

SBTAM

Screening-Led Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management

Georgia HB 268 Compliance Checklist

A Diagnostic Tool for District Leaders and Safety Coordinators

Georgia House Bill 268 (Ricky and Alyssa's Law), signed into law in April 2025, establishes one of the most comprehensive school safety mandates in the country. Districts must comply with a phased implementation schedule, with the majority of requirements taking effect by **July 1, 2026** (the start of the 2026–27 school year).

This checklist organizes all major HB 268 requirements into seven areas. Use it to audit your district's current readiness, identify gaps, and prioritize next steps. Items marked with a teal ✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS** note indicate where the SBTAM framework and FOCUS screener directly support compliance.

YOUR READINESS SCORE

After completing this checklist, count the items you've checked. There are 28 total items across 7 areas.

22–28 checked: Strong position. Focus on refinement.

14–21 checked: Moderate gaps. Prioritize Areas 2 & 3.

0–13 checked: Significant work ahead. Begin immediately.

AREA 1: EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS

Deadline: July 1, 2026

- Mobile panic alert system procured and installed in all schools.
HB 268 Reference: Section 2-2 (Alyssa's Alert). System must enable real-time coordination between school staff, local 911 PSAPs, and first responders.
■ **Deadline: July 1, 2026**
- Staff trained on panic alert system activation and protocols.
HB 268 Reference: System must be accessible to all school personnel during school hours and school-sponsored events.
- Anonymous reporting system implemented district-wide.
HB 268 Reference: Section 2-15 (Ricky's Law). Must be accessible 24/7/365, include a multilingual crisis center staffed by trained counselors, and support mobile app and web reporting.
- Anonymous reporting system connects to 911 and local law enforcement for coordinated crisis response.
HB 268 Reference: System must support coordinated response by schools, local emergency 911 PSAPs, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Digital school mapping data submitted to first responder agencies.
HB 268 Reference: Section 2-3. Updated maps must be provided annually with detailed layouts, room labels, and utility locations in a format accessible to emergency personnel.
■ **Deadline: July 1, 2026**

AREA 2: BTAM TEAMS & SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS

Deadline: 2026–27 SY

- Multidisciplinary Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management (BTAM) team established for each school or cluster of schools.

HB 268 Reference: Safety plans must include a structured behavioral health and threat assessment management component. Teams should include representatives from administration, counseling/mental health, and law enforcement.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: SBTAM provides the complete team formation framework, including role definitions, meeting protocols, and documentation templates.**
- BTAM team members have completed certified threat assessment training.

HB 268 Reference: Teams must be trained to evaluate and respond to students exhibiting at-risk behaviors using evidence-based methodology.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: SBTAM aligns with NTAC-recommended investigative protocols and provides structured checklists for team use.**
- School safety plan updated to include BTAM component.

HB 268 Reference: All public school safety plans must be updated to include an emphasis on Behavioral Threat Assessment Management.
- Universal behavioral health screening process in place for grades 6–12.

HB 268 Reference: HB 268 requires behavioral health integration in safety plans. Universal screening is the most effective method for structured early identification of at-risk students.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: FOCUS is a 25-item universal adaptive screener built specifically for grades 6–12 that provides the objective data BTAM teams need to act proactively.**
- Documented protocols for responding to screening flags, threat reports, and crisis indicators.

HB 268 Reference: Safety plans must define how teams evaluate, escalate, and manage identified risks.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: FOCUS automatically routes flagged students to targeted Self-Harm Risk Assessment (SRA) or Behavior Threat Assessment (BTA) modules, with clear response matrices for each risk level.**
- Integration with statewide School and Student Safety (S3) database.

HB 268 Reference: Districts must connect with the state's data-sharing infrastructure managed by GEMA/Homeland Security.

AREA 3: STUDENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & PREVENTION

Deadline: 2026–27 SY

- At least 1 hour of evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention training provided to all students in grades 6–12.

HB 268 Reference: Section 2-15. Training must cover: recognizing signs of depression, suicide, and self-injury in themselves and peers; recognizing warning signs of persons who may harm themselves or others; importance of seeking help; steps for reporting dangerous behavior.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: FOCUS directly screens for self-harm ideation (Item 5) and automatically triggers the Self-Harm Risk Assessment for any student endorsing these thoughts—closing the gap between training and identification.**
- At least 1 hour of evidence-based youth violence prevention training provided to all students in grades 6–12.

HB 268 Reference: Section 2-15. Must cover warning signs of violence, help-seeking behaviors, and school response protocols.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: FOCUS screens for aggression, violent ideation, and exposure to threats (Items 8–9) and routes to BTA modules for immediate team review.**
- Student-led youth violence prevention clubs established at all schools with grades 6 and higher.

HB 268 Reference: Section 2-15. Clubs must engage in awareness activities related to youth suicide prevention, youth violence prevention, and social inclusion.
- Mental health coordinator designated at the district level.

