



HEALTH CARE | LIFE RESOURCES | SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Partnerships in healthcare: "Adopt a school"

PRESENTED BY

Shelia Baker

Assistant Superintendent of Support Services
Harris County School District

Steven Ramey

School-Based Health Administrator
CareSource of Georgia



CareSource is a nonprofit managed care organization operating nationwide, serving more than 2 million members across 12 states—Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Mississippi—offering high-quality, affordable health coverage.

Founded in 1989, CareSource administers one of the largest Medicaid managed care plans in the U.S.

CareSource is dedicated to transforming health care for those served by government-sponsored health care programs and offers a variety of health insurance plans including Medicaid, Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan, Marketplace, and TRICARE Prime® Demo by CareSource Military & Veterans™.

MISSION STATEMENT

To make a lasting difference in our members' lives by improving their health and well-being.

VISION STATEMENT

Transforming lives through innovative health and life services.



CareSource School-Based Health Program

Awareness



Utilization



Health Education



How We Collaborate

Supports school-based health clinics or school-based telehealth services.

May include the purchase of telehealth equipment or a grant to support health services in the school-based health clinic.

Sponsorship of the school is provided for up to three years. After this period, support continues through onsite collaboration and parent engagement activities.

Commitment from the school regarding data exchange and onsite marketing at PTA meetings, honors ceremonies, and graduations.

Onsite marketing of school-based health or telehealth services and CareSource benefits.

Encourage adoption of positive health habits by providing health education and training programs focused on proper nutrition, regular physical activity, and substance abuse prevention.



Program Goals

- 1 Increase access** to Medical and Behavioral Health Services.
- 2 Support membership growth** and retention.
- 3 Promote member engagement** in programs offered and value-added benefits.
- 4 Develop community partnerships** that promote healthy students.
- 5 Address health-related barriers** to attendance by offering timely medical and behavioral health support.
- 6 Recognize the link between health and learning** by promoting healthy students for improved educational outcomes.



Harris County School District

Mission Statement

Ensuring an excellent education for every child in Harris County

Vision Statement

One community committed to the well-being and preparation of every student for life-long success in a global society

Beliefs

We Believe:

- Safety is a priority.
- Education is a shared responsibility.
- Inclusive environments develop the whole child.
- Compassionate and nurturing relationships are vital to success.
- Workforce development empowers individual success in a global society.





About the Harris County School District



Harris County School District is an accredited K-12 school system based in the county seat of Hamilton, Georgia.

Student Population: 5,600+

Employee Population: 950+

Number of Schools:

- 4 Elementary (Pre-K - 4th grades)
- 1 Intermediate (5th - 6th grades)
- 1 Middle (7th - 8th grades)
- 1 High (9th -12th grades)
 - 24 Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Pathways
(will be adding Artificial Intelligence)

Number of Program Sites:

- 1 Science and Technology Center
- 1 Alternative School
- 1 Non-Traditional Program
- 1 Therapeutic Program

Career Pathways

GADOE Career Pathways

Pathways

Pathways

Agriculture • Vet Science • Forest/Natural Resources • Plant & Floral • Design	Agriculture • Horticulture & Forest Science • Horticulture & Animal Science • Forestry & Animal Science	Architecture & Construction • Carpentry • Electrical • Welding • Machining	Arts, A/. Tech. Comm • Graphic Communication
Business Management • Business • Technology	Education & Training • Teaching as Profession	Healthcare • Allied Health • Patient Care • Sports Medicine	Information Technology • Cybersecurity • Computer Science
Law & Pub. Safety Criminal • Investigations • Firefighting	STEM • Engineering • Drafting & Design	Transportation • Automotive Technology	Army JROTC



HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Ensuring an excellent education for every child in Harris County.



