

Georgia Multi-Tiered System of Supports Recognition System

2026-2027



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Overview: GaMTSS Recognition System 2026-2027

Fidelity Requirements

Districts and schools must complete fidelity requirements to be eligible for recognition. Each fidelity tool is only required once during the data submission window. All fidelity tools require an external facilitator to support accurate administration. The external facilitator's contact information must be included when submitting fidelity data using the Data Submission Process (available in the GaMTSS Recognition Application on August 3, 2026).

School fidelity data may be entered and will save automatically. **However, the “Submit” button will not be available until the district has submitted the District Fidelity Tool and all required school fidelity tools (i.e., Walkthrough, Team Fidelity Tool, School Fidelity Tool) have been completed and entered.** Completing the District Fidelity Tool early in the year will allow schools to submit their fidelity data requirements for recognition.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION		DATA SUBMISSION WINDOW
District	Complete the District Fidelity Tool (DFT)	August 3, 2026 – June 1, 2027
School	Complete a Walkthrough	
	Complete the Team Fidelity Tool (TFT)	
	Complete School Fidelity Tool (SFT) Tiers 1-3	

Outcome Criteria

DATA	OUTCOME CRITERIA		
Tier 1 Attendance (CCRPI Results)	80-100% of Students Absent < 10% of Enrolled Days OR Percentage of Students Absent < 10% of Enrolled Days Increases by at least 3% Compared to FY26 1 Point		
Tier 1 Behavior (Student Records)	95-100% of Elementary Students Receive Zero Discipline Incidents that Result in a State Reportable Action 85-100% of Secondary* Students Receive Zero Discipline Incidents that Result in a State Reportable Action 1 Point		
Tier 1 English Language Arts (CCRPI Results)	80-100% of Students Proficient or Distinguished AND 80-100% of Students Reading At or Above Grade-Level OR ≥ 80 ELA Progress Score for FY25 to FY27 in Each CCRPI Grade Cluster Served (Elementary, Middle, High) OR School Meets or Exceeds ELA Target Score for Closing Gaps in Each CCRPI Grade Cluster Served (E, M, H) 1 Point		
Tier 1 Mathematics (CCRPI Results)	80-100% of Students Proficient or Distinguished OR ≥ 80 Math Progress Score for FY25 to FY27 in Each CCRPI Grade Cluster Served (E, M, H) OR School Meets or Exceeds Math Target Score for Closing Gaps in Each CCRPI Grade Cluster Served (E, M, H) 1 Point		
Tier 1 School Climate (Survey Data)	Meet Participation Requirements on all School Climate Surveys AND Survey Domain Star Rating of 4 or 5 1 Point		
	EMERGING	OPERATIONAL	DISTINGUISHED
Point Ranges	0-2 Point	3-4 Points	5 Points

*Secondary schools include any school serving grades 6–12. Schools classified as elementary will also be considered secondary if they serve two or more grades within 6–12 (e.g., a K–7 school).

Georgia Multi-Tiered System of Supports

Please see the [Five Essential Components](#) document to learn more about Georgia Multi-Tiered System of Supports (GaMTSS).

Purpose of GaMTSS Recognition

GaMTSS Recognition is an optional submission process that allows the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to highlight and support districts and schools effectively implementing a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). By submitting fidelity data and demonstrating positive outcomes in academics, behavior, and wellbeing, schools may earn one of three recognition levels: Emerging, Operational, or Distinguished.

School Eligibility

To be eligible for recognition in 2026–2027, a school within a GaMTSS district must meet **one** of the following conditions and complete all [fidelity requirements](#):

- The school was recognized during the 2025–2026 school year.
- The school completed the district-led [onboarding process](#) to implement Tier 1.
- Implemented Tier 1 as a [GaMTSS Cohort](#) Model School.

For additional detailed guidance, please see the [Recognition Pathways](#).

District Responsibilities

GaMTSS districts with schools seeking recognition must:

- **Complete and submit the District Fidelity Tool (DFT)** as a District Leadership Team with an External Facilitator (GaMTSS Program Specialists or a RESA School Climate Support Specialist). The District Leadership Team must include at least three members and be appropriately sized for the district. Completion of the DFT is required for recognition because district systems, policies, and supports directly influence schools' ability to implement GaMTSS with fidelity. The DFT ensures the district is building the infrastructure necessary to sustain continuous improvement across schools.
- **Ensure all eligible schools seeking recognition complete required fidelity activities** with an External Facilitator within the designated time frame and submit their data through the Data Submission Process (available in the GaMTSS Recognition Application on August 3, 2026). Schools may enter fidelity data but will not be able to "Submit" until the district has submitted the District Fidelity Tool and all required school fidelity tools (i.e., Walkthrough, Team Fidelity Tool, School Fidelity Tool) have been completed and entered.

