

Senate Bill 161

By: Senators Butterworth of the 50th, Grant of the 25th, McKoon of the 29th, Hill of the 4th and Sims of the 12th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to technical and adult education, so as to provide for college and career academies;  
3 to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to establish an Office of College  
4 and Career Transitions; to provide for partnerships with postsecondary institutions to  
5 establish college and career academies as charter schools; to provide for funding; to provide  
6 for certification; to provide for data collection; to provide for eligibility criteria,  
7 requirements, and procedures; to provide for annual reporting; to provide for advisement; to  
8 amend Part 16 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
9 Annotated, relating to the "Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy  
10 Act," so as to revise definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective  
11 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

14 Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
15 technical and adult education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:  
16 "20-4-37.

17 (a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

18 (A) Increase high school graduation rates, potential job opportunities, and educational  
19 opportunities that will prepare students for success in college and the workplace;

20 (B) Establish intergovernmental cooperation between postsecondary institutions and  
21 local boards of education and collaboration with business, industry, and community  
22 stakeholders to aid relevant education programs and in the development and support of  
23 new and existing college and career academies in Georgia;

24 (C) Assist in the development of academic and career ready curriculum;

25 (D) Establish and manage support grant opportunities and awards for new and existing  
26 college and career academies;

27 (E) Establish a process that allows for college and career academy certification; and  
28 (F) Collect and analyze data to evaluate the effectiveness of dual credit and dual  
29 enrollment programs, secondary and postsecondary partnerships, and college and career  
30 academics.

31 (2) The General Assembly finds that to accomplish these goals, an office should be  
32 established to coordinate the efforts of the various education agencies.

33 (b) As used in this Code section, the term:

34 (1) 'Board' means the State Board of Technical and Adult Education.

35 (2) 'Certification' means a formal process established by the Office of College and Career  
36 Transitions, and approved by the board, in which college and career academies  
37 successfully demonstrate appropriate levels of student achievement, community  
38 sustainability, workforce development, and school level governance.

39 (3) 'Charter petitioner' means a local board of education, group of local boards of  
40 education, private individual, private organization, or state or local public entity that  
41 submits a petition for a charter in cooperation with one or more postsecondary institutions  
42 which have petitioned to establish a college and career academy as a charter school  
43 pursuant to Article 31 or Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this title.

44 (4) 'Charter school' shall have the same meaning as in paragraph (3) of Code Section  
45 20-2-2062 and as in paragraph (2) of Code Section 20-2-2081.

46 (5) 'College and career academy' means a specialized charter school established by a  
47 partnership which demonstrates a collaboration between business, industry, and  
48 community stakeholders to advance workforce development between one or more local  
49 boards of education, a private individual, a private organization, or a state or local public  
50 entity in cooperation with one or more postsecondary institutions and approved by the  
51 State Board of Education in accordance with Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title or the  
52 Georgia Charter Schools Commission in accordance with Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this  
53 title.

54 (6) 'Office' means the Office of College and Career Transitions established pursuant to  
55 subsection (c) of this Code section.

56 (7) 'Postsecondary institution' means a local technical college, community college,  
57 university, or other postsecondary institution operating under the authority of the  
58 Technical College System of Georgia or the University System of Georgia or other not  
59 for profit postsecondary institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges  
60 and Schools.

61 (8) 'Start-up costs' means initial operating or capital costs, including, but not limited to,  
62 costs of improving real property.

63 (9) 'Supplemental funding' means funding for purposes other than start-up costs which  
64 are related to the establishment and operation of college and career academies.

65 (c) The Office of College and Career Transitions shall be established within the Technical  
66 College System of Georgia to coordinate the efforts by the State Board of Education, the  
67 University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and other not for  
68 profit postsecondary institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
69 Schools in the development and establishment of college and career academies. The office  
70 shall make recommendations to the State Board of Education for the approval and renewal  
71 of college and career academy petitions and charters. The State Board of Education shall  
72 consider such a recommendation from the office prior to approving or denying a charter  
73 petition for a college and career academy.

74 (d) Supplementary to and without limitation of other authority, the board shall be  
75 authorized to allocate funds, including state funds, federal funds, proceeds of general  
76 obligation debt, or any other available funds, for a particular purpose for college and career  
77 academies for start-up costs or for other purposes related to the establishment and operation  
78 of such academies by a grant consideration process.

79 (e) A charter petitioner for a college and career academy that has submitted for approval  
80 or that has drafted for submission for approval a charter petition for a college and career  
81 academy shall be authorized to submit to the board an application for start-up funds for a  
82 college and career academy. The board shall approve applications for start-up funds for  
83 college and career academies that meet the criteria and requirements established pursuant  
84 to subsection (j) of this Code section. Charter approval shall not be unreasonably withheld  
85 or denied by the State Board of Education following receipt of a recommendation for  
86 charter approval from the office. Funds shall not be released to an approved applicant  
87 unless the charter petition is approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to Article  
88 31 of Chapter 2 of this title or the Georgia Charter Schools Commission in accordance with  
89 Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this title.

90 (f) The board shall be authorized to disburse supplemental funding to existing or new  
91 college and career academies which demonstrate a need for such funding.

92 (g)(1) The office shall establish a certification process, in collaboration with the  
93 Department of Education, for approval by the board. The office shall be authorized to  
94 certify college and career academies. The State Board of Education shall accept  
95 certification by the office for purposes of determining compliance with charter  
96 requirements and shall not require duplicate information.

