

Georgia's School Siting Regulations

State and territorial health agencies regularly inform state-level policy, create new programs and initiatives, serve as liaisons to federal agencies, and provide support to local health departments, all of which are crucial to a comprehensive Health in All Policies (HiAP). A Georgia state law requires the Georgia Department of Education to collaborate with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Department of Transportation, and the Georgia Department of Public Health to review and approve proposed new school sites.



Georgia state law, OCGA 20-2-260 (c) (7), requires the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to review and approve proposed new school sites.

All information collected by the local school board is compiled into a report and delivered to the appropriate district's Department of Public Health (DPH) for review. In addition to reviewing the report, a panel of three auditors, referred to as the School Site Approval Committee, must visit the site.

The School Site Approval Committee includes one representative each from the Georgia Department of Public Health, the Local Board of Education and the GaDOE. The district-level DPH gives the final approval with regard to the safety of the proposed school location.

Site Selection Process

The GaDOE must procure a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment to determine potential hazards that could affect the safety, health, and integrity of the proposed facility and its occupants.

Specific Considerations Include:

- » If there are hazards within three miles of the proposed school site.
- » If the assessment determines that hazards exist, it is required that the engineer perform a risk/hazard analysis.
- » The risk/hazard analysis must follow GaDOE guidelines.

Site Approval is Needed for:

- » All new school sites.
- » Additional acreage purchased for an existing site.
- » Existing sites on which a new educational facility will be constructed or leased.
- » Privately owned site on which public school students will be attending.

Turn for more »

Engaging Other Sectors:

- Letter of assurance from the Floodplain Management Coordinator of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources that acreage for new sites is outside of the 100 year floodplain or a Coastal High Hazard Area.
- A notification letter from the school system to the Georgia Department of Transportation and local road department that states the proposed plans for the site and requests that an evaluation be performed on the roadway.
- A member of the Local Health Department, Regional Health Department, or local water/sewer representative must verify that there is suitable sewer capacity in the area to handle the school and that an adequate supply of potable water is available.

For more information, please contact:

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GaDOE's List of Hazards

- » Electrical transmission lines.
- » Oil or petroleum transmission lines and storage facilities.
- » Natural gas transmission and distribution lines larger than 10" with a PSI of 200 or greater.
- » Hazardous chemical pipelines.
- » Propane storage facilities.
- » Major highways.
- » Airports, approach and departure paths.
- » Industrial or manufacturing facilities.
- » Lakes, rivers, dams, reservoirs, or other bodies of water.
- » Potential flooding because the property is located within the 100 year floodplain or dam breach zone.
- » Nuclear waste storage facilities.
- » Active or abandoned mines or quarries.
- » Remedial hazardous waste sites.
- » Landfills and dumps.
- » Sewage treatment plants.
- » Power plants.
- » Water towers adjacent to the site.
- » Military installations.
- » Munitions or explosives storage or manufacturing.



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Health in All Policies is a collaborative approach that integrates and articulates health considerations into policy making and programming across sectors, and at all levels, to improve the health of all communities and people.

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