Harris County School District and CareSource

- Beginning in June 2022, a series of planning meetings, site visits, and in-depth discussions with key representatives from CareSource, Mercer Medicine, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, and Global Partnership for Telehealth laid the foundation for establishing school-based telehealth centers in the Harris County School District.
- In January 2023, the Harris County School District became the **first district in Georgia** to implement districtwide school-based telehealth services for **students and staff**.
- Additionally, Harris County School District partnered with CareSource's Life Services program to help families address barriers affecting health and well-being, further enhancing support for the community:
 - CareSource Partnership with School Based Telehealth Centers, Park Elementary, Creekside Intermediate, and Harris County High School Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) – Future Health Professionals Club
- In 2025, Harris County School District Leader, Assistant Superintendent Shelia Baker, was honored with the "Heart of the Community Award" by CareSource for Leadership and Impact; **1st and only school system to ever receive this award**.





Park Elementary School



- Student population: 650+ students
- Grades Served: Pre-Kindergarten to Fourth grade
- Park Elementary has been consistently recognized as a Title I Distinguished School.
- Park uses STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) to develop an integrated curriculum with an agriculture focus.
 - STEAM MISSION STATEMENT: Park develops a community of creative thinkers who communicate the importance of environmental responsibility by solving real world problems.
 - STEAM VISION: Park will create responsible citizens who are environmentally aware.
- In 2022, Park was recognized as a STEAM certified school by the Georgia Department of Education.

Adopt A School Program at Park Elementary School



Parent Teacher Association Partnership at Park Elementary School

CareSource provides financial sponsorship to different parent engagement activities and onsite marketing.

Parents are provided educational materials about CareSource and the telehealth services administered at the school.

School Based Health Administrator partners with the Family Engagement Coordinator to map out calendar of events for member facing opportunities.

Family Engagement Events sponsored include some of the following:

- Fall & Spring Title I Meetings
- STEAM Fall Festival
- Veteran's Day Program
- Read Across America



Health Education

Our health education partners





Tobacco cessation program created by the Georgia Healthy Family Alliance (GHFA), the philanthropic arm of the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians (GAFP) to present Escaping Vaping.

This program launched in Fall 2025 as the successor to Tar Wars.

Students explore:

Impact of vaping and tobacco on health and brain development

Real financial costs of nicotine addiction

Deceptive tactics companies use to target youth

Program features:

Interactive “detective” stations for memorable prevention lessons

All materials provided free of charge

Includes bilingual parent resources and activity supplies

Estimated 950 students trained during Red Ribbon Week 2025
at all Harris County School District Elementary Schools





CareSource partners with the Children's Oral Health Institute (COHI) to present the “Lessons in a Lunchbox” oral health literacy program.

The program is designed to teach proper dental hygiene techniques to prevent tooth decay and provides the following:

Fun, interactive oral health lessons delivered during lunch or classroom time.

Teaches brushing, flossing, and importance of healthy eating habits.

Short, easy-to-understand lessons designed for young students.

Includes activity sheets, educational materials, and oral care supplies.

Supports schools with educator training and program resources for schools.

Encourages hands-on learning to promote lifelong healthy habits.

Flexible implementation tailored to school schedules.

Improves oral health knowledge and reduces cavities.

Provides resources for parents and teachers to reinforce messages.

On World Oral Health Day 2025, CareSource provided dental training and lunchboxes to approximately 185 2nd and 3rd grade students.





Project Power

CareSource is proud to partner with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) in sponsoring Project Power for Youth — an initiative designed to empower young individuals aged 5–12 by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to prevent and manage diabetes.

Program outcomes:

Slow the trajectory of childhood obesity and diabetes, and their related complications.

Enhanced knowledge of physical activity and nutrition.

Greater confidence in making healthy food choices and maintaining regular exercise.

Increased healthy behaviors such as meeting physical activity goals and eating more fruits, vegetables, and water.

How it's delivered:

Facilitators are trained to deliver a comprehensive 6-week course that covers proper exercise techniques and other essential health tips.

Students receive a physical activity kit including jump ropes, water bottles, hacky sacks, activity journals, and more.

In partnership with Creekside Intermediate School and ADA,
the school launched the program in March 2026 with 395 completed pre-surveys.





