



Percent of Educators Who Report Their Students have Increased Mental Health Needs, Post Pandemic

Mental health and student discipline is a growing issue in schools. More than **three-quarters** of surveyed educators said their students' mental health needs are higher than before the pandemic.

73% of educators say they deal with a significant disciplinary incident at least once a month, and **23%** deal with such issues daily.

Educator's **top-ranked strategy** for improving student mental health and school safety is **adding mental health staff**.

Georgia funds school mental health professionals at staff-to-student ratios **far below** recommended best practices.

 Counselors	1 : 250	1 : 450
 Social Workers	1 : 250	1 : 2475
 Psychologists	1 : 500	1 : 2475

	Recommended Ratio	Current State Funding Ratio
Counselors	1 : 250	1 : 450
Social Workers	1 : 250	1 : 2475
Psychologists	1 : 500	1 : 2475

ADDRESSING THE ISSUE

Failure to properly confront student discipline and mental health threatens school safety, student success, and educator retention. Lawmakers could address this issue with several possible solutions.

- Create and maintain an ongoing school safety budget allocation
- Increase funding for school counselors, social workers, and psychologists
- Promote the training and hiring of new Georgia school counselors, social workers, and psychologists