

House Resolution 489

By: Representatives Thomas of the 100th, Carter of the 175th, Kaiser of the 59th, Coleman of the 97th, Morgan of the 39th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the State Board of Education to revise its professional learning rules; to establish
2 a Professional Learning Rules Task Force; to provide written guidance; and for other
3 purposes

4 WHEREAS, the Professional Standards Commission is revising current certification rules
5 that require the demonstration of the impact of professional learning on educator
6 performance and student performance, effective July 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-201 of the O.C.G.A. requires all
8 certificated professional personnel "each calendar year" to participate in continuing education
9 programs that "focus on improving the skills of certificated personnel that directly relate to
10 improving student achievement"; and

11 WHEREAS, the most important factor contributing to a student's success in school is the
12 quality of teaching, and professional learning is the primary means for improving the quality
13 of teaching; and

14 WHEREAS, all teachers engage in professional learning that is conceived, organized,
15 managed, and evaluated under the authority of local school boards; and

16 WHEREAS, professional learning is more effective when its conception, organization,
17 management, and evaluation is consistent with research findings that identify practices that
18 improve teachers' instruction; and

19 WHEREAS, implementation of the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards adopted
20 by the State Board of Education requires long-term, in-depth, job-embedded professional
21 learning; and

22 WHEREAS, the House Study Committee on Professional Learning concluded that educators
23 need time to improve their knowledge, skills, and dispositions and that such professional
24 learning best occurs in a job-embedded context, with colleagues, sustained over time.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
26 GEORGIA:

27 **SECTION 1.**

28 The State Board of Education shall revise its professional learning rules so it is the
29 responsibility of principals, district leaders, and state leaders to ensure that teachers have
30 opportunities for professional learning that reflect the findings of the House Study
31 Committee on Professional Learning and are consistent with major research findings and best
32 practices regarding professional learning.

33 **SECTION 2.**

34 The State Board of Education shall align its rules with the new Professional Standards
35 Commission certification renewal rules requiring the demonstration of the impact of
36 professional learning on educator and student performance when the commission's rules take
37 effect.

38 **SECTION 3.**

39 (a) The Department of Education shall establish the Professional Learning Rules Task Force
40 for the purposes of reviewing current State Board of Education professional learning rules,
41 reviewing current research regarding professional learning, providing suggestions for
42 revisions to the rules, and providing suggestions for implementation.

43 (b) The task force shall be composed of, at a minimum, the following members:

- 44 (1) One representative of the Professional Standards Commission;
- 45 (2) One representative of the Department of Education;
- 46 (3) One district level professional learning coordinator;
- 47 (4) One representative from the central office of the University System of Georgia;
- 48 (5) One representative from a college of education within the University System of
49 Georgia;
- 50 (6) One representative from a private college of education in this state;
- 51 (7) One representative from a regional educational service agency;
- 52 (8) One representative local school superintendent;
- 53 (9) One representative public school principal;
- 54 (10) One representative public school elementary school teacher;

- 55 (11) One representative public school middle school teacher;
56 (12) One representative public school high school teacher;
57 (13) One representative from the Georgia Staff Development Council, and
58 (14) One representative from Learning Forward (National Staff Development Council).
59 (c) The representative from the Department of Education shall serve as chairperson of the
60 task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the chairperson.
61 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

62 **SECTION 4.**

63 The task force shall present recommendations for professional learning rules to the State
64 Board of Education no later than July 1, 2013. Recommendations shall be included in
65 revisions to the State Board of Education professional learning rules and shall be adopted on
66 or before June 30, 2015.

67 **SECTION 5.**

68 The Department of Education shall provide written guidance aligned to revised State Board
69 of Education professional learning rules.