SBTC Overview and Impact Data

ENROLLMENT SUMMARY FROM IMPLEMENTATION

Recurring Annual Goal: 10% of School's Student Population Enrolled into SBTC

(School Year 2022-2023)

**(Beginning date: January 31, 2023 –
Last date of school: May 22, 2023)**

LOCATION	Student Enrollment	COMPLETED ENROLLMENT	COMPLETED APPOINTMENTS
CENTRAL OFFICE/DISTRICT	N/A	4	0
CREEKSIDE	851	35	2
HCCMS	824	36	1
HCHS	1628	47	4
MCE	550	50	24
NMHE	499	40	3
PARK	566	52	10
PRE	629	42	3
TOTAL	5547	306	47



SBTC Overview and Impact Data

(School Year 2023-2024)

(First date of school: August 8, 2023 –
Last date of school: May 22, 2024)

LOCATION	Student Enrollment	COMPLETED ENROLLMENT	COMPLETED APPOINTMENTS
CENTRAL OFFICE/DISTRICT	N/A	11	0
CREEKSIDE	817	125	32
HCCMS	858	122	26
HCHS	1618	192	32
MCE	557	128	61
NMHE	523	107	52
PARK	598	117	45
PRE	623	82	34
TOTAL	5594	884	282



SBTC Overview and Impact Data

ENROLLMENT SUMMARY TO CURRENT DATE

(School Year 2024-2025)

(First date of school: August 8, 2024 –

Last date of school: May 23, 2025)

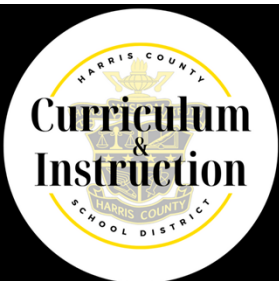
LOCATION	Student Enrollment	COMPLETED ENROLLMENT	COMPLETED APPOINTMENTS
CENTRAL OFFICE/DISTRICT	N/A	6	0
CREEKSIDE	785	174	45
HCCMS	848	183	28
HCHS	1703	262	35
MCE	529	144	68
NMHE	516	124	40
PARK	636	160	48
PRE	638	127	27
TOTAL	5655	1180	291



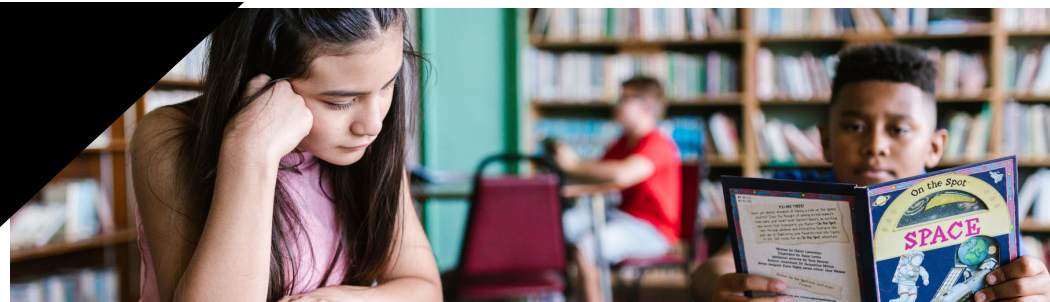
SBTC Overview and Impact Data

(School Year 2025-2026)
(First date of school: August 7, 2025 –
Last date of reporting: April 17, 2026)

LOCATION	Student Enrollment	COMPLETED ENROLLMENT	COMPLETED APPOINTMENTS
CENTRAL OFFICE/DISTRICT	N/A	5	5
CREEKSIDE	850	195	16
HCCMS	819	192	22
HCHS	1678	341	25
MCE	542	175	33
NMHE	494	123	14
PARK	591	125	24
PRE	585	163	16
TOTAL	5559	1319	155



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Current Status:
 Outrank the state
 and Region in many
 areas especially in
 3rd -8th and several
 AP categories

