

Senate Bill 410

By: Senators Williams of the 19th, Mullis of the 53rd, Rogers of the 21st, Jeffares of the 17th, Heath of the 31st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to an accountability assessment for K-12 education, so as to provide for
3 annual indicators of the quality of learning by students, financial efficiency, and school
4 climate for individual schools and for school systems; to provide for individual school and
5 school system numerical score ratings based on student achievement, achievement gap
6 closure, and student progress; to require that a letter grade be assigned to each school and
7 school system and included on school and school system report cards; to revise provisions
8 relating to awards and interventions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
9 and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

12 Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to an accountability assessment for K-12 education, is amended by revising Code
14 Section 20-14-33, relating to indicators of quality of learning in individual schools and
15 school systems, comparison to state standards, rating schools and school systems, and other
16 matters, as follows:

17 "20-14-33.

18 (a) The office, in coordination with the Department of Education, shall adopt and
19 ~~biennially~~ annually review, and revise as necessary, indicators of the quality of learning by
20 students, financial efficiency, and school climate for individual schools and for school
21 systems in an individual school and school system.

22 (b) The performance indicators of ~~student achievement and school performance must be~~
23 ~~based on information that is disaggregated with respect to~~ quality of learning shall be based
24 on data that include student achievement, achievement gap closure, and student progress.
25 The performance indicators of quality of learning shall include all students regardless of
26 ethnicity, sex, disability, language proficiency, and socioeconomic status and must include

27 shall be disaggregated by all subgroups as required under the federal Elementary and
 28 Secondary Education Act, as amended:

- 29 ~~(1) The results of assessment instruments required under Code Section 20-2-281,~~
 30 ~~aggregated by grade level and subject area;~~
 31 ~~(2) Dropout rates for each school;~~
 32 ~~(3) Student attendance rates for each school;~~
 33 ~~(4) School completion rates for each school;~~
 34 ~~(5) The percentage of graduating students who attain scores on the Georgia high school~~
 35 ~~graduation test required under Code Section 20-2-281 that are equivalent to a passing~~
 36 ~~score on the test instrument until such time as the Georgia high school graduation test is~~
 37 ~~discontinued as provided in Code Section 20-2-281;~~
 38 ~~(6) The percentage of graduating students who meet the course requirements established~~
 39 ~~for the recommended high school program by State Board of Education rule;~~
 40 ~~(7) The percentage of students taking end-of-course assessment instruments under Code~~
 41 ~~Section 20-2-281;~~
 42 ~~(8) The percentage of high school students who pass the end-of-course assessment~~
 43 ~~instrument in core subjects;~~
 44 ~~(9) The results of the Scholastic Assessment Test or the ACT Assessment;~~
 45 ~~(10) The percentage of students taking alternate assessments under subsection (d) of~~
 46 ~~Code Section 20-2-281;~~
 47 ~~(11) The average time that a student placed in an early intervention program remains~~
 48 ~~before attaining grade level status and returning to regular status; and~~
 49 ~~(12) Any other indicator the office adopts.~~

50 (c) Performance on the indicator indicators of quality of learning, financial efficiency, and
 51 school climate shall be compared to state standards, ~~progress on improved student~~
 52 ~~achievement~~, and comparable performance. The standards for comparison shall be
 53 established by the office as provided in Code Section 20-14-31, in coordination with the
 54 Department of Education. Data and information regarding the ~~standard~~ standards shall be
 55 included in the annual report provided for in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code
 56 Section 20-14-27. Financial efficiency may include an analysis of how federal and state
 57 funds spent by local school systems impact student achievement and school improvement,
 58 and components used to determine financial efficiency may include actual achievement,
 59 resource efficiency, and student participation in standardized testing. School climate
 60 determinations may utilize data from student health surveys, data on environmental and
 61 behavior indicators, data on student behavioral and school-based reactions, and teacher and
 62 parent survey instruments. Financial efficiency and school climate shall have one of the

63 following star ratings based upon the factors included in this subsection, as further defined
 64 by rules and regulations of the office:

65 (1) "5-star" schools ranked excellent according to the state determined financial
 66 efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate;

67 (2) "4-star" schools ranked above average according to the state determined financial
 68 efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate;

69 (3) "3-star" schools ranked satisfactory according to the state determined financial
 70 efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate;

71 (4) "2-star" schools ranked below satisfactory according to the state determined financial
 72 efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate; or

73 (5) "1-star" schools ranked failing according to the state determined financial efficiency
 74 or school climate index, as appropriate.

