

House Bill 186

By: Representatives Nix of the 69<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 109<sup>th</sup>, Coleman of the 97<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 175<sup>th</sup>, Clark of the 104<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 provide and expand career pathway  
3 options for high school students to ensure their career and college readiness; to provide for  
4 legislative findings; to provide measures to minimize the need for remedial course work for  
5 students in postsecondary institutions; to require academic core standards to be embedded  
6 in career, technical, and agricultural education courses; to provide for end-of-course  
7 assessments for career, technical, and agricultural education courses with embedded  
8 academic standards; to provide for course credit for demonstrated proficiency; to amend  
9 Chapter 14 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia  
10 Workforce Investment Board, so as to provide for the establishment of soft skills certification  
11 by the Governor's Office of Workforce Development; to provide for collaboration with the  
12 Department of Education to enable high school students to attain soft skills certification; to  
13 provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
14 for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

17 The General Assembly finds:

- 18 (1) Our state's long-term prosperity depends on supporting an education system that is  
19 designed to prepare our students for a global economy;
- 20 (2) High school students must understand that they have options and pathways available  
21 to them that provide for a high school diploma and prepare them for success in  
22 postsecondary education, a career, or both;
- 23 (3) Local school systems must provide every student with choices that are academically  
24 rigorous and relevant to a career and to technical pathways;
- 25 (4) Both the Department of Education and postsecondary institutions must work together  
26 so that academic courses that are embedded within career, technical, and agricultural

27 education courses (CTAE) and CTAE standards that are embedded in academic courses are  
 28 recognized and given appropriate academic credit at the high school and postsecondary  
 29 levels;

30 (5) Teachers should be provided with professional development opportunities that enforce  
 31 the academically rigorous standards in relevant, project based coursework;

32 (6) High school students should clearly understand the options for dual high school and  
 33 postsecondary credit, and the state should properly fund these options;

34 (7) Every state education agency, postsecondary institution, and local school system should  
 35 have as a goal to graduate every student with postsecondary credit;

36 (8) Georgia's strategic industries must be partners in our public education system  
 37 (secondary and postsecondary) so that they are assured that our high school graduates are  
 38 prepared for success in the workforce;

39 (9) Georgia's public education system must incorporate many different types of  
 40 assessments and certificates into their programs so that a student's skill level is assessed  
 41 and that it also has meaning to them for postsecondary and career success; and

42 (10) Georgia's students must understand that a high school diploma is the key to success  
 43 in the workforce.

44

## SECTION 2.

45 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
 46 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-140, relating to  
 47 the establishment of competencies and a uniformly sequenced core curriculum, as follows:

48 "20-2-140.

49 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish competencies that each student is  
 50 expected to master prior to completion of the student's public school education. The state  
 51 board shall also establish competencies for which each student should be provided  
 52 opportunities, at the discretion of the student and the student's parents, to master. Based  
 53 upon these foregoing competencies, the state board shall adopt a uniformly sequenced core  
 54 curriculum for grades kindergarten through 12. Each local unit of administration shall  
 55 include this uniformly sequenced core curriculum as the basis for its own curriculum,  
 56 although each local unit may sequence, expand, and enrich this curriculum to the extent it  
 57 deems necessary and appropriate for its students and communities.

58 (b) Stronger coordination between high schools and institutions of higher education is  
 59 necessary to prepare students for more challenging postsecondary endeavors and to lessen  
 60 the need for academic remediation in college, thereby reducing the costs of higher  
 61 education for students, families, and the state. The State Board of Education, the Board of  
 62 Regents of the University System of Georgia, and the Board of Technical and Adult

63 Education shall develop policies to ensure that students who complete the core curriculum  
 64 established pursuant to this Code section shall meet the requirements for postsecondary  
 65 college admission. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the  
 66 Board of Technical and Adult Education shall require their institutions to accept core  
 67 curriculum coursework for acceptance of credit at the postsecondary level. This shall apply  
 68 beginning with students entering school in the fall of 2011."

69 **SECTION 3.**

70 Said article is further amended by adding new Code sections to read as follows:

71 "20-2-159.1.

72 (a) The competencies and curricula established for career, technical, and agricultural  
 73 education courses pursuant to Code Section 20-2-140 shall include embedded standards in  
 74 academic core subject areas, as appropriate. In establishing such competencies and  
 75 curricula, the state board shall work to ensure that the coursework meets postsecondary  
 76 requirements for acceptance of credit for such coursework at the postsecondary level.

