

House Bill 296

By: Representatives Buckner of the 95th, Cash of the 108th, Sims of the 167th, Barnes of the 97th, Dodson of the 94th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to accountability assessment, so as to provide that certain schools which
3 have complied with maximum class size requirements shall not be subject to on-site audits
4 for certain purposes; to provide for alternate reporting regarding expenditures; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to accountability assessment, is amended by striking in its entirety Code Section
10 20-14-35, relating to powers of the Office of Education Accountability and on-site audits,
11 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

12 "20-14-35.

13 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (f) of this Code section, the ~~The~~ office may:

14 (1) Conduct on-site audits of any school at any time, subject to the approval of the
15 director;

16 (2) Raise or lower any performance rating as a result of the audit; and

17 (3) Review school fund accounting information and records to determine effective and
18 efficient expenditure of state funds as allocated.

19 (b) The director shall determine the frequency of on-site audits by the office according to
20 annual comprehensive analyses of student performance and equity in relation to the
21 academic excellence indicators and fund accounting assessments as adopted under
22 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-14-34.

23 (c) In making an on-site school performance audit, the auditor shall obtain information
24 from administrators, teachers, and parents of students enrolled in the local school system.
25 The audit may not be closed until information is obtained from each of those sources. The
26 office shall adopt rules regarding obtaining information from parents and using that

1 information in the auditor's report and obtaining information from teachers in a manner
2 that prevents a school or school system from screening the information.

3 (d) The auditors shall report to the local board of education, the local school council, and
4 appropriate school administrators and shall report findings and recommendations
5 concerning any necessary improvements or intervention strategies. School audit reports
6 shall be provided to the council and the State Board of Education.

7 (e) The director may authorize other school audits to be conducted under the following
8 circumstances:

9 (1) When excessive numbers of absences of students eligible to be tested on state
10 assessment instruments are determined; or

11 (2) When a school or school system has not provided student performance information
12 to the Department of Education's educational information system as required under
13 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-167.

14 (f) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Code section, schools which have fully
15 complied with maximum class sizes adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to
16 subsection (i) of Code Section 20-2-182 for one year shall not be subject to on-site audits
17 to review school fund accounting information and records to determine effective and
18 efficient expenditure of state funds as allocated but shall report expenditures to the State
19 Board of Education by program expenditure control tests."

20 SECTION 2.

21 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.