

House Bill 900

By: Representatives Manning of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Ehrhart of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Casas of the 68<sup>th</sup>, and Coleman of the 65<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 elementary and secondary schools, so as to require local boards of education to adopt truancy  
3 policies; to provide for the contents of such policies; to provide for notice to parents and  
4 guardians, tribunals, referral to juvenile court, and failing grades; to repeal conflicting laws;  
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
9 secondary schools, is amended by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code  
10 Section 20-2-690.2, to read as follows:

11 "20-2-690.2.

12 (a) Each local board of education shall adopt policies relating to truancy of students subject  
13 to the mandatory attendance provisions of Code Section 20-2-690.1 in accordance with this  
14 Code section.

15 (b) Policies for students in elementary and middle schools shall require that, after the tenth  
16 unexcused absence of a student during the school year, the school attendance officer send  
17 a certified letter to the student's parent or guardian and notify the school social worker to  
18 contact the parent or guardian. At the fifteenth unexcused absence, a school administrator  
19 or designee shall notify the district office, which shall notify the parent or guardian of the  
20 student. Within 30 days of such notice, a tribunal shall convene. Subsequent unexcused  
21 absences shall be grounds for referral to juvenile court.

22 (c) Policies for students in high school shall require the school attendance officer to send  
23 a certified letter to the student's parent or guardian after the student's fifth unexcused  
24 absence in one semester, or after the third unexcused absence if the student is on a block  
25 schedule. After the tenth unexcused absence in one semester, or the sixth unexcused  
26 absence if the student is on a block schedule, the student will receive an F in the class or

1 classes from which he or she was absent for ten days. A student or a student's parent or  
2 guardian may make a written appeal to the district office regarding a grade of F assigned  
3 in accordance with this subsection. A tribunal will be convened to hear such appeal.

4 (d) A tribunal shall be composed of two district office administrators and a representative  
5 of the juvenile court. With regard to unexcused absences by elementary and middle school  
6 students, it shall be the duty of the tribunal to investigate, verify, and evaluate the absences.

7 (e) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, the tribunals required by this Code  
8 section shall be governed by the provisions of Code Sections 20-2-752, 20-2-754,  
9 20-2-755, 20-2-757, and 20-2-758. The provisions of Code Section 20-2-1160 shall apply  
10 to such tribunals."

11 **SECTION 2.**

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