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**SWIMMING**  
HALL OF FAME

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**EVERY CHILD  
A SWIMMER**

# Every Child a Swimmer: Saving Lives Through Education & Legislation

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A National Call to Action

Presented by: Casey McGovern, Executive Director, ECAS



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## The Why – A Mother’s Promise

“In 2009, I lost my 19-month-old daughter, Edna Mae to a preventable drowning.

*That day, I made a promise to her: to make sure no other family endures the same heartache.”*



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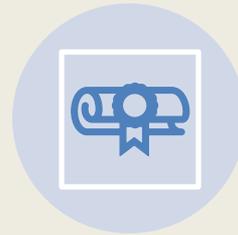
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## What is Every Child a Swimmer?



A national initiative of  
the International  
Swimming Hall of Fame



Provides learn-to-swim  
scholarships to children  
across the U.S.



Focus on underserved  
and high-risk  
communities



Over 360+ vetted swim  
school partners  
nationwide

# The Impact of Every Child a Swimmer Learn to Swim Scholarships

In 2024, ECAS awarded \$632,000

Every \$25 =  
1 life-saving swim  
lesson  
\$500 per child to  
ensure they are  
safer.

Serving Financially  
disadvantaged  
children/families.  
Any family that  
makes below \$50k  
annually, qualifies  
for a scholarship.

Partner schools  
track student's skill  
level – ensuring we  
are creating a  
generation of  
swimmers.

Formal Swim  
Lessons reduce the  
risk of drowning by  
88%. Swimming is  
the only sport that  
has the potential to  
save a life.

# Why does this work matter to you...

- Drowning is the #1 cause of death in children ages 1–4.
- Drowning is the #2 cause of death for children ages 5 to 14.
- 4,000+ fatal child drownings annually.
- 8,000+ non-fatal drownings annually.
- **Avg. cost per non-fatal drowning: \$100,000–\$250,000+**
- **Total annual U.S. cost exceeds \$10 billion**

# One drowning doesn't just affect one life—it causes a ripple effect of pain and trauma

## Lives Directly Impacted:

- The child whose life was lost or forever altered.
- Parents and siblings who carry lifelong trauma and grief.
- Extended family—grandparents, cousins, godparents—who also suffer emotional pain.

## First Responders & Medical Teams:

- 911 dispatchers, paramedics, firefighters who replay the scene.
- Doctors and nurses in ERs and ICUs who must deliver heartbreaking news.
- Therapists and support staff managing trauma for the family and themselves.

## Community Members:

- Neighbors who feel guilt, fear, or confusion.
- Friends and classmates who struggle to understand or cope.
- School staff—teachers, principals, and counselors—who support grieving children.

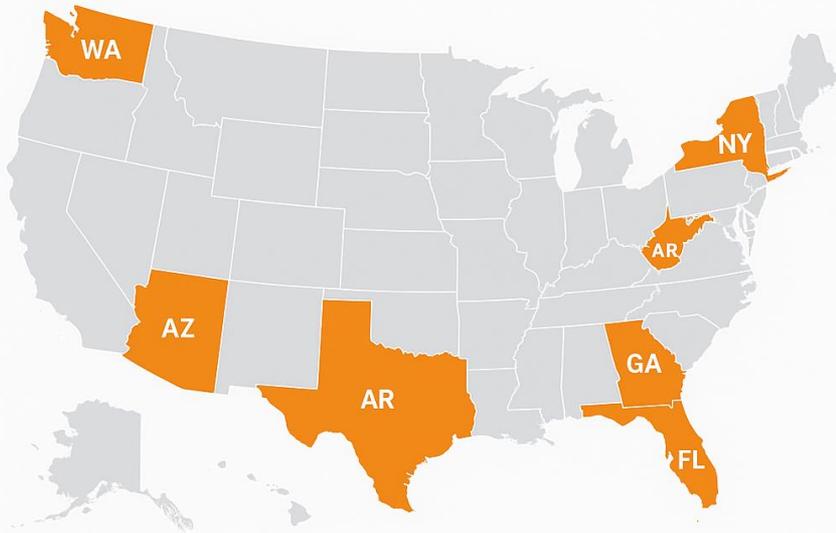
## Wider Impact:

- Local media and social networks amplify the story, affecting entire communities.
- Policy leaders and educators pushed to act—but often too late.
- Water safety advocates and nonprofits working to prevent the next loss.

