

House Bill 877

By: Representatives Crawford of the 16th, Ashe of the 56th, Reece of the 11th, Buckner of the 130th, Porter of the 143rd, 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 with respect to the Education Coordinating
3 Council, so as to establish averaged freshman graduation rate as an additional performance
4 indicator; to provide for a definition; to require state agencies and local schools and school
5 systems to utilize certain terminology; to repeal 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 with respect to the Education Coordinating Council, is
10 amended by revising Code Section 20-14-33, relating to indicators of quality of learning in
11 individual schools and school systems, as follows:

12 "20-14-33.

13 (a) The office shall adopt and biennially review, and revise as necessary, indicators of the
14 quality of learning by students in an individual school and school system.

15 (b) The performance indicators of student achievement and school performance must be
16 based on information that is disaggregated with respect to ethnicity, sex, disability,
17 language proficiency, and socioeconomic status and must include:

18 (1) The results of assessment instruments required under Code Section 20-2-281,
19 aggregated by grade level and subject area;

20 (2) Dropout rates for each school;

21 (3) Student attendance rates for each school;

22 (4) School completion rates for each school;

23 (5) The percentage of graduating students who attain scores on the Georgia high school
24 graduation test required under Code Section 20-2-281 that are equivalent to a passing
25 score on the test instrument until such time as the Georgia high school graduation test is
26 discontinued as provided in Code Section 20-2-281;

1 (6) The percentage of graduating students who meet the course requirements established
2 for the recommended high school program by State Board of Education rule;

3 (7) The percentage of students taking end-of-course assessment instruments under Code
4 Section 20-2-281;

5 (8) The percentage of high school students who pass the end-of-course assessment
6 instrument in core subjects;

7 (9) The results of the Scholastic Assessment Test or the ACT Assessment;

8 (10) The percentage of students taking alternate assessments under subsection (d) of
9 Code Section 20-2-281;

10 (11) The average time that a student placed in an early intervention program remains
11 before attaining grade level status and returning to regular status; and

12 (12)(A) The averaged freshman graduation rate for each school.

13 (B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'averaged freshman graduation rate' shall
14 mean the numerical rate determined by dividing the number of high school graduates
15 in a given year by the average of the number of students who entered eighth grade five
16 years earlier, the number who entered ninth grade four years earlier, and the number
17 who entered tenth grade three years earlier; and

18 (13) Any other indicator the office adopts.

19 (c) Performance on the indicator shall be compared to state standards, progress on
20 improved student achievement, and comparable performance. The standards for
21 comparison shall be established by the office as provided in Code Section 20-14-31. Data
22 and information regarding the standard shall be included in the annual report provided for
23 in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-27.

24 (d) The office shall establish individual school and school system ratings for each public
25 school and school system in this state for annual academic performance on the assessment
26 instruments required under Code Section 20-2-281.

27 (e) Each school system shall provide all student performance data and all other student
28 school completion and attendance data to the Department of Education's educational
29 information system in accordance with rules and timelines established by the State Board
30 of Education.

31 (f) The office shall develop and the State Board of Education shall adopt a uniform
32 definition of 'dropout.' All schools and school systems shall report student dropout
33 information to the Department of Education's educational information system in
34 accordance with rules and timelines established by the state board as provided in subsection
35 (b) of Code Section 20-2-167. Each school system shall cooperate with the office in
36 determining whether a student is a dropout under this subsection and shall adopt the
37 uniform definition of 'dropout.' Data and information regarding the establishment of the

1 definition and the tracking of dropout and school completion data shall be included in the
2 annual report provided for in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-27.
3 (g) The office shall develop and the State Board of Education shall adopt a uniform
4 definition of a 'below grade level' student for purposes of placing students in the early
5 intervention program under Code Section 20-2-153 and for purposes of tracking these
6 students for accountability purposes. Data and information regarding the establishment of
7 the definition shall be included in the annual report provided for in paragraph (2) of
8 subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-27.
9 (h) The office shall annually review the performance of each school and school system on
10 the indicators in subsection (b) of this Code section and determine whether a change in the
11 school or school system rating status of the school or school system is warranted.
12 (i) Each state agency and local school and school system shall be required to use the
13 definition of averaged freshman graduation rate specified in paragraph (12) of subsection
14 (b) of this Code section in any report or publication it issues regarding performance
15 indicators of students."

16 **SECTION 2.**

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