes schools as a natural environment for identification and intervention, and aims to reduce the number of youth with unmet mental health needs.

The program promotes collaboration between community mental health providers and schools to provide school-based services and supports, including training for school staff, in hopes of facilitating the right care at the right time for children, young adults, and families.

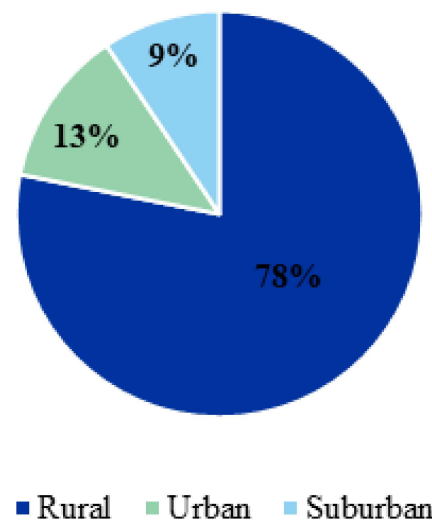
APEX PROGRAM GOALS

The program's goals include increasing **access** to mental health services for children and youth, providing **early detection** of child and adolescent mental health needs, and strengthening **coordination** between community-based mental health providers and local schools.



GEOGRAPHY OF APEX SCHOOLS AS OF YEAR 4

(August 2018- June 2019)



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
integrating research, policy, and practice



GEORGIA APEX PROGRAM

Apex Growth Across 4 Years



- 76% retention
- 313% increase from Year 1 to Year 4



- 124% increase in students receiving first-time services from Year 1 to Year 4



- 295% increase in services provided in schools from Year 1 to Year 4

School-Related Program Outcomes

- Increased in average School Climate Star Ratings
- Increased in average scores of student perception, parent perception, and personnel perception of school climate
- Increased scores for the Safe and Substance Free Learning Environment scale, including the drugs/alcohol use subscale for Apex-only schools
- Decreased in the average number of bullying/harassment incidents
- Decreased student and school-wide unexcused absences
- Decreased average number of out of school suspensions

Mental Health Promotion within Apex Schools

Apex prioritizes addressing the need for intensive intervention for students identified as living with mental health concerns — the top tier of the pyramid. Apex providers also work with schools on additional mental health promotion activities across Tiers 1 and 2 of the pyramid pictured to the right.