*“It’s not just a statistic—it’s a wave of pain, and it keeps spreading.”*



## Every Child a Swimmer— Legislation Passed



# Legislative Impact & Progress

- **Schools serve as key messengers**, providing parents and caregivers with drowning prevention materials and guidance on accessing local swim lessons.
- **Goal: Nationwide adoption** of the Every Child a Swimmer legislation in all 50 states.
- **No fiscal impact on the state**—program implementation relies on existing communication channels and community partnerships.
- **Broad bipartisan support**—because protecting children is not a political issue, it's a public safety priority.



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# EVERY CHILD A SWIMMER LEGISLATION

## WHAT IS THE LEGISLATION?

The Every Child a Swimmer legislation requires all schools K-12 to provide parents with information on the importance of water safety and local options for swim lessons as well as how to receive lessons at a free or reduced cost. The ECAS program can provide a tool kit to all schools to make this a very easy process with no cost involved.



## Who Has Adopted the ECAS Legislation?

- Florida was the first to pass the Every Child a Swimmer law in 2021, with implementation beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- In 2023, Georgia and Arkansas enacted the legislation.
- Washington State also adopted the ECAS legislation.
- Most recently, New York, New Mexico, and Arizona joined the initiative in 2025, bringing the total number of states up to seven.

## SWIMMING SCHOLARSHIPS

ECAS offers free swimming lessons for children from underserved communities. In order to receive a scholarship, parents must provide financial information. Our program provides up to 3 months of free lessons per recipient.



## WHERE TO GO FROM HERE?/ OUR MISSION

ECAS 's goal is to have all 50 states adopt this legislation and to promote water safety education around the world. Helping to create a consistent message that drowning is 100% preventable. It is imperative that every parent is educated on water safety and every child should have access to learn this basic survival skill.



### LEARN MORE AT:

[www.everychildaswimmer.org](http://www.everychildaswimmer.org)  
Contact Casey McGovern @  
[casey@everychildaswimmer.org](mailto:casey@everychildaswimmer.org)  
Phone: 954-275-9035



House Bill 402 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Dubnik of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Jones of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Douglas of the 78<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to health of elementary and secondary school students, so as to require  
3 public schools and local school systems to annually provide water safety education  
4 information to parents and guardians of students under 18 years of age and directly to  
5 students who are 18 years of age or older; to provide for a definition; to provide for  
6 construction; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**  
10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Edna Mae McGovern Act."

11 **SECTION 2.**  
12 Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
13 relating to health of elementary and secondary school students, is amended by adding a new  
14 Code section to read as follows:

23

LC 49 1355S/AP

15 \*20-2-779.3.

16 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'water safety education' means education  
17 intended to promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water and reduce the risk of injury  
18 or drowning.

19 (b) At the beginning of each school year, each public school or local school system shall  
20 provide the parents and guardians of each child enrolled in such school or school system  
21 with information on the important role water safety education courses and swimming  
22 lessons play in saving lives. Such information shall be provided in electronic or hard copy  
23 format. Such information shall include options, if available within the vicinity of the  
24 public school or local school system, for age-appropriate water safety education courses  
25 and swimming lessons that can result in a certificate indicating successful completion,  
26 including courses and lessons offered for free or at a reduced price; provided, however, that  
27 such information shall be provided directly to students who are 18 years of age or older.  
28 (c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require public schools or local  
29 school systems to:

30 (1) Provide water safety education courses or swimming lessons to students; or  
31 (2) Excuse students from all or part of any school day to attend water safety education  
32 courses or swimming lessons.\*

# WHY DOES ECAS LEGISLATION MATTER TO THE INSURANCE MARKETPLACE?

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Drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1–4 in the United States.

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Targets prevention, not reaction—empowering families with water safety education before tragedy strikes.

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Removes financial barriers through free or subsidized swim lessons for underserved families.

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Creates consistent access to water safety education across schools, communities, and states.

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Reduces long-term healthcare costs related to fatal, non-fatal drownings and brain injuries.

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Strengthens community resilience by equipping the next generation with essential survival skills.

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Fulfills a promise of equity—every child, regardless of zip code, deserves the chance to be safe in and around the water.

WHY WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT...

Until  
Every  
Child  
Swims

# Contact Information

- Contact: [casey@everychildaswimmer.org](mailto:casey@everychildaswimmer.org)
- Phone: 954-275-9035
- Visit: [www.everychildaswimmer.org](http://www.everychildaswimmer.org)



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UNTIL EVERY CHILD SWIMS



T-SHIRTS - MINIMUM DONATION \$25 PER SHIRT

SCAN HERE



SMALL - XXL

1 SHIRT PROVIDES  
1 SWIM LESSON

# THANK YOU!