CCRPI = 88.1% (<i>4th in the State</i>)	SAT AVERAGE SCORE – 1100 (<i>ABOVE THE STATE AVERAGE</i>)
GRADUATION RATE = 94.87% (<i>ABOVE BOTH THE REGION AND THE STATE</i>)	AP PASS RATES (<i>SUPRASSING THE STATE AND GLOBAL AVERAGES</i>) • BIOLOGY – 86% • CALCULUS – 85.7% • CHEMISTRY – 100% • COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES – 70% • ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION – 98.1% • ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE – 97.2% • STATISTICS -65.5% • US GOVERNMENT & POLITICS – 100% • US HISTORY – 100%
GMAS/EOC (<i>ABOVE STATE AND REGION AVERAGES</i>) • ELA – 3RD AND 8TH • MATH – 3RD -8TH • SCIENCE- 5TH & 8TH • SOCIAL STUDIES – 8TH • AMERICAN LITERATURE – 11TH • BIOLOGY – 9TH & 10TH • US HISTORY – 10TH	ATTENDANCE RATE = 96% (<i>TOP 10% IN STATE</i>) • outrank the State of Georgia in Attendance with number of students chronically absent less than 10% or more of enrolled school days

Overall Goal:
 Goal is to reach
 the top 10% in
 all areas and
 then move to the
 top 5%

HCSD & CareSource: A Valuable of Partnership



- **Improved Access to Care:** The partnership between Harris County School District's School-Based Telehealth Program and CareSource expands students' access to timely medical services, reducing barriers like transportation and missed class time.

Transparent Communication: Open sharing of data, expectations, and outcomes builds trust between the district and CareSource, ensuring all stakeholders understand how services are delivered and improved.

Better Student Outcomes: Coordinated care and clear communication lead to earlier interventions, improved attendance, and stronger academic performance.

- **Stronger Community Trust:** Families gain confidence in the program when they see clear, honest collaboration between the school district and CareSource, reinforcing long-term engagement and support.

Choosing the Right Business Partner

PRINCIPLE	WHAT IT MEANS
Aligned Mission & Values	Partner shares commitment to student health, wellness, and educational success.
Data Management & Evaluation	Strong systems for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting to ensure measurable impact.
Culture of Collaboration	Willingness to engage with schools, families, and community stakeholders in a cooperative and transparent manner.



Testimonials



TESTIMONIAL — HCSD SCHOOL-BASED TELEHEALTH

September 13, 2023 · To Whom It May Concern:

As a married dependent to a retired Army Officer, we chose to stay in the area due to access to military health care. However, we did choose to live about 30 minutes north of Fort Moore (formerly known as Fort Benning). I started work in Harris County due to the proximity to my home, but one of our concerns was the distance to health care.

Harris County High School is approximately 45 minutes from Martin Army Community Hospital. In the past when I needed to go to the doctor for a non-emergency concern, it required me to take at least a half day off (time to drive to the doctor, wait, see the doctor, fill prescription, and drive back to school).

In Hamilton, where our high school is located, they opened an Urgent Care approximately two years ago. This became a better option; however, I still had to have teacher coverage at school due to the unpredictability of waiting times.

In 2022-2023, we received information on the option to use the HCSD School-Based Telehealth Program. At some point after signing up, I did get the head cold that all teachers get at school. On a whim, I went to the nurse at the start of school and asked about the Tele-Health program. I told her my planning period was first block. She texted me and said an appointment was available in 20 minutes with a doctor. Within 15 minutes of arriving at the nurse's office, I had my vitals done, seen a doctor and had a prescription that would be ready after school. I was able to report back to my classroom before my planning period had even ended.

If it hadn't been for this amazing service, I would have definitely had to take time off of work. This would have impacted my students who have disabilities where any changes can affect their behaviors. This program keeps teachers at school for minor health concerns, and is incredibly beneficial for educators, staff, and students to keep them in school, which is where we all need to be.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bolar

Kathleen Bolar · Special Education Teacher

“Within 15 minutes of arriving at the nurse’s office, I had my vitals done, seen a doctor, and had a prescription that would be ready after school.”