75 (d) The office, in coordination with the Department of Education, shall establish and
 76 annually calculate individual school and school system ratings, which shall be a numerical
 77 score on a scale of 0-100, for each public school and school system in this state based on
 78 the indicators of quality of learning adopted pursuant to this Code section for student
 79 achievement, achievement gap closure, and student progress for annual academic
 80 performance on the assessment instruments required under Code Section 20-2-281.

81 (e) Each school system shall provide all student performance data and all other student
 82 school completion and attendance data necessary for the calculation of the school and
 83 school system rating to the Department of Education's educational information system in
 84 accordance with rules and timelines established by the State Board of Education and the
 85 Department of Education shall make such data available to the office to enable it to conduct
 86 its required duties.

87 (f) The office shall develop and the State Board of Education shall adopt a uniform
 88 definition of 'dropout.' All schools and school systems shall report student dropout
 89 information to the Department of Education's educational information system in
 90 accordance with rules and timelines established by the state board as provided in
 91 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-167. Each school system shall cooperate with the
 92 office in determining whether a student is a dropout under this subsection and shall adopt
 93 the uniform definition of 'dropout.' Data and information regarding the establishment of
 94 the definition and the tracking of dropout and school completion data shall be included in
 95 the annual report provided for in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-27.
 96 School completion data shall be included in the performance indicators of quality of
 97 learning for each school and school system.

98 (g) The office shall develop and the State Board of Education shall adopt a uniform
 99 definition of a 'below grade level' student for purposes of placing students in the early

100 intervention program under Code Section 20-2-153 and for purposes of tracking these
 101 students for accountability purposes. Data and information regarding the establishment of
 102 the definition shall be included in the annual report provided for in paragraph (2) of
 103 subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-27.

104 ~~(h) The office shall annually review the performance of each school and school system on
 105 the indicators in subsection (b) of this Code section and determine whether a change in the
 106 school or school system rating status of the school or school system is warranted."~~

107 **SECTION 2.**

108 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-14-34, relating to school report
 109 cards and the required information and dissemination of such report cards, as follows:

110 "20-14-34.

111 (a) Each school year, the office, in coordination with the Department of Education, shall
 112 prepare and distribute to each school system in the State of Georgia a report card for each
 113 school in the school system and for the school system in the State of Georgia. The school
 114 report cards ~~must be~~ shall include performance data on quality of learning, financial
 115 efficiency, and school climate as calculated pursuant to Code Section 20-14-33 and based
 116 on the most current data available disaggregated by student groups. Beginning with the
 117 2013-2014 school year, the office shall assign a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F, including
 118 plus or minus delineations, for each school and school system. Such letter grade shall be
 119 derived from the numerical rating score calculated pursuant to Code Section 20-14-33.

120 ~~School performance must be compared to:~~

- 121 ~~(1) Previous school and local school system performance;~~
 122 ~~(2) Current school and local school system performance in relation to the absolute~~
 123 ~~student achievement standards and progress on improved student achievement;~~
 124 ~~(3) Comparable school group performance; and~~
 125 ~~(4) Any other indicators adopted by the State Board of Education.~~

126 ~~This report card on schools shall be the official state education performance report and~~
 127 ~~supersedes all other reports that may be issued by departments of the state government for~~
 128 ~~matters of funding, awards, and interventions.~~

129 (b) The report card cards shall include the following information, where applicable:

