

House Bill 390

By: Representatives Buckner of the 82nd, Dodson of the 84th, Post 1, Rogers of the 15th and Barnes of the 84th, Post 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-86 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 school councils, so as to revise provisions relating to school councils; to provide that councils
3 for new schools shall be established after one year of operation; to provide for staggered
4 terms; to change the frequency of meeting for councils; to provide for a State of the School
5 presentation; to change the month of election and the term of office; to delete a
6 nonexclusionary list of matters for school boards; to provide for responses to council requests
7 for information; to delete a provision for devolving additional authority on school councils
8 in certain circumstances; to delete a provision requiring local boards of education to
9 designate an employee to attend council meetings as requested; to repeal conflicting laws;
10 and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Code Section 20-2-86 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to school councils,
14 is amended by striking subsections (a), (b), (e), (f), (g), (n), (p), and (s) and inserting in lieu
15 thereof the following:

16 "(a) By October 1, 2001, each local board of education that elects to participate in the
17 Quality Basic Education Program provided for in Article 6 of this chapter shall have a
18 school council operational at a minimum of one high school, one middle school, and one
19 elementary school, except that if a school system does not have its schools organized in this
20 manner the system shall designate schools for a school council as closely to the intent of
21 this Code section as possible. By October 1, 2002, each local board of education shall have
22 a school council operational in a minimum of 50 percent of the schools under its
23 jurisdiction. Such school council shall operate pursuant to this Code section, and the local
24 board of education shall assist all councils in their creation and operation. ~~After two years
25 of successful operation, and upon receiving a high performance designation by the Office
26 of Education Accountability, the local board of education shall devolve to the school~~

1 ~~council such additional authority in matters of school operation as the local board deems~~
 2 ~~appropriate.~~ By October 1, 2003, each local board of education shall have a school council
 3 operational in each of the schools under its jurisdiction, except that a school council for any
 4 new school shall be established only after one year of operation.

5 (b) The local board of education shall provide a training program to assist schools in
 6 forming a school council and to assist school councilmembers in the performance of their
 7 duties. Such program shall address the organization of councils, their purpose and
 8 responsibilities, applicable laws, rules, regulations and meeting procedures, and important
 9 state and local school system program requirements and shall provide a model school
 10 council organization plan. The training program shall be offered to school councilmembers
 11 at least twice per school year, except that this program shall be offered during the month
 12 of ~~July~~ September should there be members of the school council with a term commencing
 13 on ~~July~~ September 1 who have not previously received this training. The State Board of
 14 Education shall develop and make available a model school council training program."

15 "(e) Members of the council shall serve staggered terms. The council shall establish rules
 16 to allow for the election of three members who shall serve a term of one year; thereafter,
 17 all members shall serve for a term of two years. The office of school councilmember shall
 18 be automatically vacated:

- 19 (1) If a member shall resign;
- 20 (2) If the person holding the office is removed as a member by an action of the council
 21 pursuant to this Code section; or
- 22 (3) If a member no longer meets the qualifications specified in this Code section.

23 An election within the electing body for a replacement to fill the remainder of an unexpired
 24 term shall be held within 30 days, unless there are 90 days or less remaining in the term in
 25 which case the vacancy shall remain unfilled.

26 (f) All meetings of the council shall be held at the school site. The council shall meet ~~once~~
 27 ~~a month~~ at least four times annually, at the call of the chairperson, or at the request of a
 28 majority of the members of the council. Notice by mail shall be sent to school
 29 councilmembers at least seven days prior to a meeting of the council. School councils shall
 30 be subject to Chapter 14 of Title 50, relating to open and public meetings, in the same
 31 manner as local boards of education. Each member is authorized to exercise one vote. A
 32 quorum must be present in order to conduct official council business. Members of the
 33 council shall not receive remuneration to serve on the council or its committees. At one
 34 meeting to be held within 45 days of the first school day of each school year, the school
 35 administration and faculty shall provide a 'State of the School' presentation, including
 36 information regarding test scores and strategic plans.

1 (g) After providing public notice at least two weeks before the meeting of each electing
 2 body, the principal of each school shall call a meeting of electing bodies during the month
 3 of ~~May~~ August each year for the purpose of selecting members of the school council as
 4 required by this Code section. The electing body for the parent members shall consist of
 5 all parents and guardians eligible to serve as a parent member of the school council, and
 6 the electing body for the teacher members shall consist of all certificated personnel eligible
 7 to serve as a teacher member of the school council."

8 "(n) The term of office of all councilmembers shall begin on ~~July~~ September 1 and end on
 9 ~~June 30~~ August 31."

10 "(p) The local board of education shall provide all information not specifically made
 11 confidential by law, including budget information, to the council as requested. ~~The local~~
 12 ~~board shall also designate an employee of the school system to attend council meetings as~~
 13 ~~requested by a school council for the purpose of responding to questions the council may~~
 14 ~~have concerning information provided to it by the local board or actions taken by the local~~
 15 ~~board. The central administration shall be responsive to requests for information from a~~
 16 ~~school council.~~"

17 "(s) School councils are advisory bodies. The councils shall provide advice and
 18 recommendations to the school principal and, where appropriate, the local board of
 19 education on any matter, ~~including but not limited to, the following:~~

20 ~~(1) School calendar;~~

21 ~~(2) School codes for conduct and dress;~~

22 ~~(3) Curriculum, program goals, and priorities;~~

23 ~~(4) The responses of the school to audits of the school as conducted by the Office of~~
 24 ~~Education Accountability;~~

25 ~~(5) Preparation and distribution to the community of a school profile which shall contain~~
 26 ~~data as identified by the council to describe the academic performance, academic~~
 27 ~~progress, services, awards, interventions, environment, and other such data as the council~~
 28 ~~deems appropriate;~~

29 ~~(6) In the case of a vacancy in the position of school principal, the recommendation of~~
 30 ~~a school principal from a list of qualified applicants submitted by the local board of~~
 31 ~~education and local school superintendent to the council;~~

32 ~~(7) School budget priorities, including school capital improvement plans;~~

33 ~~(8) School-community communication strategies;~~

34 ~~(9) Methods of reporting to parents and communities other than through the school~~
 35 ~~profile;~~

36 ~~(10) Extracurricular activities in the school;~~

37 ~~(11) School-based and community services;~~

- 1 ~~(12) Community use of school facilities;~~
2 ~~(13) Recommendations concerning school board policies;~~
3 ~~(14) Receiving and reviewing reports from the school principal regarding progress~~
4 ~~toward the school's student achievement goals, including progress within specific grade~~
5 ~~levels and subject areas and by school personnel; and~~
6 ~~(15) The method and specifications for the delivery of early intervention services."~~

7 **SECTION 2.**

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