

House Bill 215

By: Representatives Davis of the 109<sup>th</sup>, Mayo of the 91<sup>st</sup>, Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Sellier of the 136<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to enact the "Graduating Everyone  
3 Matters Act"; to establish three diploma options for high school students; to provide for  
4 course requirements for each diploma option; to provide for applicability; to provide for  
5 statutory construction; to revise provisions relating to testing requirements for graduation  
6 purposes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
10 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:  
11 "20-2-134.

12 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'Graduating Everyone  
13 Matters Act.'

14 (b) The State Board of Education shall establish the following three diploma options for  
15 high school students: general diploma, career/vocational/technical diploma, and college  
16 preparation diploma.

17 (c) The competencies and uniformly sequenced core curriculum established by the State  
18 Board of Education pursuant to Code Section 20-2-140 shall incorporate the following  
19 specific course requirements for each diploma option as follows:

20 (1) GENERAL DIPLOMA. To be eligible to receive a general diploma, a student may  
21 graduate in 3 years and shall:

22 (A) Have a minimum of 18 credits which shall include:

23 (i) Three credits in English/language arts;

24 (ii) Two credits in mathematics;

25 (iii) One credit in personal finance and banking;

26 (iv) Two credits in science;

- 27 (v) Two credits in social studies;  
 28 (vi) Two credits in health/physical education;  
 29 (vii) One credit in fine arts or foreign language;  
 30 (viii) One credit in career/vocational/technical;  
 31 (ix) One credit in computer applications; and  
 32 (x) Three electives; and  
 33 (B) Have completed 75 hours of community service approved by the local board of  
 34 education in accordance with State Board of Education guidelines;  
 35 (2) CAREER/VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL DIPLOMA. To be eligible to receive a  
 36 career/vocational/technical diploma, a student shall:  
 37 (A) Have a minimum of 22 credits which shall include:  
 38 (i) Four credits in English/language arts;  
 39 (ii) Three credits in mathematics;  
 40 (iii) One credit in personal finance and banking;  
 41 (iv) Two credits in science;  
 42 (v) Two credits in social studies;  
 43 (vi) One credit in health/physical education;  
 44 (vii) One credit in fine arts or foreign language;  
 45 (viii) Three credits in career/vocational/technical;  
 46 (ix) One credit in computer applications; and  
 47 (x) Three electives; and  
 48 (B) Have completed 100 hours of community service approved by the local board of  
 49 education in accordance with State Board of Education guidelines; and  
 50 (3) COLLEGE PREPARATION DIPLOMA. To be eligible to receive a college preparation  
 51 diploma, a student shall:  
 52 (A) Have a minimum of 23 credits which shall include:  
 53 (i) Four credits in English/language arts;  
 54 (ii) Three credits in mathematics;  
 55 (iii) One credit in personal finance and banking;  
 56 (iv) Three credits in science;  
 57 (v) Three credits in social studies;  
 58 (vi) Two credits in foreign language;  
 59 (vii) One credit in health/physical education;  
 60 (viii) One credit in fine arts or foreign language;  
 61 (ix) One credit in career/vocational/technical;  
 62 (x) One credit in SAT preparation; and



98 and their parents with performance outcome measures resulting from the administration of  
99 such tests."

100 "(c) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to condition the awarding of a  
101 high school diploma to a student upon achievement of satisfactory scores on instruments  
102 or tests adopted and administered by the state board pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code  
103 section; provided however, that beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, this shall only  
104 apply to students pursuing a college preparation diploma in accordance with Code Section  
105 20-2-134. The state board is authorized and directed to adopt regulations providing that  
106 any disabled child, as defined by the provisions of this article, shall be afforded  
107 opportunities to take any test adopted by the state board as a condition for the awarding of  
108 a high school diploma. Said regulations shall further provide for appropriate  
109 accommodations in the administration of such test. Said regulations shall further provide  
110 for the awarding of a special education diploma to any disabled student who is lawfully  
111 assigned to a special education program and who does not achieve a passing score on said  
112 test or who has not completed all of the requirements for a high school diploma but who  
113 has nevertheless completed his or her Individualized Education Program."

114 **SECTION 3.**

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