- 130 (1) The school or school system letter grade assigned pursuant to subsection (a) of this
 131 Code section;
 132 (2) The individual school and school system ratings in a numerical format as provided
 133 for in subsection (d) of Code Section 20-14-33;
 134 ~~(2) The academic excellence indicators in subsection (b) of Code Section 20-14-33;~~
 135 ~~(3) Teacher-student ratios; and~~

- 136 ~~(4) Administrative and instructional costs per student and other financial accounting~~
 137 ~~information as may be required.~~
- 138 (3) A financial efficiency rating for each school and school system;
 139 (4) A school climate rating for each school and school system;
 140 (5) An explanation of the criteria that informs the school and school system rating; and
 141 (6) An explanation of the criteria that informs the financial efficiency and school climate
 142 ratings.
- 143 (c) Each school year, the office shall prepare and distribute a state-wide report card,
 144 aggregated by school systems and disaggregated by student groups, reporting on the
 145 ~~student performance and school completion~~ results of each school and each school system
 146 in the state and a rating and letter grade for each school and each school system as provided
 147 for in subsection (d) of Code Section 20-14-33 and subsection (a) of this Code section.
- 148 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules requiring dissemination of appropriate
 149 ~~student performance and school completion performance~~ portions of school and school
 150 system report cards annually to the parent, guardian, conservator, or other person having
 151 lawful control of each student at the school. On written request, the local school system
 152 shall provide a copy of a school or school system report card to any other party. These
 153 ~~reports report cards~~ shall be posted on the Office of Student Achievement website, the
 154 Department of Education website, and the existing website of such local school system."

155 **SECTION 3.**

156 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-14-38, relating to financial
 157 awards and proclamations by the Governor, as follows:

158 "20-14-38.

- 159 (a) Financial awards ~~will~~ may be provided to the schools that the director determines have
 160 demonstrated the greatest improvement in ~~achieving the education goals of improved~~
 161 ~~student achievement and improved school completion~~ achievement gap closure, subject to
 162 appropriation by the General Assembly and any limitation set by the director on the total
 163 amount that may be awarded to a school or local school system.
- 164 (b) Financial awards ~~will~~ may be provided to each school that is identified by the director
 165 for performance ~~on either or both excellence~~ in student achievement and or student
 166 ~~progress on student achievement~~. The certificated personnel in a school that is identified
 167 by the director as either a best performing school or better performing school in either or
 168 both categories ~~will~~ may be provided a bonus for the year the school was identified of
 169 \$1,000.00 for each best performing school designation and \$500.00 for each better
 170 performing school designation. The maximum individual annual bonus for certificated
 171 personnel shall not exceed \$2,000.00 and shall be provided subject to appropriation by the

172 General Assembly or as otherwise may be provided. An additional financial award ~~with~~
 173 may be provided to each school for noncertificated personnel in the amount of \$10,000.00
 174 for each designation of best performing school and \$5,000.00 for each designation of better
 175 performing school, provided that the total lump sum noncertificated personnel award for
 176 an individual school shall not exceed \$20,000.00; provided, further, that funds for this
 177 purpose are appropriated by the General Assembly or as otherwise may be provided. The
 178 school receiving this noncertificated personnel award shall determine the distribution of
 179 the award among such personnel of its school.

180 (c) The Governor may present proclamations or certificates to schools and school systems
 181 determined to have met or exceeded the state's education goals under Code Section
 182 20-14-30."

