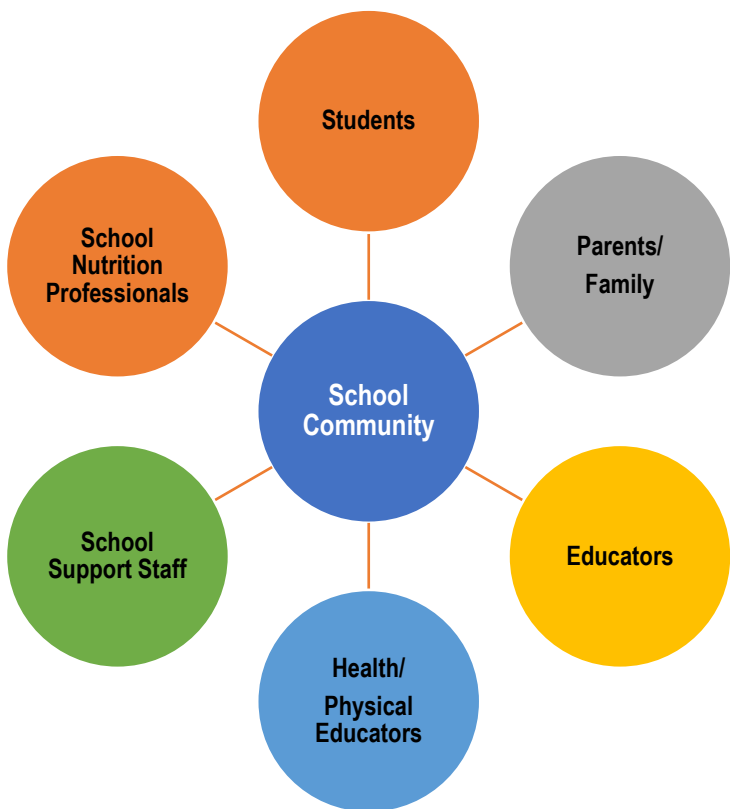


Stakeholder Engagement for Wellness

Role of School and Community Stakeholders

The primary role of school and community stakeholders in the wellness process at schools is to ensure a collaborative and whole-child centered approach. This approach should fit the unique needs and mission of local schools and districts, ultimately creating environments that encourage wellness. All stakeholders should play an equal part in the development, implementation, review, and continuous improvement of the local wellness policy.

INSIDE THE SCHOOL



Start looking for wellness champions within your school first. They know the school and students best and can be an asset for creating policy and activities that work for the school community.

Students

Students can make great wellness ambassadors. The wellness policy should ultimately benefit them, so involving them in the creation and maintenance of the policy just makes sense!

Parents/Family

Parent and family involvement in wellness helps to create a friendly and engaging culture for the school. They may be great volunteers and/or have access to beneficial resources!

Educators

Educators know what types of wellness activities can most effectively be worked into their days and lessons. Their voice is so valuable as you develop a policy that serves the whole school.

Health/Physical Educators

Health and Physical Educators are subject matter experts in wellness that can offer valuable insight particularly for the physical education/activity section of the wellness policy requirements.

School Support Staff

School support staff like nurses, counselors, and social workers can also offer valuable expertise when it comes to whole child wellness. They engage with students, families, and the community at large – all important assets to the wellness policy.

School Nutrition Professionals

School Nutrition professionals prepare and provide quality school meals. They connect with students by offering menu engagement opportunities including nutrition education and promotion.

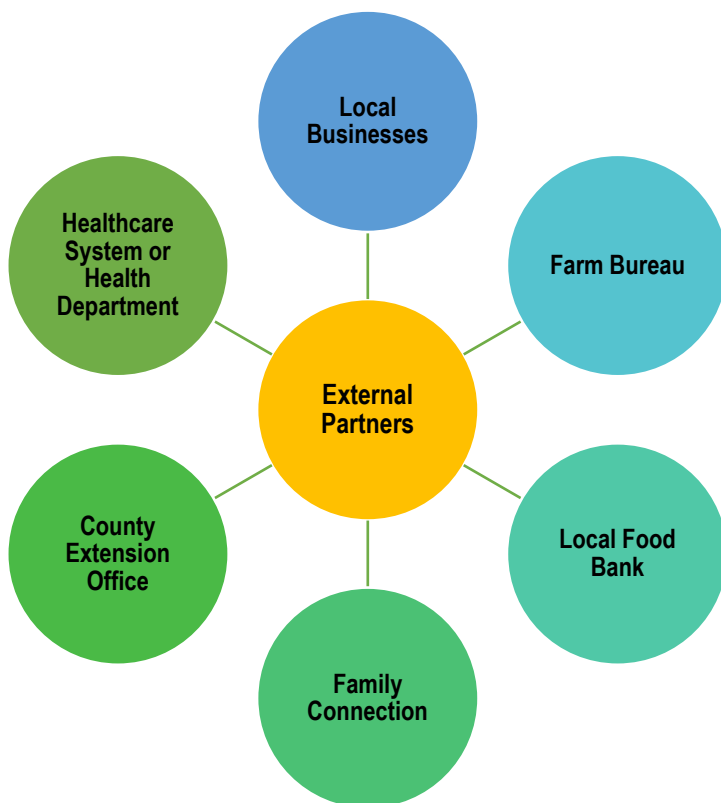
For additional training and resources please see the [Georgia School Nutrition Program Training Catalog](#).

Stakeholder Engagement for Wellness

Sample Outreach Language

“Our school is currently working on developing a wellness committee, and because of your organization’s work in the area of [health/nutrition/physical activity] we’d like to invite you to join our next meeting. If you are interested in getting involved, please let us know!”

WITHIN THE COMMUNITY



External partners are people and/or organizations that can provide resources and support for local wellness initiatives. These partners should be:

- Supportive
- Relevant
- Intentional

Local Businesses/Organizations

Local businesses and organizations may have staff capacity and/or resources to support wellness efforts in the school. For example, they may be able to sponsor an event, provide giveaways, or lend their expertise to planning.

Farm Bureau

Farm Bureaus are located in almost every county in Georgia. Their staff can support farm-to-school and other agriculture-related efforts such as school gardens.

Local Food Bank

There are regional food banks all across Georgia with local affiliates. They can help support food insecurity and nutrition education for schools and families.

Family Connection

Local Georgia Family Connection Collaboratives exist in every county in Georgia. They provide services and support for children and families within the community.

County Extension Office

Extension agents are experts in agriculture, food, and health and environmental sciences. Their work can support classroom learning including STEM/STEAM, school gardens, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Healthcare System/Health Department

Local healthcare or hospital systems, federally-qualified health centers, school-based health centers, and local health department offices can support multiple health needs for schools, including education, screening, and immunizations, among others.

For additional training and resources please see the [Georgia School Nutrition Program Training Catalog](#).