HB 268 Reference: HB 268 provides for the appointment of mental health coordinators to oversee behavioral health integration and compliance.

■ Student Advocacy Specialists hired or assigned.

HB 268 Reference: State allocated \$7 million for student advocacy specialist positions. These roles support students in crisis and serve as a bridge between school safety teams and community mental health resources.

AREA 4: STAFF TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing

■ BTAM team members trained in evidence-based threat assessment methodology.

HB 268 Reference: Teams must receive specialized training. The Georgia Center for Safer Schools provides guidance and quarterly BTAM training.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: SBTAM provides implementation training focused on interpreting FOCUS screening data, using adaptive assessment results, and activating tiered response protocols.**

■ All school staff trained on recognizing warning signs and reporting procedures.

HB 268 Reference: Faculty and staff must know how to recognize and report threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful behavior through the anonymous reporting system and internal channels.

■ Annual refresher training documented for safety team members.

HB 268 Reference: BTAM training should not be one-time. Document all training with dates, participants, and content.

AREA 5: STUDENT RECORDS & INFORMATION SHARING

Effective July 1, 2025

■ Enrollment process updated to require disclosure of serious discipline or criminal history for students in grades 4–12.

HB 268 Reference: Section 2-8. Parents/guardians must disclose prior discipline history, juvenile proceedings, and criminal charges upon enrollment.

■ Expedited student records transfer protocol in place (within 5 days).

HB 268 Reference: Critical records—including behavioral threat assessments, discipline records, and safety-relevant information—must be transferred to receiving schools within 5 business days.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: FOCUS screening data creates a documented behavioral health record that can be transferred as part of the student's safety file.**

■ MOUs updated with law enforcement and DFCS for information sharing.

HB 268 Reference: HB 268 emphasizes inter-agency coordination. Districts should formalize data-sharing agreements that comply with FERPA while enabling timely safety communication.

■ Teachers provided access to relevant safety information about students in their classrooms.

HB 268 Reference: Schools must share transferred safety records with teachers who have a legitimate educational interest.

AREA 6: SCHOOL CLIMATE & MTSS

Ongoing

■ Schools with low climate ratings (1–2 stars) implementing PBIS and RTI programs.

HB 268 Reference: HB 268 requires these schools to implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and Response to Intervention frameworks to improve discipline and school environment.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: FOCUS includes a dedicated School Climate & Support subscale (Items 21–25) that measures perceived safety, belonging, adult trust, and fairness—providing actionable data for PBIS/RTI planning.**

- School climate data collected and reviewed at least annually.

HB 268 Reference: Climate data should inform safety plans and universal prevention programming. Districts should track climate trends over time.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: FOCUS climate data can be aggregated at the school and district level to identify patterns, compare schools, and target improvement efforts.**

AREA 7: ATTENDANCE MONITORING & STUDENT WELFARE

Effective July 1, 2025

- Protocol in place to alert child welfare agencies when a student misses 30 consecutive days without notice.

HB 268 Reference: Section 2-10. Schools must notify DFCS and may request law enforcement to conduct a wellness check.

- Chronic absenteeism tracked as a potential indicator of student risk.

HB 268 Reference: Attendance patterns can signal withdrawal, mental health concerns, or safety threats. Integrate attendance monitoring with BTAM and behavioral health screening.

✓ **SBTAM/FOCUS: FOCUS captures school avoidance behavior (Items 12–13) as part of the core screener, allowing teams to cross-reference attendance data with self-reported student experience.**

Your Next Steps

If you identified gaps in Areas 2, 3, or 6, your district may benefit from implementing a proactive, screening-led approach to behavioral threat assessment. The SBTAM framework and FOCUS Universal Adaptive Screener were built specifically to address the behavioral health and threat assessment mandates in HB 268—and to go beyond compliance toward genuine prevention.

1

Learn the Framework

Visit sbtam.com/framework to understand how Screening-Led BTAM closes the identification gap.

2

See FOCUS in Action

Request a demonstration at standardeducation.com/solutions/focus to see how adaptive screening works.

3

Build Your SBTAM Team

Download the free SBTAM Team Starter Kit at sbtam.com/resources (coming soon).

Questions about HB 268 compliance?

Contact Steven Hornyak at sbtam.com or request a FOCUS briefing at standardeducation.com/contact

This checklist is provided as a planning tool based on publicly available information about Georgia HB 268 as of February 2026. It does not constitute legal advice. Districts should consult their legal counsel and the Georgia Department of Education for authoritative guidance on compliance requirements. Some provisions have phased implementation timelines; verify specific deadlines with official state sources.

Developed by Steven Hornyak, creator of the SBTAM framework and the FOCUS Universal Adaptive Screener. stevenhornyak.com | sbtam.com