

# GEORGIA HB 268

# Compliance

# Guide

*How SBTAM Helps Georgia School Districts Meet the New Behavioral Health & School Safety Mandate*

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Provided by SBTAM.com | School Safety Through Proactive Identification  
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This guide explains how SBTAM addresses each of the four core compliance areas established by Georgia House Bill 268 — and provides a practical roadmap for districts to achieve full compliance.

## Understanding Georgia HB 268

Georgia House Bill 268 raised the bar for school safety across the state. HB 268 requires every Georgia public school to implement a 'structured behavioral health and threat assessment management component' — moving well beyond physical security measures like cameras and locks.

For district leaders, this creates both a mandate and an opportunity. The mandate: you must have a documented, systematic approach to behavioral health and threat assessment. The opportunity: districts that build this system proactively will be better positioned to protect students, reduce crises, and demonstrate responsible stewardship to their communities and the state.

***SBTAM is not just aligned with HB 268 — it was built for exactly this kind of legislation.***

### Key Finding:

Research shows that traditional threat assessment models that rely on reported incidents identify nearly 0% of at-risk students before a crisis event. Districts implementing universal behavioral screening through SBTAM identify up to 22% of at-risk students proactively — and connect more than 59% of them to services within 7 days.

## The Four Pillars of HB 268 Compliance

HB 268 establishes four core areas where Georgia districts must demonstrate compliance. Below, we show exactly how SBTAM addresses each one — not just adequately, but comprehensively.

### Pillar 1: The Behavioral Health Mandate

HB 268 requires schools to have a structured component that specifically addresses student behavioral health — including both internalizing concerns (depression, suicidal ideation, hopelessness) and externalizing concerns (aggression, anger, access to weapons).

What the Law Requires	How SBTAM Delivers
A structured behavioral health screening component for students	FOCUS screens every student for both internalizing and externalizing risk factors — universally, not just those referred by staff.
Identification of students in need of mental health support	FOCUS's Self-Harm Risk Assessment (SRA) module automatically triggers for students showing internalizing risk indicators, ensuring no student is missed.
A systematic approach — not reactive, not ad hoc	SBTAM provides a documented framework with defined roles, meeting structures, and case management protocols.

### Pillar 2: Mandatory Multidisciplinary BTAM Teams

HB 268 requires every school to establish a formal Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) team composed of multiple disciplines. The law is explicit: this is not optional, and the team must be operational — not just on paper.

SBTAM provides the complete operational framework for building and sustaining these teams:

- Team role definitions for Administrators, Counselors, SROs, and Mental Health Leads (see our free SBTAM Team Starter Kit)
- Meeting agenda templates and a standard operating cadence
- A case management and documentation system that creates the compliance paper trail
- The FOCUS Screener as the data engine that gives teams something concrete to act on

The free SBTAM Team Starter Kit gives you everything you need to build your compliant BTAM team — role definitions, meeting templates, responsibility matrices, and documentation forms. Download it at [sbtam.com](https://sbtam.com).

### Pillar 3: Grades 6–12 Screening & Active Prevention

HB 268 explicitly targets grades 6–12, mandating active prevention strategies for suicide and youth violence — not just awareness training, but systematic identification and intervention.

FOCUS was designed specifically for this age group. Here's how it fulfills the law's prevention requirements:

- Universal Screening: Every student in grades 6–12 is screened three times per year (Fall, Winter, Spring), ensuring no student falls through the cracks
- Adaptive Branching: Students who cross risk thresholds automatically trigger deeper assessment — the Self-Harm Risk Assessment (SRA) for suicidality or the Behavior Threat Assessment (BTA) for violence risk
- Non-Biased Data: FOCUS relies on direct student self-report, removing the 'referral bias' that causes quiet, withdrawn students to go undetected

- Actionable Results: FOCUS results feed directly into your SBTAM team's case review, creating a direct line from identification to intervention

### Pillar 4: MTSS, PBIS & RTI Integration

HB 268 emphasizes the use of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) frameworks. Safety and behavioral health cannot exist in a silo.