183 **SECTION 4.**

184 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-14-41, relating to appropriate levels of
 185 intervention for failing schools, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

186 "(a) The State Board of Education shall by policies, rules, or regulations establish a
 187 coherent and sustained system of assistance and support for schools not meeting identified
 188 levels of achievement or not showing specified levels of progress as determined by the
 189 office. The State Board of Education shall by policies, rules, or regulations specify
 190 appropriate levels of assistance and intervention for schools that receive an unacceptable
 191 rating on ~~student performance for the absolute student achievement standard or on progress~~
 192 ~~on improved student achievement, achievement gap closure, or student progress, or any~~
 193 combination thereof. In specifying levels of assistance and intervention, the State Board
 194 of Education shall consider the number of years a school has received an unacceptable
 195 rating and may include one or more of the following interventions:

- 196 (1) Issuing public notice of the deficiency to the local board of education;
- 197 (2) Ordering a hearing to be conducted at the school by the local board of education with
 198 the participation of the school council for the purpose of notifying the public of the
 199 unacceptable performance, the improvements in performance expected by the office, and
 200 the interventions that may be imposed under this Code section if the performance does
 201 not improve within a designated period of time and of soliciting public comment on the
 202 initial steps being taken to improve performance;
- 203 (3) Ordering the preparation of an intensive student achievement improvement plan that
 204 addresses each academic excellence indicator for which the school's performance is
 205 unacceptable, the submission of the plan to the State Board of Education for approval,
 206 and implementation of the plan;
- 207 (4) Appointing a Department of Education school improvement team to:

- 208 (A) Conduct a comprehensive on-site evaluation of each low-performing school to
 209 determine the cause for the school's low performance and lack of progress that includes
 210 presentations by the chairperson of the local board of education, the school principal,
 211 a parent member of the local school council, and other school personnel;
- 212 (B) Recommend actions, including reallocation of resources and technical assistance,
 213 changes in school procedures or operations, professional learning focused on student
 214 achievement for instructional and administrative staff, intervention for individual
 215 administrators or teachers, instructional strategies based on scientifically based
 216 research, waivers from state statutes or rules, adoption of policies and practices to
 217 ensure all groups of students meet the state's proficiency level, extended instruction
 218 time for low-performing students, strategies for parental involvement, incorporation of
 219 a teacher mentoring program, smaller class size for low-performing students, or other
 220 actions the team considers appropriate;
- 221 (C) Assist in the development of an intensive school improvement plan focused on
 222 student achievement required by paragraph (3) of this subsection; and
- 223 (D) Monitor the progress of the school in implementing the intensive school
 224 improvement plan focused on student achievement;
- 225 (5) If a school has received an unacceptable rating for a period of two consecutive years
 226 or more, appointing a school master or management team to oversee and direct the duties
 227 of the principal of the school in relation to the school until school performance improves
 228 and the school is released from intervention by the director, with the cost of the master
 229 or management team to be paid by the state; or
- 230 (6) If a school has received an unacceptable rating for a period of three consecutive years
 231 or more, the State Board of Education shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of
 232 this Code section, implement one or more of the following interventions or sanctions:
- 233 (A) Removal of school personnel on recommendation of the master or the school
 234 improvement team, including the principal and personnel whose performance has
 235 continued not to produce student achievement gains over a three-year period as a
 236 condition for continued receipt of state funds for administration;
- 237 (B) Allow for the implementation of a state charter school through the designation by
 238 the State Board of Education;
- 239 (C) Mandate the complete reconstitution of the school, removing all personnel,
 240 appointing a new principal, and hiring all new staff. Existing staff may reapply for
 241 employment at the newly reconstituted school but shall not be rehired if their
 242 performance regarding student achievement has been negative for the past three years;
- 243 (D) Mandate that the parents have the option to relocate the student to other public
 244 schools in the local school system to be chosen by the parents of the student from a list

245 of available options provided by the local school system. The local school system shall
246 provide transportation for students in Title I schools in accordance with the
247 requirements of federal law. The local school system may provide transportation for
248 students in non-Title I schools. In any year in which the General Assembly does not
249 appropriate funds for the provision of transportation to non-Title I students, the parent
250 or guardian shall assume responsibility for the transportation of that student;
251 (E) Mandate a monitor, master, or management team in the school that shall be paid
252 by the district;
253 (F) Continue the intensive student achievement improvement plan provided for in
254 paragraph (3) of this subsection; or
255 (G) Mandate a complete restructuring of the school's governance arrangement and
256 internal organization of the school."

257 **SECTION 5.**

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