- **Partner with the RESA School Climate Support Specialist** to develop a Professional Learning and Coaching Plan ([sample template](#)) when onboarding schools that were not recognized the previous year. A district may add schools or programs for recognition following the [Process for Onboarding New GaMTSS Schools in 2026-2027](#) only if it had at least one school recognized in 2025-2026 and is not participating in a GaMTSS Cohort.

Districts Without Prior GaMTSS Participation

Districts seeking to participate in GaMTSS recognition that did not have any schools recognized in 2025–2026 must apply and be accepted into a three-year GaMTSS Cohort before their schools become eligible for recognition. GaMTSS Cohort applications will open in fall 2026.

Recognized Schools Receive

Recognized schools will receive a certificate and will be listed on the GaMTSS webpage. Operational and Distinguished schools will additionally receive a letter of recognition from the State Superintendent to the District Superintendent.

Schools that earn a Climate Star Rating and achieve an Operational or Distinguished GaMTSS Recognition level will receive an additional 0.5 bonus star. For more information, please see the calculation guide on the [Georgia School Climate Star Rating webpage](#).

Eligible Programs, Pre-K schools, and any setting without available [outcome data](#) who complete the fidelity requirements will receive a certificate and will be listed on the GaMTSS webpage. Recognition levels (Emerging, Operational, or Distinguished) will not be assigned.

Required Fidelity Tools

To be eligible for GaMTSS recognition for the 2026-2027 school year, districts and schools must use specific fidelity tools (linked below). Data for each tool must be submitted via the Data Submission Process (available in the GaMTSS Recognition Application on August 3, 2026).

	Tool	Purpose	Completion Requirements
District	The District Fidelity Tool (DFT)	Measures the fidelity of district-wide infrastructure for GaMTSS.	Must be completed by at least three members of the District Leadership Team led by an External Facilitator.
School	The Walkthrough	Measures the implementation of chosen practices aligned with district improvement goals.	Must be led by an External Facilitator.
	The Team Fidelity Tool (TFT)	Measures the fidelity of problem-solving meetings.	Must be completed by at least three members of the School Leadership Team led by an External Facilitator.
	The School Fidelity Tool (SFT)	Measures the fidelity of schoolwide implementation of GaMTSS.	Must be completed by at three members of the School Leadership Team led by an External Facilitator.

The Role of the External Facilitator

The External Facilitator supports the accurate administration of the GaMTSS fidelity tools. To provide an objective perspective, an external facilitator for the [District Fidelity Tool](#) must be a GaMTSS Program Specialist or RESA School Climate Support Specialist. The external facilitator for the school fidelity tools must be someone from their district or another position outside the school.

GaMTSS Recognition Levels

Using the [GaMTSS outcome criteria](#), schools can achieve three recognition levels in 2026-2027: Emerging, Operational, or Distinguished.

1. **Emerging** schools will complete all fidelity requirements and earn 0-2 points for outcome data.
2. **Operational** schools will complete all fidelity requirements and earn 3-4 points for outcome data.
3. **Distinguished** schools will complete all fidelity requirements and earn 5 points for outcome data.

Recognition determinations will be available soon after or at the same time as CCRPI and School Climate Star Ratings.

GaMTSS Recognition Outcome Data

Outcome Criteria	Outcome Data Source	Data Level	Data Available in GaMTSS Application
Tier 1 Attendance	CCRPI Readiness Data: Student Attendance	All Students	Following CCRPI Release
	CCRPI Readiness Data: Student Attendance Improvement (FY26 - FY27)	All Students	Following CCRPI Release
Tier 1 Behavior	Student Records Data: State Reportable Incidents	All Students	Following District Superintendent Certification
Tier 1 English Language Arts (ELA)	Content Mastery: ELA Achievement Levels	All Students	Following CCRPI Release
	Readiness: At or Above Grade-Level Reading	All Students	Following CCRPI Release
	Progress: ELA Progress Score (2025-2027)	Each Grade Cluster Served	Following CCRPI Release
	Closing Gaps: ELA	Each Grade Cluster Served	Following CCRPI Release
Tier 1 Mathematics	Content Mastery: Mathematics Achievement Levels	All Students	Following CCRPI Release
	Progress: Mathematics Progress Score (2025-2027)	Each Grade Cluster Served	Following CCRPI Release
	Closing Gaps: Mathematics	Each Grade Cluster Served	Following CCRPI Release
Tier 1 School Climate	Survey Application: Participation	Students, Teachers/ Staff, Families	Following Survey Window Close Date (March 31, 2027)
	School Climate Star Rating: Survey Domain	Students, Teachers/ Staff, Families	Following School Climate Star Rating Release



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