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# The Safe Schools Initiative

## Ending Restraint and Seclusion in Georgia Public Schools

### **A Declaration of Student Rights to Education and Safety**

We, the undersigned, believe that all students have the right to receive an appropriate education in an environment that is physically and psychologically safe and welcoming - one that fosters learning and encourages positive behavior. We believe that all students can learn and thrive in school with the appropriate support and encouragement. Additionally, students have a right to be treated with dignity and respect. We believe that no student should be subjected to abusive treatment under the guise of providing educational services. No child should be afraid to go to school.

We believe that restraint and seclusion are inherently dangerous practices. They are neither educational nor effective. We believe that their use constitutes a failure on the part of schools to educate students and promote positive behaviors.

### ***Therefore:***

To safeguard the right that all Georgia students have to receive an appropriate education and to ensure that students are educated in an environment that fosters learning and encourages the use of positive behavioral supports, all students should be free from restraint and seclusion in Georgia schools.

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***If you would like to sign on to this Declaration, or for more information***

***regarding the Safe Schools Initiative, please send an e-mail to***

***info@thegao.org or call (800)537-2329.***

***To sign on electronically, please enter <http://tiny.cc/5ge6X> and follow the prompts.***