

Fulton County Schools is committed to providing safe and secure learning environments for our students. Our Board of Education makes annual, ongoing investments that provide safety and security to our physical buildings as well as programs that focus on the social and emotional well-being of our students and staff. This commitment continues with regular parent and community education about current student safety issues.

What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid pain medicine, like morphine or oxycodone. It has been used for pain control in the medical field for over 60 years. In the United States, fentanyl has been illegally imported and sold to people with opioid use disorder (opioid addiction). Fentanyl is much stronger/concentrated than other medicines like morphine or oxycodone, and because of this, has a very high risk of overdose and death. In August 2022, the DEA began seizing brightly colored fentanyl pills, dubbed “rainbow fentanyl” in 18 states. Fentanyl can come in pills or powder form and various bright colors, shapes and sizes in order to drive addiction amongst children and young adults. [DEA One Pill Can Kill](#) [DEA Fake Pills Fact Sheet](#)

What are the key symptoms of fentanyl/opioid overdose?

- Cold and clammy skin
- Decreased or absent breathing; respiratory depression
- Pinpoint/constricted pupils (the black part of the eye)

What is the current overdose death rates among adolescents in Georgia? (GA Department of Public Health 09/01/2022)

Fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses have been increasing nationally and in Georgia in recent years. In Georgia, from 2019 to 2021, drug overdose deaths increased by 61% to 2,404 and fentanyl-involved overdose deaths increased by **230%** to 1,294, representing 2,404 and 1,294 lives lost respective in 2021. Adults are not the only demographic affected by this alarming trend, **the increase in fentanyl-involved overdose deaths among adolescents (persons aged 10-19 years) was far greater;** overdose deaths rose **800%**, and increases were seen across all sexes, races, ethnicities, and geographic areas of the state.

What is the primary treatment of a opioids/fentanyl overdose?

Naloxone is a highly effective medicine that can save lives when administered to patients experiencing fentanyl overdoses. Naloxone works by reversing the effects of opioids. It can be given as a shot in the muscle or a spray in the nose and can help someone start breathing again. People who overdose on fentanyl can die quickly so call 911 immediately

Tips for Parents: [NIH Opioid Facts Parents Need to Know](#)

- Be a good listener.
- Set clear expectations about drug and alcohol use, including real consequences.
- Help your child deal with peer pressure to use drugs.
- Get to know your child’s friends and their parents.
- If concerned, have your child evaluated for mental health issues such as depression or anxiety.
- Monitor your child’s whereabouts and your child’s medications.
- Do not leave unused opioids in accessible places in your home.
- Supervise teen activities.
- Talk to your child often and do not ignore signs that your child is changing in negative ways.

According to the Fulton County Schools Student Code of Conduct, student “possession” of any substance believed to be alcohol or drugs is a Tier 3 offense with discipline ranging from up to 10 days out of school suspension up to a Discipline Hearing that can result in long term suspension or expulsion from school. Student “distribution” of any substance believed to be alcohol or drugs is a Tier 4 offense and will earn 10 days out of school suspension AND a Discipline Hearing that can result in long term suspension or expulsion from school.