97 (2) Any certification process established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection  
98 must require that the applicant demonstrates how the proposed college and career  
99 academy will increase student achievement, provide for dual credit and dual enrollment

100 opportunities, and address workforce development needs; articulates how the  
 101 collaboration between business, industry, and community stakeholders will advance  
 102 workforce development; and shows other benefits that meet the needs of the students and  
 103 community.

104 (3) Certification by the office shall constitute a positive recommendation to the State  
 105 Board of Education for approval of a charter petition pursuant to this Code section.

106 (h) The office shall be responsible for collecting and analyzing appropriate data from and  
 107 about college and career academies on matters consisting of but not limited to college and  
 108 career academy effectiveness. Collecting and reporting of data shall be in coordination  
 109 with the charter school office of the Department of Education.

110 (i) The board shall establish eligibility criteria, requirements, and procedures for the  
 111 disbursement of funding to college and career academies pursuant to this Code section.  
 112 Such criteria, requirements, and procedures shall consider the strength of the proposed  
 113 cooperative arrangements between the local board of education, the group of local boards  
 114 of education, a private individual, a private organization, or a state or local public entity  
 115 and one or more postsecondary institutions and must include active support from and a  
 116 partnership with local business and community leaders for the college and career academy.  
 117 The board may establish a matching requirement for recipients of funds under this Code  
 118 section.

119 (j) A college and career academy receiving funds pursuant to this Code section shall  
 120 submit an annual report to the board regarding the performance of such academy and the  
 121 expenditure of funds received pursuant to this Code section. The report shall include, but  
 122 not be limited to, academic data, financial statements, an evaluation of the progress relative  
 123 to relationships between and among the business, industry, and community stakeholders,  
 124 and any other information requested by the board to demonstrate the yearly progress or  
 125 effectiveness of the college and career academy.

126 (k) Representatives from business, industry, civic, and governmental agencies and  
 127 educational organizations which are designated by the commissioner of the Technical  
 128 College System of Georgia shall advise the board on matters pertaining to governance of  
 129 college and career academies."

130 **SECTION 2.**

131 Part 16 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
 132 relating to the "Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy Act," is  
 133 amended in Code Section 20-2-326, relating to definitions, by revising paragraphs (2) and  
 134 (9) as follows:

135 "(2) 'Career College and career academy' means a specialized charter school established

136 by a partnership which demonstrates a collaboration between business, industry, and  
 137 community stakeholders to advance workforce development between one or more local  
 138 boards of education, a private individual, a private organization, or a state or local public  
 139 entity in cooperation with one or more postsecondary institutions and a technical school  
 140 ~~or college~~ and approved by the State Board of Education in accordance with Article 31  
 141 of this chapter or the Georgia Charter Schools Commission in accordance with Article  
 142 31A of this chapter. ~~This term also includes a small learning community where a student~~  
 143 ~~receives academic instruction at his or her assigned high school combined with work~~  
 144 ~~based learning opportunities at an industry center or technical school or college."~~

145 "(9) 'Small learning community' means an autonomous or semiautonomous small  
 146 learning environment within a large high school which is made up of a subset of students  
 147 and teachers for a two, three, or four-year period. The goal of a small learning  
 148 community is to achieve greater personalization of learning with each community led by  
 149 a principal or instructional leader. A small learning community blends academic studies  
 150 around a broad career or academic theme where teachers have common planning time to  
 151 connect teacher assignments and assessments to college and career readiness standards.  
 152 Students voluntarily apply for enrollment in a small learning community but must be  
 153 accepted, and such enrollment must be approved by the student's parent or guardian. A  
 154 small learning community also includes a college and career academy organized around  
 155 a specific career theme which integrates academic and career instruction, provides  
 156 work-based learning opportunities, and prepares students for postsecondary education and  
 157 employment, with support through partnerships with local employers, community  
 158 organizations, and postsecondary institutions."

### 159 SECTION 3.

160 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-2-328 of the Official Code of Georgia  
 161 Annotated, relating to a competitive grant program, by revising paragraph (3) of subsection  
 162 (c) as follows:

163 "(3) Developing small learning communities or college and career academies with a  
 164 rigorous academic foundation and emphasis in broad career fields of study;"

### 165 SECTION 4.

166 Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-2-329 of the Official Code of Georgia  
 167 Annotated, relating to requirements for high schools that receive a reform grant, by revising  
 168 paragraph (1) as follows:

169 "(1) Provide focused programs of study which are designed to provide a well-rounded  
 170 education for students by fostering artistic creativity, critical thinking, and self-discipline

171 through the teaching of academic content, knowledge, and skills that students will use in  
172 the workplace, further education, and life. The focused programs of study, whether  
173 provided at a choice technical high school, a college and career academy, a traditional  
174 high school, or on site at a technical school or college or a public college or university,  
175 shall be aligned with graduation requirements established by the State Board of Education  
176 and curriculum requirements established pursuant to Part 2 of this article, including, at  
177 a minimum, four years of mathematics, Algebra I and higher, and four years of English,  
178 with an emphasis on developing reading and writing skills to meet college and career  
179 readiness standards;"

180 **SECTION 5.**

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

183 **SECTION 6.**

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