

## **Atrium Health Floyd to Offer Virtual Mental Health Services for Area Students**

*Atrium Health Floyd-Polk Foundation's \$430,000 Grant Expands School-based Virtual Therapy Program*

**ROME, Ga., Dec. 18, 2025** – Atrium Health Floyd, with funding from the Atrium Health Floyd-Polk Foundation, is investing \$430,000 to develop school-based mental health services, reaffirming its commitment to improving mental health resources for area students. The funds will be used to implement programs to increase students' access to timely, high-quality mental health care, addressing critical behavioral health needs such as anxiety, depression, stress and overall well-being.

Earlier this year, the Georgia Department of Education provided grants to regional school systems to offer school-based teletherapy services. The Atrium Health Floyd-Polk Foundation funds will be used to extend the reach of those services, allowing Atrium Health Floyd to provide virtual mental health care for middle school and high school students during school hours. Parents and guardians can participate in their students' care without leaving work.

"Our mission is to champion work that truly transforms lives," said Dan Bevels, Atrium Health Floyd-Polk Foundation president. "Expanding access to mental health services for students is exactly that. This effort isn't just changing lives — it has the potential to save lives."

Beginning in January 2026, Atrium Health Floyd will expand services to middle and high school students in Rome City Schools, Walker County Schools and Chattooga County Schools through Atrium Health's School-based Virtual Therapy Program. Additional partnerships are expected to be announced in the coming weeks as conversations with more school systems continue. The program operates in 17 counties across Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, impacting more than 250 schools and nearly 200,000 students.

"We are thankful to Atrium Health Floyd for their commitment to supporting the mental health of our students," said Dr. Eric L. Holland, superintendent of Rome City Schools. "Our mission is to provide every child with a world-class education, and that begins with ensuring they are healthy and supported. This agreement will give our students important resources that will help them grow, learn and thrive."

"We are excited to partner with Atrium Health Floyd to expand access to high-quality mental health services for all students in our school community," said Dr. Michelle Helie, superintendent of Chattooga County Schools. "This collaboration supports our commitment to ensuring every student receives the best counseling, care and resources possible."

According to a 2024 report by Mental Health America, 13% of Georgia youth between the ages of 12 and 17 had major thoughts of suicide in 2024, 17% experienced a major depressive episode and more than 9% reported having a substance abuse disorder. Less than half of the students reporting a major depressive episode received treatment.

As the Official Health Care Partner of local schools, colleges, and universities, Atrium Health Floyd has invested more than \$7 million in school health programs, including school nurses, certified athletic trainers,

telehealth services at 47 school sites, and a full-service school-based clinic at Rome High School College and Career Academy.

### **About Atrium Health Floyd**

The [Atrium Health Floyd](#) family of health care services is a leading medical provider and economic force in northwest Georgia and northeast Alabama. Atrium Health Floyd is part of Charlotte, North Carolina-based [Advocate Health](#), the third-largest nonprofit health system in the United States, created from the combination of [Atrium Health](#) and Advocate Aurora Health. Atrium Health Floyd strategically combined with Harbin Clinic in 2024 and employs more than 5,200 teammates who provide care in over 40 medical specialties at four facilities: Atrium Health Floyd Medical Center – a 361-bed full-service, acute care hospital and regional referral center in Rome, Georgia; Atrium Health Floyd Polk Medical Center in Cedartown, Georgia; and Atrium Health Floyd Cherokee Medical Center in Centre, Alabama; and Atrium Health Floyd Medical Center Behavioral Health, also in Rome. Together, Atrium Health Floyd and Harbin Clinic provide primary care, specialty care and urgent care throughout northwest Georgia and northeast Alabama. Atrium Health Floyd also operates a stand-alone emergency department in Chattooga County, the first such facility to be built from the ground-up in Georgia.

### **About Advocate Health**

[Advocate Health](#) is the third-largest nonprofit, integrated health system in the United States, created from the combination of Advocate Aurora Health and Atrium Health. Providing care under the names [Advocate Health Care](#) in Illinois; [Atrium Health](#) in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama; and [Aurora Health Care](#) in Wisconsin, Advocate Health is a national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience and value-based care. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, Advocate Health services nearly 6 million patients and is engaged in hundreds of clinical trials and research studies, with [Wake Forest University School of Medicine](#) serving as the academic core of the enterprise. Advocate Health is nationally recognized for its expertise in heart and vascular, neurosciences, oncology, pediatrics and rehabilitation, as well as organ transplants, burn treatments and specialized musculoskeletal programs. Advocate Health employs more than 160,000 teammates across 69 hospitals and over 1,000 care locations and offers one of the nation's largest graduate medical education programs with over 2,000 residents and fellows across more than 200 programs. Committed to redefining care for all, Advocate Health provides more than \$6 billion in annual community benefits.

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