

21st Century Community Learning Centers and Georgia Apex Program Collaboration



The 2017-2018 National Survey of Children's Health: 24% of Georgia's youth aged **3 – 17** years had one or more mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral problem.

What are 21st Century Community Learning Centers?

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) are federally funded afterschool and summer learning programs that offer opportunities to youth across Georgia for 3 specific purposes:

- Provide opportunities for academic enrichment and tutorial services to help students
- Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program
- Offer families of 21st CCLC students opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education

These programs are in a prime position to help foster positive behavioral health, but do not always have access to behavioral health resources, such as education, training, and referral networks in order to serve youth to their full potential. Learn more: <https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/21st-Century-Community-Learning-Centers.aspx>

What is the Georgia Apex Program?

In 2015, the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) started the Georgia Apex Program, a partnership with community health providers in order to:

- Promote early detection of mental health needs in school age youth
- Increase access by bringing behavioral health services to youth in schools
- Create and sustain coordination between providers and the school districts

Services offered may include mental health awareness and parent education events, individual and group therapy, behavior assessments, clubhouse referrals, and community support services. Learn more: <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/be-supported/mental-health-children-young-adults-and-families/apex-3-faqs>

Since 2015, 75% Georgia Apex program providers extended their services over the summer – often in partnership with DBHDD Mental Health Resiliency Clubhouses, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and others.

21st CCLC and Georgia Apex Overlap

Many locations host both 21st CCLC AND Georgia Apex programs. During the 2018 - 2019 school year:

- **562 schools** provided school based behavioral health services via the Georgia Apex program
- **451 schools** offered 21st CCLC programs
- **48 schools** offered both programs

Your location might be one of them! If it's not, there is likely a site nearby.

How Can You Connect with Each Other?

- Communicate information about available services and needs in each program.
- Establish a clear referral process for 21st CCLC staff to connect youth with Georgia Apex program services.
- Enable access to trauma-informed and behavioral health training to afterschool and youth development professionals to identify and respond to signs of behavioral health challenges.
- Collaborate on programming for youth and their families about mental health and social-emotional learning.
- Create partnerships between Georgia Apex program participants and summer learning programs to utilize their facilities and extend services to youth during out-of-school time or as a referral source to schools served.

For more information on afterschool in Georgia, go to www.afterschoolga.org.