

The scorecard was created as part of a policy toolkit that supports advancing recess in schools through state laws. It was developed by the research team, with input from the advisory board, to provide a starting point for advocates and policymakers seeking to improve recess legislation. A score of “0” indicates that the law requires further development. We recommend first incorporating all essential best practices, followed by any enhanced best practices that are appropriate for your state.

Georgia law requires daily recess and prohibits the use of personal electronic devices from the start of instructional time until the end of the school day, including during all school-related activities such as recess.

BEST PRACTICE	LANGUAGE IN LAW	SCORE
ESSENTIAL BEST PRACTICES		
A. Mandates a time requirement of at least 20 minutes of daily recess	Each elementary school shall schedule recess for all students in kindergarten and grades one through five <u>every school day</u> <i>Note: The law does not specify the amount of time these periods should be</i>	1
B. Inclusive of all students in grades kindergarten-8	Each elementary school shall schedule recess for all students in <u>kindergarten and grades one through five</u> every school day <i>Note: The law does not include grades 6-8</i>	1
C. Prohibits schools from withholding recess	<u>Each local board of education shall establish written policies</u> allowing unstructured break time for students in kindergarten and grades one through eight. The <u>policies shall include</u> , but shall not be limited to, the following matters: <u>Whether breaks can be withheld from students for disciplinary or academic reasons and, if breaks can be withheld, under what conditions</u>	0
D. Prohibits schools from using recess to fulfil state mandated physical education requirements	Recess <u>shall not be required on any school day on which a student has had physical education</u> or structured activity time	0
E. Includes specific language on compliance	Local boards <u>shall provide a copy of such policies to the State Board of Education.</u> <i>Note: This will support compliance with the law, as written, but does not ensure that students will be getting recess</i>	1

BEST PRACTICE	LANGUAGE IN LAW	SCORE
ENHANCED BEST PRACTICES		
F. Transition time does not count toward minimum time	N/A	0
G. Requires recess be provided on shortened school days	N/A	0
H. Requires recess to be inclusive for all students	N/A	0
I. Requires recess to be held outdoors	N/A	0
J. If recess is indoors, the law requires there to be adequate space for students to be physically active	N/A	0
K. Prohibits the use of personal electronic devices during recess	<u>No public school student</u> in kindergarten through grade eight <u>shall be permitted to access personal electronic devices during the school day</u>	2
L. Requires schools to provide annual professional development opportunities for staff members who lead or supervise recess	N/A	0
M. Requires schools to schedule recess before lunch	N/A	0
N. Requires schools to provide age-appropriate equipment	N/A	0
O. Requires all recess equipment and facilities to meet or exceed safety standards	N/A	0