SBTAM is built on the MTSS framework. Every student identified through FOCUS screening is placed in a tier:

Tier	Description	SBTAM Response
Tier 1 — Universal	Low risk; student is coping well	Annual check-in; no additional action
Tier 2 — Moderate	Elevated concern; student is struggling	Counselor check-ins, Wellness Plan, monitoring
Tier 3 — High / Elevated	Significant risk indicators	Team activation, Safety Plan, possible community referral

This tiered structure maps directly onto your existing PBIS or MTSS framework — SBTAM doesn't replace what you already have; it adds the behavioral health data layer that makes it all work.

### District Readiness Assessment

Before you can demonstrate HB 268 compliance, you need to know where the gaps are. Use this quick assessment to identify what your district currently has — and what SBTAM can provide.

*Check all that currently apply to your district:*

<input type="checkbox"/>	We have a formally appointed multidisciplinary BTAM team at each school
<input type="checkbox"/>	Our BTAM team meets on a regular, documented schedule
<input type="checkbox"/>	We have a universal behavioral health screening process for all students in grades 6–12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Our screening process identifies BOTH internalizing and externalizing risk factors
<input type="checkbox"/>	We have a formal protocol for moving from a screener flag to a team review
<input type="checkbox"/>	We have documented Wellness Plan and Safety Plan templates
<input type="checkbox"/>	Our safety data is aligned with our MTSS/PBIS framework
<input type="checkbox"/>	We can demonstrate compliance documentation to a state auditor today
<input type="checkbox"/>	Our screening process removes referral bias — it captures quiet, withdrawn students
<input type="checkbox"/>	We have provided prevention training specifically targeting grades 6–12

If you checked fewer than 7 of these boxes, your district has meaningful compliance gaps that SBTAM is designed to close. If you checked all 10, SBTAM can help you document, systematize, and strengthen what you already have.

## The SBTAM Compliance Roadmap

Achieving HB 268 compliance doesn't happen overnight — but with the right framework, most districts can close their gaps within a single semester.

### Phase 1 | Team Formation (Weeks 1–4)

Appoint your SBTAM Coordinator and core team members. Download the free SBTAM Team Starter Kit. Hold your kickoff meeting. Establish your documentation system. Communicate the SBTAM framework to school staff.

### Phase 2 | Universal Screening Launch (Weeks 4–8)

Schedule your first FOCUS screening window. Administer FOCUS to all students in grades 6–12. Review initial results with your SBTAM team. Identify Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. Begin case management for flagged students.

### Phase 3 | Active Case Management (Weeks 8–16)

Hold bi-weekly SBTAM team meetings. Maintain documented case summaries for all active students. Develop and implement Wellness Plans (Tier 2) and Safety Plans (Tier 3). Schedule your second screening window (Winter).

### Phase 4 | Compliance Documentation (Ongoing)

Maintain your SBTAM case files as your compliance record. Conduct three screening windows per year (Fall, Winter, Spring). Provide annual professional development to staff. Report outcomes to district leadership quarterly.

## Ready to Achieve Compliance — and Save a Life?

HB 268 is the floor, not the ceiling. The districts that move from compliance to excellence are the ones that build a true culture of proactive safety — where every student is seen, every risk is identified early, and every intervention is documented and defensible.

SBTAM gives you the framework. FOCUS gives you the data. Together, they give you the confidence to walk into any audit — or any parent meeting — knowing you did everything possible to keep your students safe.

**The next step is simple:**

Schedule a free FOCUS demonstration at [sbtam.com](https://sbtam.com)

**[sbtam.com](https://sbtam.com)**

*This guide is provided free of charge for Georgia school districts. For questions or to schedule a FOCUS demonstration, visit [sbtam.com](https://sbtam.com).*

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