77 (b) Local school systems and individual charter schools may develop and implement  
 78 career, technical, and agricultural courses with embedded standards in academic core  
 79 subjects areas including but not limited to English, language arts, science, social studies,  
 80 and mathematics.

81 (c) Local school systems and individual charter schools may develop and implement core  
 82 academic subject areas such as but not limited to English, language arts, science, social  
 83 studies, and mathematics with embedded standards in career, technical, and agricultural  
 84 courses.

85 (d) Students who complete a career, technical, or agricultural education course that  
 86 includes embedded standards in an academic core subject area for which an end-of-course  
 87 assessment has been adopted pursuant to Code Section 20-2-281 shall be given the  
 88 opportunity to take such end-of-course assessment upon completion of the career,  
 89 technical, or agricultural education course, unless such student has already passed such  
 90 end-of-course assessment.

91 (e) Students who successfully complete a course in career, technical, and agricultural  
 92 education that includes embedded standards in academic core subject areas, as adopted or  
 93 approved by the state board, shall receive course credit for both the career, technical, and  
 94 agricultural education course as well as for the academic core coursework embedded in  
 95 such course. Conversely, students who successfully complete a course in an academic core  
 96 subject area that includes embedded standards in career, technical, and agricultural  
 97 education, as adopted or approved by the state board, shall receive course credit for both

98 the academic core subject course as well as for career, technical, and agricultural education  
 99 coursework embedded in such course.

100 20-2-159.2.

101 (a) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Regents of the  
 102 University System of Georgia and the Board of Technical and Adult Education, shall adopt  
 103 a state-wide plan implementing methods for students to earn units of high school credit  
 104 based on a demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in combination with  
 105 completing hours of classroom instruction. Such plan shall ensure that credit for  
 106 demonstrated proficiency is reported on student transcripts in the same way that seat time  
 107 credit is recorded. The state board shall adopt the plan not later than June 30, 2011, and  
 108 commence phasing in the plan during the 2011-2012 school year. The plan shall include  
 109 a standard method for recording demonstrated proficiency on high school transcripts.  
 110 Implementation of the guidelines shall be done at the local school system and charter  
 111 school level.

112 (b) Each local school system shall comply with the state board's plan adopted pursuant to  
 113 this Code section and shall award units of high school credit in accordance with such plan.  
 114 Local boards of education and charter schools shall establish implementation policies and  
 115 shall be prohibited from setting policies that negate or otherwise prohibit access to such  
 116 plan."

117 **SECTION 4.**

118 Chapter 14 of Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia  
 119 Workforce Investment Board, is amended in Code Section 34-14-3, relating to the  
 120 establishment of the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, as follows:

121 "34-14-3.

122 (a)(1) The Governor's Office of Workforce Development is hereby established to  
 123 implement state workforce development policy as directed by the Governor and to serve  
 124 as staff to the board.

125 (2) In addition, the office is authorized to establish certification in soft skills, which may  
 126 include, but not be limited to, skills relating to punctuality, ability to learn, and ability to  
 127 work in a team, as a complement to the current assessment system utilized in Georgia to  
 128 measure an individual worker's skill and knowledge in the areas of applied mathematics,  
 129 reading for information, and locating information to determine and indicate to potential  
 130 employers such worker's level of work readiness. Such certification is intended to assist  
 131 both the existing workforce as well as the state's emerging workforce. The office is

132 authorized to explore local, national, and international soft skills programs for the  
133 purpose of developing a soft skills certification system.

134 (3) The office is authorized and encouraged to work with the state's emerging workforce,  
135 including rising and graduating high school students, with the goal that, upon graduation,  
136 high school students have both a diploma and certification in soft skills and work  
137 readiness to enable them to be successful in postsecondary education, a career pathway,  
138 or both. The office may collaborate with the Department of Education to facilitate  
139 coordination with high schools so that high school students can attain certification in soft  
140 skills and work readiness.

141 (b) The Governor's Office of Workforce Development shall have an executive director  
142 appointed by the Governor whose duties are to implement state-wide workforce  
143 development policy as directed by the Governor, to serve as workforce development policy  
144 advisor to the Governor, and to serve as executive director to the board.

145 (c) The Governor's Office of Workforce Development shall be attached to the Office of  
146 Planning and Budget for administrative purposes only."

147 **SECTION 5.**

148 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
149 without such approval.

150 **SECTION 6.**

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