

Senate Resolution 406

By: Senators Buckner of the 44th, Williams of the 19th, Seay of the 34th, Henson of the 41st, Jackson of the 24th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging educational agencies, associations, boards, and commissions involved in the
2 accreditation process for school systems in grades kindergarten through 12 to adopt policies
3 and procedures that permit a fair opportunity for school systems to submit necessary
4 documentation; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the loss of a school system's accreditation is a serious issue with long-ranging
6 impact on a community and families; and

7 WHEREAS, it is a gross injustice for Georgia's children to be punished by the loss of
8 accreditation due to the failings or mismanagement by boards or agencies that are entrusted
9 with the responsibility of educating Georgia students; and

10 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon all stakeholders in the accreditation process to implement
11 a system of review that strives for fairness and accurate information.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body does hereby
13 urge educational agencies, associations, boards, and commissions to make their first priority
14 the education and well-being of the students of a school system.

15 IT IS FURTHER URGED that educational agencies, associations, boards, and commissions
16 involved in the accreditation process adopt a policy and practice whereby school systems
17 subject to losing accreditation shall be given every reasonable opportunity to meet the
18 standards and requirements of such accrediting entity, and that such policy and practice
19 include, at a minimum, the following procedures:

20 (1) Prior to the deadline for any report required as a response to a need for improvement
21 or correction, a school or school system shall be permitted to make an early submission
22 of the documentation and information that addresses the sections or items in need of
23 improvement or correction;

24 (2) The accrediting entity shall accept such early submission of documentation as a
25 provisional submission rather than a final submission;

26 (3) Following the provisional submission of the documentation, the accrediting entity
27 shall respond in writing as to whether the documentation is judged to pass or fail and
28 shall provide a description of the deficiencies in the provisional submission; and

29 (4) The accrediting entity shall provide the school or school system at least one
30 opportunity to correct or improve the documentation provided in the provisional
31 submission prior to the final deadline for submission.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the State Board of Education, the Southern
34 Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Georgia Accrediting Commission.