TESTIMONIAL — PRINCIPAL, DR. ALLYSON DOUTHIT, PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Park Elementary, we are incredibly grateful for our Adopt-a-School partnership with CareSource and the dedicated support of Mr. Steven Ramey. His commitment to our students, staff, and families has been invaluable, providing essential resources that directly impact student success, family engagement, and the overall learning environment.

One of the most significant contributions from CareSource has been the communication translator devices, which have revolutionized how we connect with non-English-speaking families. These devices ensure that language is never a barrier to engagement and student well-being, allowing parents to effectively communicate with teachers and school staff about their child's education, progress, and needs.

Attendance is a critical factor in student achievement, and CareSource's incentive prizes for student attendance have played a key role in motivating our students to be in school consistently. These incentives provide students with tangible rewards for their dedication, reinforcing positive attendance habits that contribute to academic success.

Family and community engagement are vital to a thriving school, and the refreshments provided for parent engagement events and PTO meetings have helped us create a warm and welcoming environment for families. These contributions encourage parents to participate in important school discussions and activities, strengthening the bridge between home and school.

Technology access is essential for 21st-century learning, and CareSource has addressed this need by providing earbuds for student Chromebooks, ensuring that students can engage in digital learning without distractions. Additionally, their donation of Chromebook charging stations has been instrumental in keeping student devices powered and ready for use throughout the school day, reducing disruptions to learning. The student water bottles have also supported our efforts to promote health and hydration, especially as students move through their busy school day.

Mr. Ramey and CareSource's presence and support at the beginning of the school year provided an extra layer of encouragement as we launched another year of learning. Their involvement helped ensure that both students and staff had the resources they needed from day one, setting the stage for a successful academic year.

We deeply appreciate Mr. Ramey and CareSource for their unwavering commitment to Park Elementary. Their generosity and partnership demonstrate a shared dedication to student achievement, family involvement, and the overall well-being of our school community. We are proud to collaborate with such a caring and impactful organization.



PRESS RELEASE — HEART OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT LEADER HONORED WITH INAUGURAL HEART OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT IN HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

HAMILTON, GA (MAY 25, 2025) – The Harris County School District (HCSD) announced that Shelia Baker, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, has been recognized with the **2025 Heart of the Community Award** presented by CareSource. Baker and the Harris County School District were honored as the only school system in Georgia to ever receive this prestigious award, which acknowledges organizations and individuals who go above and beyond to ensure access to services and support for CareSource members and the broader community.

The award was presented at the CareSource Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, May 21, at Twelve Midtown, Autograph Collection, in Atlanta, Ga.

Baker's leadership and vision have transformed how the school district meets the needs of students and families. Under her guidance, HCSD has launched innovative programs such as school-based telehealth centers in every school, mental health partnerships with organizations like Mercer Medicine and Georgia Hope, and expanded support for families through food distributions, clothing closets, and the "Help Yourself Shelf" in schools. Her initiatives ensure that students have access to essential resources, including technology, basic necessities, and healthcare, helping to create a stronger, healthier community.

"Receiving the Heart of the Community Award is both humbling and deeply inspiring," said Baker. "This recognition is a testament to the collective efforts of the Harris County School District, our dedicated community, and our valued partners — especially CareSource. Their continual support, partnership, and belief in the mission and vision of our school-based telehealth program and the services provided by the Office of Support Services have been instrumental in our success. Together, we are removing barriers and creating meaningful opportunities that empower our students and families. I am truly honored to accept this award on behalf of everyone who works tirelessly to make a lasting difference in the lives of others."

CareSource's Heart of the Community Award recognizes select organizations that are "one step ahead" in providing services to their members and the community at large, making a true and lasting impact. Superintendent Justin Finney praised Baker's dedication, saying, "Shelia Baker's leadership is a shining example of what it means to serve with heart, vision, and compassion. Her work ensures that every student in Harris County has the resources they need to succeed. We are incredibly proud of her and thankful to CareSource for recognizing the transformative work happening in our district."

The Harris County School District is in Hamilton, Ga. For more information, visit www.harris.k12.ga.us or call (706) 628-4206.



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Questions

