

House Bill 717

By: Representative Holt of the 112th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 4A of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to community involvement in elementary and secondary education, so as to provide
3 for a system of determining parental investment in public schools; to provide for legislative
4 findings and intent; to provide for the establishment of rules and regulations by the State
5 Board of Education for the determination of parental investment letter grades; to provide that
6 local school systems may elect to participate in the parental investment grading system; to
7 provide for limited liability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
8 other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 SECTION 1.

11 Article 4A of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 community involvement in elementary and secondary education, is amended by adding a
13 new Code section to read as follows:

14 "20-2-87.

15 (a)(1) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

16 (A) The role of parents in preparing and supporting their children is of critical
17 importance to the success of each child's experience in public education;

18 (B) Despite general agreement about the importance of preparation and support, it is
19 clear that little is known about the interrelation of such parental investments with
20 aggregate student performance or about the general quality of parental investment being
21 provided; and

22 (C) It is unclear as to whether many parents are even aware of the value of their role
23 in the potential success of their children in school.

24 (2) The General Assembly therefore intends to create a system whereby such parental
25 investment can be measured and evaluated, and the results of such measurement and
26 evaluation shall be communicated back to parents.

- 27 (b) The State Board of Education shall, by the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year,
28 promulgate rules and regulations to establish a parental investment grading system for the
29 collection and evaluation of parental investment data. The rules and regulations shall:
- 30 (1) Include a standardized framework for the collection and reporting of parental
31 investment data, including the computation of a letter grade of A, B, C, or F for the
32 parents or guardians of each student;
- 33 (2) Include a system for relating aggregate parental investment data to system-wide and
34 state-wide student performance;
- 35 (3) Include a method to determine parental investment letter grades based upon, at a
36 minimum, the following factors:
- 37 (A) The return of school correspondence by parents or guardians requiring a response
38 or signature;
- 39 (B) The attendance of the parent or guardian at parent/teacher conferences;
- 40 (C) The student's completion of homework;
- 41 (D) The frequency of the student's tardiness and unexcused absences; and
- 42 (E) For students who first begin attendance in a Georgia school system in pre-
43 kindergarten, kindergarten, or first grade, an evaluation of the student's knowledge of
44 colors, shapes, letters, and numbers at the beginning of the first year of such student's
45 attendance;
- 46 (4) Include a mechanism for the transfer of parental investment data among local school
47 systems for students who transfer to another school system; and
- 48 (5) Prohibit the release of specific parental investment data and letter grades for each
49 student's parents or guardians except to such parents or guardians. The use of parental
50 investment data and letter grades in relating aggregate parental investment data to
51 system-wide and state-wide student performance shall utilize only aggregate parental
52 investment data, and no identifying data shall be released.
- 53 (c)(1) A local school system may, upon majority resolution of the local board of
54 education, participate in the parental investment grading system.
- 55 (2) Participating school systems shall provide the parental investment letter grade to
56 parents and guardians with their child's report card at each reporting cycle. Such
57 participating school systems may report their aggregate student performance data in a
58 manner that relates their aggregate parental investment data to local school system
59 student performance data, as provided for in paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Code
60 section.
- 61 (3) The parental investment letter grade may include a disclaimer stating that the
62 computation of such letter grade is based solely upon rules and regulations promulgated

63 by the State Board of Education pursuant to this Code section and that the child's
64 teachers, school administrators, and local school system have no discretion in
65 determining such letter grade.

66 (4) Participating school systems may use parental investment data in the process of
67 teacher evaluation and promotion.

68 (d) The state and participating school systems shall not be liable for a violation of any
69 individual rights for the collection of parental investment data or for participation in the
70 parental investment grading system."

71 **SECTION 2.**

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