



SCHOOL SAFETY LAWS

In addition to everyday laws enforced in your community, which include schools, the State of Georgia has specific laws that apply to school safety. These laws help schools enforce rules that contribute to the overall safety of the school.

OCGA 20-2-1180: Loitering in or on a school safety zone. It shall be unlawful for any person to remain in or on any school safety zone in this state or to remain in or on any such school safety zone when such person does not have a legitimate cause or need to be present thereon. Each principal or designee of each public or private school in this state shall have the authority to exercise such control over the buildings and grounds upon which a school is located to prohibit any person who does not have a legitimate need or cause to be present thereon from loitering upon such premises.

[O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1180 \(Lexis Advance through the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly\)](#)

OCGA 20-2-1181: Disrupting operation of public school, school bus, or school bus stop. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus, or public school bus stop as designated by local boards of education.

[O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181 \(Lexis Advance through the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly\)](#)

OCGA 20-2-1182: Persons other than students who insult or abuse school teachers in the presence of pupils may be ordered to leave school premises. Any parent, guardian, or person other than a student at the public school in question who has been advised that minor children are present and who continues to upbraid, insult, or abuse any public school teacher, public school administrator, or public school bus driver in the presence and hearing of a pupil while on the premises of any public school or public school bus may be ordered by any of the above-designated school personnel to leave the school premises or school bus.

[O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1182 \(Lexis Advance through the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly\)](#)

OCGA 20-2-1184: Reporting of students committing prohibited acts. Any teacher or other person employed at any public or private elementary or secondary school or any dean or public safety officer employed by a college or university who has reasonable cause to believe that a student at that school has committed any act upon school property or at any school function, which act is prohibited by Code Section 16-5-21 or 16-5-24, Chapter 6 of Title 16, and Code Section 16-11-127, 16-11-127.1, 16-11-132, or 16-13-30, shall immediately report the act and the name of the student to the principal or president of that school or the principal's or president's designee; provided, however, that an act which is prohibited by Code Section 16-11-127.1 shall be reported only when it involves a:

- (1) Firearm, as defined in Code Section 16-11-131;
- (2) Dangerous weapon or machine gun, as defined in Code Section 16-11-121; or

(3) Weapon, as defined in Code Section 16-11-127.1, together with an assault.

[O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184 \(Lexis Advance through the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly\)](#)

OCGA 16-5-61: Hazing. It shall be unlawful for any person to haze any student in connection with or as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or other status in a school organization.

[O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61 \(Lexis Advance through the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly\)](#)

OCGA 16-11-127.1: Carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by a school. It shall be unlawful for any person to carry to or to possess or have under such person's control while within a school safety zone, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by a school any weapon or explosive compound, other than fireworks or consumer fireworks the possession of which is regulated by Chapter 10 of Title 25.

[O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1 \(Lexis Advance through the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly\)](#)

OCGA 16-13-32.4: Manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing controlled substances in, on, or near public or private schools. It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance or marijuana in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any real property owned by or leased to any public or private elementary school, secondary school, or school board used for elementary or secondary education.

[O.C.G.A. § 16-13-32.4 \(Lexis Advance through the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly\)](#)

OCGA 3-3-21.1: Possession of alcoholic beverages on the grounds of a public school. No person shall possess any alcoholic beverages upon the grounds or within any structure of a public elementary school, public high school, or public trade, vocational, or industrial school.

[O.C.G.A. § 3-3-21.1 \(Lexis Advance through the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly\)](#)

In addition to the laws described above, some penalties for other crimes committed upon school grounds against students or school personnel are enforced with stronger penalties. Examples of these crimes include, but are not limited to, various degrees of assault and battery crimes. For more detailed information (to include subsections, exemptions, and definitions) regarding the above laws, please review the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA).