

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth offers the following substitute to HB 502:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 2 elementary and secondary education, so as to update and clarify provisions in law and to
 3 repeal obsolete provisions; to repeal a population act provision; to revise provisions relating
 4 to flexibility for school systems; to provide that annual performance evaluations cannot be
 5 waived; to revise provisions relating to state required content standards; to remove the
 6 middle grades program; to revise provisions relating to contracts by the State School
 7 Superintendent; to revise a process for student requests for waivers and variances of state
 8 requirements; to revise provisions relating to state required assessments; to revise provisions
 9 relating to the honors program; to revise a provision relating to a report on gender
 10 discrimination; to revise provisions relating to courses taken through the Georgia Virtual
 11 School; to revise provisions relating to virtual instruction opportunities provided by local
 12 school systems; to repeal an obsolete provision relating to acquiring digital learning; to revise
 13 a provision relating to home study reporting; to revise provisions relating to health insurance
 14 for public school teachers and employees; to revise provisions relating to nonrenewal of a
 15 teacher's contract; to revise provisions relating to appeals to the State Board of Education;
 16 to repeal an Act to provide in all counties of 500,000 or more population according to the
 17 United States Census of 1960 or any future United States Census that the pension board of
 18 the board of education in such counties shall recompute the pension paid to those teachers
 19 and employees who had retired as a matter of right prior to April 1, 1955, and who had been
 20 awarded a basic pension for 20 years of service, approved March 21, 1963 (Ga. L. 1963, p.
 21 2469); to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

22 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

SECTION 1.

23 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
 24 secondary education, is amended by repealing subsection (d) of Code Section 20-2-51,
 25 relating to election of local board of education members, persons ineligible to be members
 26

27 or superintendent, ineligibility for local boards of education, and ineligibility for other
28 elective offices, and designating said subsection as reserved.

29 **SECTION 1A.**

30 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-80, relating
31 to requests for increased flexibility, as follows:

32 "(b) A local school system may elect not to request increased flexibility in exchange for
33 increased accountability and defined consequences and ~~opt elect~~ to remain under all current
34 laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, and such local school system, which shall
35 be known as a Title 20/No Waivers system, shall:

36 (1) Conduct a public hearing for the purpose of providing public notice that such local
37 school system is ~~opting for the status quo~~ electing to be a Title 20/No Waivers system and
38 to remain subject to all state rules, regulations, policies, and procedures and the
39 provisions of this title. The public hearing shall be advertised in a local newspaper of
40 general circulation which shall be the same newspaper in which other legal
41 announcements of the local board of education are advertised; and

42 (2) Sign a statement on a form provided by the state board that such local school system
43 is ~~opting for the status quo~~ electing to be a Title 20/No Waivers system."

44 **SECTION 1B.**

45 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-81, relating to strategic plan and
46 proposed contract for local school systems requesting flexibility, by adding a new subsection
47 to read as follows:

48 "(f) A local school system which elects to request increased flexibility pursuant to this
49 article shall be known as a strategic waivers school system."

50 **SECTION 2.**

51 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 20-2-82, relating
52 to contract terms for local school systems requesting flexibility, as follows:

53 "(e) The state board shall be authorized to approve a waiver or variance request of
54 specifically identified state rules, regulations, policies, and procedures or provisions of this
55 chapter upon the inclusion of such request in the local school system's proposed contract
56 and in accordance with subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-84. The goal for each waiver
57 and variance shall be improvement of student performance. The state board shall not be
58 authorized to waive or approve variances on any federal, state, and local rules, regulations,
59 court orders, and statutes relating to civil rights; insurance; the protection of the physical
60 health and safety of school students, employees, and visitors; conflicting interest

61 transactions; the prevention of unlawful conduct; any laws relating to unlawful conduct in
 62 or near a public school; any reporting requirements pursuant to Code Section 20-2-320 or
 63 Chapter 14 of this title; the requirements of Code Section 20-2-210; the requirements of
 64 Code Section 20-2-211.1; or the requirements in subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-327.
 65 A local school system that has received a waiver or variance shall remain subject to the
 66 provisions of Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of this title, the requirement that it shall not
 67 charge tuition or fees to its students except as may be authorized for local boards by Code
 68 Section 20-2-133, and shall remain open to enrollment in the same manner as before the
 69 waiver request."

70 SECTION 2A.

71 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-84.3, relating to a limit on
 72 the number of local school systems entering into a flexibility contract, as follows:

73 "20-2-84.3.

74 ~~(a) No more than five local school systems in the first calendar year may enter into a~~
 75 ~~contract with the State Board of Education pursuant to this article.~~

76 ~~(b)~~ No later than June 30, 2015, each local school system shall either notify the department
 77 of its intention to ~~request increased flexibility~~ become a strategic waivers school system
 78 pursuant to this article or shall comply with subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-80,
 79 electing to be a Title 20/No Waivers system."

80 SECTION 3.

81 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of Code Section 20-2-131, relating
 82 to objectives and purposes of the Quality Basic Education Program, as follows:

83 "(1) Implementing a ~~quality basic education~~ highly rigorous curriculum to encompass
 84 content standards in public schools state wide which ensures that each student is provided
 85 ample opportunity to develop competencies necessary for lifelong learning as well as the
 86 competencies needed to maintain good physical and mental health, to participate actively
 87 in the governing process and community activities, to protect the environment and
 88 conserve public and private resources, and to be an effective worker and responsible
 89 citizen of high character;"

90 SECTION 4.

91 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-140, relating to the State
 92 Board of Education establishing competencies and a uniformly sequenced core curriculum
 93 and college and career readiness competency standards, as follows:

94 "20-2-140.

95 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish competencies uniformly sequenced
 96 content standards that each student is expected to master prior to completion of the
 97 student's public school education. ~~The state board shall also establish competencies for~~
 98 ~~which each student should be provided opportunities, at the discretion of the student and~~
 99 ~~the student's parents, to master. Based upon these foregoing competencies, the~~ The state
 100 board shall adopt ~~a uniformly sequenced core curriculum~~ content standards for grades
 101 students in kindergarten through grade 12. Each local unit of administration ~~shall include~~
 102 ~~this uniformly sequenced core curriculum as the basis for its own curriculum, although~~
 103 ~~each local unit may sequence, expand, and enrich this curriculum~~ may expand and enrich
 104 the content standards to the extent it deems necessary and appropriate for its students and
 105 communities. Each local school system shall adopt its own curriculum which shall include
 106 appropriate instruction in the content standards.

107 (b) The State Board of Education, working with the Board of Regents of the University
 108 System of Georgia and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia, shall
 109 establish college and career readiness ~~competency~~ standards to demonstrate competency
 110 in reading, writing, and mathematics aligned with the ~~core curriculum~~ content standards
 111 adopted by the state board pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section with the level of
 112 performance necessary to meet college-readiness standards in the state's technical colleges,
 113 community colleges, state colleges, and universities and in other advanced training
 114 programs.

115 (c) The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall require its
 116 institutions to accept core ~~curriculum~~ coursework completed by high school students for
 117 purposes of admission into its institutions. ~~This Code section shall apply beginning with~~
 118 ~~students entering such postsecondary institutions in the fall of 2013."~~

119 SECTION 5.

120 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-140.1, relating to online
 121 learning, as follows:

122 "20-2-140.1.

123 The State Board of Education shall establish rules and regulations to maximize the number
 124 of students, beginning with students entering ninth grade in the 2014-2015 school year,
 125 who complete prior to graduation at least one course containing online learning. This shall
 126 be met through an online course offered by the Georgia Virtual School established pursuant
 127 to Code Section 20-2-319.1, through the clearing-house established pursuant to Code
 128 Section 20-2-319.3, through an online dual enrollment course offered by a postsecondary
 129 institution, or through a provider ~~approved~~ pursuant to ~~subsection (c) of~~ Code Section

130 20-2-319.4. This shall also include enrollment in a full-time or part-time virtual instruction
 131 program pursuant to Code Section 20-2-319.4."

132 **SECTION 6.**

133 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-142, relating
 134 to prescribed courses, as follows:

135 "(a)(1) All elementary and secondary schools which receive in any manner funds from
 136 the state shall provide the following course offerings in the manner and at the grade level
 137 prescribed by the State Board of Education ~~in its quality core curriculum:~~

138 (A) A course of study in the background, history, and development of the federal and
 139 state governments and a study of Georgia county and municipal governments; and

140 (B) A course of study in the history of the United States and in the history of Georgia
 141 and in the essentials of the United States and Georgia Constitutions, including the study
 142 of American institutions and ideals which shall include a study of the Pledge of
 143 Allegiance to the flag of the United States and the Georgia flag in addition to other
 144 institutions and ideals.

145 (2) No student shall be eligible to receive a diploma from a high school unless such
 146 student has successfully completed the courses in history and government provided for
 147 by this subsection, except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection. For
 148 students moving to Georgia and unable to take the course or courses available to fulfill
 149 these requirements in the grade level in which such course or courses are ordinarily
 150 offered, the State Board of Education may develop alternative methods, which may
 151 include but shall not be limited to an on-line course of study, for such students to learn
 152 about and demonstrate an adequate understanding of federal or Georgia history and
 153 government.

154 (3) Disabled students who are otherwise eligible for a special education diploma
 155 pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-281 shall not be denied this diploma if
 156 they have not successfully completed either or both of these courses; provided, however,
 157 that their Individualized Education Programs have not specified that the disabled students
 158 must enroll in and successfully complete both of these courses.

159 (4) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the
 160 required course of study in the history of Georgia and in the essentials of the Georgia
 161 Constitution for students who transfer from another state after having completed the year
 162 in which such course or courses are ordinarily offered. The State Board of Education is
 163 authorized to provide for exemptions to the required course of study for such students and
 164 for students whose parent or parents serve in the armed forces of the United States."

SECTION 7.

Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) and paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-151, relating to general and career education programs, as follows:

"(a) The primary purpose for the general and career education programs is to provide the children and youth of Georgia with a quality opportunity to master ~~student competencies~~ uniformly sequenced content standards adopted by the State Board of Education ~~through instruction which is based upon the uniformly sequenced core curriculum.~~"

"(2) It is the policy of this state that the purpose of the primary grades program shall be mastery by enrolled students of the essential basic skills and knowledge which will enable them to achieve more advanced skills and knowledge offered at the higher grade levels. For purposes of funding under this article, the primary grades program shall include grades one, two, and three. To be eligible for enrollment in the first grade of a state supported primary grades program, a child must attain the age of six by September 1, except as otherwise provided by subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-150. The State Board of Education shall adopt an instrument or instruments, procedures, and policies necessary to assess the first grade readiness of children enrolled in Georgia's public school kindergarten programs pursuant to Code Section 20-2-281. Readiness information obtained by the instrument or instruments adopted by the state board shall be used by local school systems in concert with teacher recommendations and other relevant information to make appropriate student grade placement decisions. The Department of Education shall develop guidelines for utilization of the instrument or instruments in grade placement decisions and shall provide such guidelines to local school systems. The guidelines shall include information pertinent to consideration of the placement of students who have been identified as being disabled or limited-English-proficient. Whenever the decision is made not to promote a child to the first grade, the local school system shall document the reasons for the decision not to promote, according to guidelines established by the board. The State School Superintendent ~~shall~~ may annually provide a report summarizing the results of the readiness of first grade Georgia public school kindergarten children. No student shall remain in kindergarten for more than two years;"

SECTION 8.

Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (h) of Code Section 20-2-154.1, relating to alternative education programs, as follows:

"(a) It is the policy of this state that the alternative education program shall provide a learning environment that includes the objectives of the ~~quality core curriculum content standards~~ standards and that the instruction in an alternative education program shall enable students

201 to return to a general or career education program as quickly as possible. Course credit
 202 shall be earned in an alternative education program in the same manner as in other
 203 education programs. It is the policy of this state that it is preferable to reassign disruptive
 204 students to an alternative education program rather than suspending or expelling such
 205 students from school."

206 "~~(h) For the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 school years, state funding of alternative education~~
 207 ~~programs shall be based upon a full-time equivalent program count that equals 2.5 percent~~
 208 ~~of the sum of the full-time equivalent program count of the middle grades program, the~~
 209 ~~middle school program as defined in Code Section 20-2-290, the high school general~~
 210 ~~education program (grades nine through 12), and the career, technical, and agricultural~~
 211 ~~education laboratory program (grades nine through 12). For the 2002-2003 school year and~~
 212 ~~thereafter, the~~ The amount of state funds appropriated and allocated for the alternative
 213 education program provided for in this Code section shall be based on the actual count of
 214 students served during the preceding year, except that the count of students served shall not
 215 exceed 2.5 percent of the sum of the full-time equivalent program count of the ~~middle~~
 216 ~~grades program, the middle school program as defined in Code Section 20-2-290, the high~~
 217 ~~school general education program (grades nine through 12), and the career, technical, and~~
 218 ~~agricultural education laboratory program (grades nine through 12). Funds earned may be~~
 219 ~~expended in kindergarten and in grades one through 12."~~

220 **SECTION 9.**

221 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-159.1, relating to focused
 222 programs of study, as follows:

223 "20-2-159.1.

224 No later than July 1, 2013, the Department of Education shall develop, and the State Board
 225 of Education shall approve, state models and ~~curriculum framework~~ content standards for
 226 the following focused programs of study, as defined in Code Section 20-2-326, including,
 227 but not limited to:

- 228 (1) Agriculture, food, and natural resources;
- 229 (2) Architecture and construction;
- 230 (3) Arts, audio-video technology, and communications;
- 231 (4) Business, management, and administration;
- 232 (5) Education and training;
- 233 (6) Finance;
- 234 (7) Health science;
- 235 (8) Hospitality and tourism;
- 236 (9) Human services;

- 237 (10) Information technology;
- 238 (11) Law, public safety, and security;
- 239 (12) Manufacturing;
- 240 (13) Government and public administration;
- 241 (14) Marketing, sales, and service;
- 242 (15) Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and
- 243 (16) Transportation, distribution, and logistics.

244 Such focused programs of study may be combined around these and other related clusters."

245 **SECTION 10.**

246 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of Code Section 20-2-159.2,
247 relating to coordination between high schools and postsecondary institutions to minimize the
248 need for remedial course work for students in postsecondary institutions, as follows:

249 "(1) Develop policies to ensure that students who ~~complete the core curriculum~~ master
250 the content standards established pursuant to Code Section 20-2-140 will meet the
251 requirements for purposes of admission into a postsecondary institution, such as grade
252 point average and readiness levels in reading, writing, and mathematics, without having
253 to take remedial coursework. Such policies shall:

- 254 (A) Establish the benchmarks for college readiness and the method in which students
255 can demonstrate readiness in reading, writing, and mathematics for postsecondary
256 coursework upon completing the ~~core curriculum~~ content standards; and
257 (B) Set the conditions for ensuring college readiness;"

258 **SECTION 11.**

259 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-159.3,
260 relating to academic core standards to be embedded in career, technical, and agricultural
261 education courses, as follows:

262 "(a) The ~~competencies and curricula~~ content standards established for career, technical, and
263 agricultural education courses pursuant to Code Section 20-2-140 shall include embedded
264 standards in academic core subject areas, as appropriate. In establishing such ~~competencies~~
265 ~~and curricula~~ content standards, the state board shall work to ensure that the coursework
266 meets postsecondary requirements for acceptance of credit for such coursework at the
267 postsecondary level. Such courses shall be taught by a highly qualified teacher in the
268 academic content and trained or experienced in contextualized learning using project based
269 methods; by a highly qualified career, technical, and agricultural education teacher who has
270 completed a state-approved training program to strengthen academic content and has
271 passed a state-approved exam for demonstrating mastery of academic content; or by a team

272 made up of a highly qualified teacher in the academic content and a highly qualified career,
273 technical, and agricultural education teacher working together to teach the course."

274 **SECTION 12.**

275 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-160, relating
276 to determination of enrollment by institutional programs, as follows:

277 "(a) The State Board of Education shall designate the specific dates upon which two counts
278 of students enrolled in each instructional program authorized under this article shall be
279 made each school year and by which the counts shall be reported to the Department of
280 Education. The initial enrollment count shall be made after October 1 but prior to
281 November 17 and the final enrollment count after March 1 but prior to May 1. The report
282 shall indicate the student's specific assigned program for each one-sixth segment of the
283 school day on the designated reporting date. No program shall be indicated for a student
284 for any one-sixth segment of the school day that the student is assigned to a study hall; a
285 noncredit course; a course recognized under this article or by state board policy as an
286 enrichment course, except a driver education course; a course which requires participation
287 in an extracurricular activity for which enrollment is on a competitive basis; a course in
288 which the student serves as a student assistant to a teacher, in a school office, or in the
289 media center, except when such placement is an approved work site of a recognized career,
290 technical, and agricultural education laboratory program; an individual study course for
291 which no outline of course objectives is prepared in writing prior to the beginning of the
292 course; or any other course or activity so designated by the state board. For the purpose
293 of this Code section, the term 'enrichment course' means a course which does not dedicate
294 a major portion of the class time toward the development and enhancement of one or more
295 ~~student competencies~~ content standards as adopted by the state board under Code Section
296 20-2-140. A program shall not be indicated for a student for any one-sixth segment of the
297 school day for which the student is not enrolled in an instructional program or has not
298 attended a class or classes within the preceding ten days; nor shall a program be indicated
299 for a student for any one-sixth segment of the school day for which the student is charged
300 tuition or fees or is required to provide materials or equipment beyond those authorized
301 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-133. A student who is enrolled in a dual credit course
302 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-159.5 shall be counted for the high school program or other
303 appropriate program for each segment in which the student is attending such dual credit
304 course. The state board shall adopt such regulations and criteria as necessary to ensure
305 objective and true counts of students in state approved instructional programs. The state
306 board shall also establish criteria by which students shall be counted as resident or
307 nonresident students, including specific circumstances which may include, but not be

308 limited to, students attending another local school system under court order or under the
 309 terms of a contract between two local school systems. If a local school system has a
 310 justifiable reason, it may seek authority from the state board to shift full-time equivalent
 311 program counts from the designated date to a requested alternate date."

312 **SECTION 13.**

313 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (b) and (b.1) of Code Section
 314 20-2-161, relating to the Quality Basic Education Formula, as follows:

315 "(b) As the cost of instructional programs varies depending upon the teacher-student ratios
 316 and specific services typically required to address the special needs of students enrolled,
 317 state authorized instructional programs shall have the following program weights and
 318 teacher-student ratios:

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------|
| 319 | (1) Kindergarten program | 1.6508 |
| 320 | | weight and |
| 321 | | 1 to 15 |
| 322 | | ratio |
| 323 | (2) Kindergarten early intervention program | 2.0348 |
| 324 | | weight and |
| 325 | | 1 to 11 |
| 326 | | ratio |
| 327 | (3) Primary grades program (1-3) | 1.2849 |
| 328 | | weight and |
| 329 | | 1 to 17 |
| 330 | | ratio |
| 331 | (4) Primary grades early intervention program (1-3) | 1.7931 |
| 332 | | weight and |
| 333 | | 1 to 11 |
| 334 | | ratio |

335	(5) Upper elementary grades program (4-5)	1.0355
336		weight and
337		1 to 23
338		ratio
339	(6) Upper elementary grades early intervention program (4-5)	1.7867
340		weight and
341		1 to 11
342		ratio
343	(7) Middle grades program (6-8)	1.0186
344		weight and
345		1 to 23
346		ratio
347	(8)(7) Middle school program (6-8) as defined in Code Section 20-2-290 .	1.1310
348		weight and
349		1 to 20
350		ratio
351	(9)(8) High school general education program (9-12)	1.0000
352		weight and
353		1 to 23
354		ratio
355	(10)(9) Career, technical, and agricultural education	1.1916
356	laboratory program (9-12)	weight and
357		1 to 20
358		ratio
359	(11)(10) Program for persons with disabilities:	
360	Category I	2.3798
361		weight and
362		1 to 8
363		ratio

364	(12)(11) Program for persons with disabilities:	
365	Category II	2.7883
366		weight and
367		1 to 6.5
368		ratio
369	(13)(12) Program for persons with disabilities:	
370	Category III	3.5493
371		weight and
372		1 to 5
373		ratio
374	(14)(13) Program for persons with disabilities:	
375	Category IV	5.7509
376		weight and
377		1 to 3
378		ratio
379	(15)(14) Program for persons with disabilities:	
380	Category V	2.4511
381		weight and
382		1 to 8
383		ratio
384	(16)(15) Program for intellectually gifted students:	
385	Category VI	1.6589
386		weight and
387		1 to 12
388		ratio
389	(17)(16) Remedial education program	1.3087
390		weight and
391		1 to 15
392		ratio

SECTION 15.

Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (b) and (c) and paragraph (1) of subsection (i) of Code Section 20-2-182, relating to program weights to reflect funds for payment of salaries and benefits, as follows:

"(b) The program weights for the primary, primary grades early intervention, upper elementary, upper elementary grades early intervention, ~~middle grades~~, and middle school programs, when multiplied by the base amount, shall reflect sufficient funds to pay at least the beginning salaries of specialists qualified to teach art, music, foreign language, and physical education, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

(c) The program weights for the kindergarten, kindergarten early intervention, primary, primary grades early intervention, upper elementary, upper elementary grades early intervention, ~~middle grades~~, middle school, and alternative education programs and the program weights for the high school programs authorized pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-151, when multiplied by the base amount, shall reflect sufficient funds to pay the beginning salaries for at least one school counselor for every 450 full-time equivalent students. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015 and thereafter, the program weights for the English for speakers of other languages program and the programs for persons with disabilities shall also earn school counselor funding. Further, beginning in Fiscal Year 2016 and thereafter, the program weights for the program for intellectually gifted students and the remedial education program shall also earn school counselor funding. The duties and responsibilities for such school counselors shall be established by the state board to require a minimum of five of the six full-time equivalent program count segments of the counselor's time to be spent counseling or advising students or parents."

"(i)(1) It is the intent of this paragraph to provide a clear expectation to parents and guardians as to the maximum number of students that may be in their child's classroom in kindergarten through eighth grade. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, for the following regular education programs, the maximum individual class size for mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts classes shall be:

(A) Kindergarten program (without full-time aide)	18
(B) Kindergarten program (with full-time aide)	20
(C) Primary grades program (1-3)	21
(D) Upper elementary grades program (4-5)	28
(E) Middle grades program (6-8) and middle school program (6-8) as defined in Code Section 20-2-290	28

For school years 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 only, the system average maximum class size for each instructional program covered under this

461 paragraph shall be the same as the maximum individual class size for each such program,
 462 and local boards of education shall be considered in compliance with this paragraph so
 463 long as the system average maximum class size is not exceeded; provided, however, that
 464 if the State Board of Education approves a blanket waiver or variance pursuant to
 465 subsection (h) of Code Section 20-2-244, such maximum individual class sizes shall be
 466 the system average maximum class sizes for purposes of this paragraph."

467 **SECTION 16.**

468 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-184.1,
 469 relating to funding for additional days of instruction, as follows:

470 "(a) The program weights for the kindergarten, kindergarten early intervention, primary,
 471 primary grades early intervention, upper elementary, upper elementary grades early
 472 intervention, ~~middle grades~~, middle school, and remedial programs and the program
 473 weights for the high school programs authorized pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection
 474 (b) of Code Section 20-2-151, when multiplied by the base amount, shall reflect sufficient
 475 funds to pay the beginning salaries for instructors needed to provide 20 additional days of
 476 instruction for 10 percent of the full-time equivalent count of the respective program. Such
 477 funds shall be used for addressing the academic needs of low-performing students with
 478 programs including, but not limited to, instructional opportunities for students beyond the
 479 regular school day, Saturday classes, intersession classes, summer school classes, and
 480 additional instructional programs during the regular school day. Following the midterm
 481 adjustment, the state board shall issue allotment sheets for each local school system. Each
 482 local school system shall spend 100 percent of the funds designated for additional days of
 483 instruction for such costs at the system level, which may include transportation costs
 484 incurred for transporting students who are attending additional classes funded by these
 485 designated funds."

486 **SECTION 17.**

487 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-190, relating
 488 to professional development centered on state-wide strategic initiatives, as follows:

489 "(a) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the State Board of Education shall
 490 provide professional development centered on state-wide strategic initiatives. Such
 491 strategic initiatives may include, but are not limited to, training on ~~the new common core~~
 492 curriculum content standards, support for under-performing educators, and mentoring
 493 programs in specific subject areas."

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SECTION 18.

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Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-200, relating to regulation of certificated professional personnel by the Professional Standards Commission, as follows:

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"(a) The Professional Standards Commission shall provide, by regulation, for certifying and classifying all certificated professional personnel employed in the public schools of this state, including personnel who provide virtual instruction to public schools of this state, whether such personnel are located within or outside of this state or whether such personnel are employed by a local unit of administration. No such personnel shall be employed in the public schools of this state unless they hold certificates issued by the commission certifying their qualifications and classification in accordance with such regulations. The commission shall establish such number of classifications of other certificated professional personnel as it may find reasonably necessary or desirable for the operation of the public schools; provided, however, that such classifications shall be based only upon academic, technical, and professional training, experience, and competency of such personnel. The commission is authorized to provide for denying a certificate to an applicant, suspending or revoking a certificate, or otherwise disciplining the holder of a certificate for good cause after an investigation is held and notice and an opportunity for a hearing are provided the certificate holder or applicant in accordance with subsection (d) of Code Section 20-2-984.5. The commission shall designate and define the various classifications of professional personnel employed in the public schools of this state that shall be required to be certificated under this Code section or under Code Section 20-2-206. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the term 'certificated professional personnel' is defined as all professional personnel certificated by the commission and county or regional librarians."

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SECTION 19.

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Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-241, relating to the State School Superintendent, as follows:

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"(c) The State School Superintendent shall have the authority to enter into contracts for the amount of \$50,000.00 or less on behalf of the Department of Education. The State School Superintendent may delegate to the chief financial officer the authority to execute such contracts on behalf of the State School Superintendent."

523

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526

SECTION 20.

527

Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of Code Section 20-2-242, relating to local school systems, local units of administration, and local governing bodies, as follows:

528

563 the variance or waiver and that strict application of the rule would create a substantial
 564 hardship to such person.

565 (c) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this Code section, a student who is subject to
 566 regulation by a State Board of Education rule may file a petition with the state board
 567 requesting a variance or waiver from the state board's rule. In addition to any other
 568 requirements which may be imposed by the state board, each petition shall specify:

569 (1) The rule from which a variance or waiver is requested;

570 (2) The type of action requested;

571 (3) The specific facts of substantial hardship which would justify a variance or waiver
 572 for the petitioner, including the alternative standards which the person seeking the
 573 variance or waiver agrees to meet and a showing that such alternative standards will
 574 afford adequate protection for the public health, safety, and welfare; and

575 (4) The reason why the variance or waiver requested would serve the purpose of the
 576 underlying statute.

577 (d) The state board shall grant or deny a petition for variance or waiver in writing no later
 578 than 60 days after the receipt of the petition. The state board's decision to grant or deny the
 579 petition shall be in writing and shall contain a statement of the relevant facts and the
 580 reasons supporting the state board's action.

581 (e) The state board's decision to deny a petition for variance or waiver shall be subject to
 582 judicial review in accordance with Code Section 50-13-19. The validity of any variance
 583 or waiver which is granted by the state board may be determined in an action for
 584 declaratory judgment in accordance with Code Section 50-13-10.

585 (f) This Code section shall not apply, and no variance or waiver shall be sought or
 586 authorized, when a state board rule or regulation has been adopted or promulgated in order
 587 to implement or promote a federally delegated program.

588 (g) An aggregated report of all waivers granted pursuant to this Code section shall be
 589 prepared and shall contain a description of the waiver granted, including a detail of the
 590 variance from any rule or regulation, but shall not include any identifying information of
 591 the student.

592 (h) The State Board of Education shall not be subject to Code Section 50-13-9.1 with
 593 respect to petitions for variances or waivers of rules by students."

594 **SECTION 23.**

595 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section
 596 20-2-270.1, relating to services to member local school systems by regional educational
 597 service agencies, as follows:

598 "(3) Developing and implementing curricula and instruction of the highest quality
 599 possible, including implementing the uniformly sequenced ~~core curriculum content~~
 600 standards adopted by the state board;"

601 **SECTION 24.**

602 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-281, relating to assessment
 603 of effectiveness of educational programs, as follows:

604 "20-2-281.

605 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a student assessment program consisting of
 606 instruments, procedures, and policies necessary to implement the program and shall fund
 607 all costs of providing and scoring such instruments, subject to appropriation by the General
 608 Assembly. Each local school system may elect to administer, with state funding, nationally
 609 norm-referenced instruments in reading, mathematics, science, or social studies in grade
 610 three, four, or five and in grade six, seven, or eight, subject to available appropriations,
 611 with assistance to such school systems by the State Board of Education with regard to
 612 administration guidance, scoring, and reporting of such ~~assessments~~ instruments. Each
 613 local school system is strongly encouraged to implement a program of formative
 614 assessment and intervention in reading for kindergarten through third grade and
 615 mathematics for kindergarten through fifth grade to ensure that students are on track to
 616 meet grade-level expectations. The State Board of Education shall review, revise, and
 617 upgrade the ~~quality core curriculum content standards~~. Following the adoption of ~~this~~
 618 ~~revised curriculum~~ such content standards, the State Board of Education shall contract for
 619 development of ~~criterion-referenced competency tests~~ end-of-grade assessments to measure
 620 the ~~quality core curriculum content standards~~. Such tests in English, ~~and language~~
 621 ~~arts/reading, and~~ mathematics, ~~and reading~~ shall be administered annually to students in
 622 grades ~~one~~ three through eight, and such tests in science and social studies shall be
 623 administered annually to students in grades three through eight. These tests shall contain
 624 features that allow for comparability to other states with whom establishing such
 625 comparison would be statistically sound; provided, however, that no such comparison shall
 626 be conducted which would relinquish any measure of control over assessments to any
 627 individual or entity outside the state. This action shall be completed according to a
 628 schedule established by the State Board of Education. ~~A curriculum based assessment shall~~
 629 ~~be administered in grade 11 for graduation purposes~~. Writing assessments performance
 630 shall be administered to assessed, at a minimum, for students in grades three, five, eight,
 631 and 11 and may be assessed for students in additional grade levels as designated by the
 632 State Board of Education. ~~The writing assessments~~ Writing performance results shall

633 ~~provide be provided to~~ students and their parents ~~with performance outcome measures~~
 634 ~~resulting from the administration of such tests.~~

635 (b) The nationally ~~normed assessments~~ norm-referenced instruments provided for in
 636 subsection (a) of this Code section shall provide students and their parents with grade
 637 equivalencies and percentile ranks which result from the administration of such ~~tests~~
 638 ~~instruments.~~ ~~Criterion-referenced tests and the high school graduation test~~ End-of-grade
 639 assessments provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section shall provide for results that
 640 reflect student achievement at the individual student, classroom, school, system, ~~and state,~~
 641 and national levels. The State Board of Education shall participate in the National
 642 Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and may participate in any other tests that
 643 will allow benchmarking this state's performance against national or international
 644 performance. The results of such testing shall be provided to the Governor, the General
 645 Assembly, and the State Board of Education and shall be reported to the citizens of
 646 Georgia. Further, the state board shall adopt a school readiness assessment for students
 647 entering first grade and shall administer such assessment pursuant to paragraph (2) of
 648 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-151. One of the components in the awarding of salary
 649 supplements as part of a pay for performance or related plan under this article may be
 650 assessments of student achievement.

651 (b.1) The State Board of Education shall notify local school systems and individual
 652 schools of the results of the assessment instruments administered under this Code section
 653 at the earliest possible date determined by the state board, but not later than the beginning
 654 of the subsequent school year. In the event the state board is unable to provide timely
 655 results in the first year of implementation of a substantially new assessment instrument, the
 656 provisions in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-283 shall not
 657 apply.

658 (c) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to condition the awarding of a
 659 high school diploma to a student upon achievement of satisfactory scores on instruments
 660 ~~or tests~~ adopted and administered by the state board pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code
 661 section and the end-of-course assessments adopted and administered by the state board
 662 pursuant to subsections (f) and (h) of this Code section. The state board is authorized and
 663 directed to adopt regulations providing that any disabled child, as defined by the provisions
 664 of this article, shall be afforded opportunities to take any test adopted by the state board as
 665 a condition for the awarding of a high school diploma. ~~Said~~ Such regulations shall further
 666 provide for appropriate accommodations in the administration of such test. ~~Said~~ Such
 667 regulations shall further provide for the awarding of a special education diploma to any
 668 disabled student who is lawfully assigned to a special education program and who does not
 669 achieve a passing score on ~~said~~ such test or who has not completed all of the requirements

670 for a high school diploma but who has nevertheless completed his or her Individualized
671 Education Program.

672 (d)(1) The State Board of Education shall develop or adopt alternate assessments to be
673 administered to ~~each student receiving special education services pursuant to Code~~
674 ~~Section 20-2-152 who does not receive instruction in the essential knowledge and skills~~
675 ~~identified in the quality core curriculum developed pursuant to Code Section 20-2-140~~
676 those students with significant cognitive disabilities, receiving special education services
677 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-152, who cannot access the state adopted content
678 standards without appropriate accommodations to those standards and for whom the
679 assessment instruments adopted under ~~subsection~~ subsections (a) and (f) of this Code
680 section, even with allowable ~~modifications~~ accommodations, would not provide an
681 appropriate measure of student achievement, as determined by the student's
682 Individualized Education Program team. ~~A student's Individualized Education Program~~
683 ~~may serve as an alternate assessment for that student.~~

684 (2) A student's Individualized Education Program team shall determine appropriate
685 participation in assessment and identify necessary accommodations in accordance with
686 the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and state board regulations.

687 (e) The State Board of Education is authorized to adopt rules, regulations, policies, and
688 procedures regarding accommodations and the participation of limited-English-proficient
689 students, as defined in Code Section 20-2-156, in the assessments described in this Code
690 section.

691 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt end-of-course assessments for students in
692 grades nine through 12 for all core subjects to be determined by the state board. For those
693 students with an Individualized Education Program, the student's Individualized Education
694 Program team shall determine appropriate participation in assessments and identify
695 necessary accommodations in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities
696 Education Act and state board regulations.

697 (g) Under rules adopted by the State Board of Education, the Department of Education
698 shall, subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, release some or all of the
699 questions and answers to each ~~criterion-referenced competency test~~ end-of-grade
700 assessment administered under subsection (a) of this Code section and each end-of-course
701 assessment administered under subsection ~~(e)~~ (h) of this Code section after the last time ~~the~~
702 instrument such assessment is administered for a school year.

703 (h) The State Board of Education, through the Department of Education, shall administer
704 the end-of-course assessments for core subject areas as defined by state board policy. ~~The~~
705 ~~state board shall promulgate a schedule for the development and administration of all~~
706 ~~end-of-course tests.~~ By the 2015-2016 school year, the State Board of Education shall

707 make all end-of-course assessments available online and shall establish rules and
 708 regulations to maximize the number of students and school systems utilizing such online
 709 assessments.

710 (i) The Department of Education shall develop study guides for the ~~crit~~erion-referenced
 711 ~~tests~~ end-of-grade assessments and end-of-course assessments administered pursuant to
 712 subsections (a) and ~~(f)~~ (h) of this Code section. Each school system shall distribute the
 713 study guides to students who do not perform satisfactorily on one or more parts of an
 714 assessment instrument administered under this Code section and to the parents or guardians
 715 of such students.

716 ~~(j)(1) The high school graduation test provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section~~
 717 ~~shall continue in effect until all high school core subject end-of-course assessments have~~
 718 ~~been developed and implemented, at which time the state board shall discontinue the test~~
 719 ~~according to a schedule to be determined by the state board.~~

720 ~~(2)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations requiring the results
 721 of core subject end-of-course assessments to be included as a factor in a student's final
 722 grade in the core subject course for which the end-of-course assessment is given.

723 ~~(k)(1)~~ In addition to the assessment instruments adopted by the State Board of Education
 724 and administered by the Department of Education, a local school system may adopt and
 725 administer criterion-referenced or norm-referenced assessment instruments, or both, at
 726 any grade level. Such locally adopted assessment instruments may not replace the state's
 727 adopted assessment instruments for purposes of state accountability programs, ~~except as~~
 728 ~~otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection.~~ A local school system shall be
 729 responsible for all costs and expenses incurred for locally adopted assessment
 730 instruments. Students with Individualized Education Programs must be included in the
 731 locally adopted assessments or provided an alternate assessment in accordance with the
 732 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

733 ~~(2) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to grant waivers until Fiscal~~
 734 ~~Year 2003 to local boards of education exempting said boards from the administration~~
 735 ~~of the state criterion-referenced competency tests at any or all of the subject areas and~~
 736 ~~grade levels for which the local board of education implements a locally developed~~
 737 ~~criterion-referenced competency test or tests based on the Quality Core Curriculum which~~
 738 ~~increases the expectations for student achievement beyond that of the applicable state~~
 739 ~~criterion-referenced competency test or tests and meets all other requirements of this~~
 740 ~~Code section, including reliability and validity requirements, with the exception of~~
 741 ~~subsection (g) of this Code section. Local boards of education with such waivers shall~~
 742 ~~submit to the State Board of Education school and local school system score reports of~~
 743 ~~the locally developed criterion-referenced competency tests.~~

744 (l) In adopting academic skills assessment instruments under this Code section, the State
745 Board of Education or local school system shall ensure the security of the instruments in
746 their preparation, administration, and scoring. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
747 meetings or portions of meetings held by the state board or a local board of education at
748 which individual assessment instruments or assessment instrument items are discussed or
749 adopted shall not be open to the public, and the assessment instruments or assessment
750 instrument items shall be confidential.

751 (m) The results of individual student performance on academic skills assessment
752 instruments administered under this Code section shall be confidential and may be released
753 only in accordance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974,
754 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g.

755 (n) Overall student performance data shall be disaggregated by ethnicity, sex,
756 socioeconomic status, disability, language proficiency, grade level, subject area, school,
757 system, and other categories determined by policies established by the Office of Student
758 Achievement.

759 (o) Student performance data shall be made available to the public, with appropriate
760 interpretations, by the State Board of Education, the Office of Student Achievement, and
761 local school system. The information made available to the public shall not contain the
762 names of individual students or teachers.

763 (p) Teachers in ~~grades one~~ kindergarten through grade 12 shall be offered the opportunity
764 to participate annually in a staff development program on the use of tests within the
765 instructional program designed to improve students' academic achievement. This program
766 shall instruct teachers on curriculum alignment related to tests, disaggregated student test
767 data to identify student academic weaknesses by subtests, and other appropriate
768 applications as determined by the State Board of Education.

769 (q) The State Board of Education shall consider the passage by a student of an industry
770 certification examination or a state licensure examination which is approved by the State
771 Board of Education or a COMPASS score approved by the State Board of Education when
772 considering whether to grant such student a variance ~~for~~ or a waiver of one or more
773 portions of the high school graduation test required by the State Board of Education
774 pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section in order to obtain a Georgia high school
775 diploma; provided, however, that the state board shall not grant a variance to a student
776 unless the student has attempted and failed to pass the relevant portion of the high school
777 graduation test at least four times."

SECTION 25.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-290, relating to organization of schools, middle school programs, and schedule, as follows:

"20-2-290.

(a)~~(1)~~ The board of education of any local school system is authorized to organize or reorganize the schools and fix the grade levels to be taught at each school in its jurisdiction. ~~Schools which house grades six, seven, or eight, or any combination thereof, shall qualify for the middle school program for students; provided, however, that such schools also meet all other provisions of this Code section and criteria and standards prescribed by the State Board of Education. Further, two or more adjacent local school systems shall qualify for the middle school program if through their contractual arrangement they jointly meet the requirements of this Code section and the criteria and standards prescribed by the state board.~~

~~(2)~~(b) The board of education of any local school system shall be authorized to employ school administrative managers in lieu of or in addition to assistant principals. Such school administrative managers shall not be required to be certificated by the Professional Standards Commission but shall have such qualifications as determined by the local board with a minimum requirement of a bachelor's degree or satisfactory business experience. The duties of school administrative managers shall be to oversee and manage the financial and business affairs of the school. The principal shall retain authority over the curriculum and instructional areas. The school administrative manager shall report directly to the principal. In the event that a local board considers hiring or utilizing school administrative managers pursuant to this subsection, it shall receive and give all due consideration to recommendations by the school council as to whether or not to utilize such position and as to selection of the manager. Existing employees of the local board shall be eligible to serve as school administrative managers if they meet other qualifications and requirements established by the local board for such position. For purposes of earning funds for such positions, school administrative managers shall be treated in all respects the same as assistant principals.

~~(b) Local boards of education shall schedule each middle school so as to provide the following:~~

~~(1) A minimum of five hours of instruction in English and language arts, reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and such other academic subjects as the State Board of Education shall prescribe;~~

~~(2) Beyond the minimum of five hours of academic instruction, the local board shall have the authority to schedule for the remainder of the day such academic or exploratory classes as the State Board of Education shall prescribe; provided, however, that a student~~

815 shall be allowed to take additional academic classes instead of exploratory classes if the
 816 parent or guardian of such a student requests such assignment, subject to availability; and
 817 ~~(3) An interdisciplinary team of academic teachers with common planning time of a~~
 818 ~~minimum of 55 minutes.~~

819 ~~(c) Local school systems shall comply with subsection (b) of this Code section in order to~~
 820 ~~qualify for the middle school program.~~

821 ~~(d) If a local school system has a combination of qualified and nonqualified schools, it~~
 822 ~~shall qualify for the middle school program only for those students counted in the full-time~~
 823 ~~equivalent count for the middle school program in qualified middle schools."~~

824

SECTION 26.

825 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-306, relating
 826 to honors program and residential high school program, as follows:

827 "(a) The ~~State Board of Education~~ Office of Student Achievement is authorized to
 828 ~~inaugurate~~ continue and administer an honors program for students in the public and
 829 private high schools of this state and for resident students who attend a home ~~school~~ study
 830 program who have manifested exceptional abilities or unique potentials or who have made
 831 exceptional academic achievements. This program shall be conducted during summer
 832 months between normal school year terms at institutions of higher learning or other
 833 appropriate centers within this state with facilities adequate to provide challenging
 834 opportunities for advanced study and accomplishments by such students. The student
 835 honors program shall be implemented and operated in accordance with criteria established
 836 by the ~~state board~~ Office of Student Achievement, and operating costs shall be paid by the
 837 ~~state board~~ Office of Student Achievement from funds made available for this purpose by
 838 the General Assembly. The ~~state board~~ Office of Student Achievement is authorized to
 839 enter into cooperative agreements with the Board of Regents of the University System of
 840 Georgia for operating and sharing the costs of such programs."

841

SECTION 27.

842 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-314, relating to development
 843 of rape prevention, personal safety education, and teen dating violence prevention program,
 844 as follows:

845 "20-2-314.

846 The State Board of Education shall develop, with input from appropriate experts, such as
 847 rape crisis centers and family violence shelters, a rape prevention and personal safety
 848 education program and a program for preventing teen dating violence for grade eight
 849 through grade 12 which are consistent with the ~~core curriculum~~ content standards provided

850 for in Code Section 20-2-140. Local boards may implement such programs at any time and
 851 for any grade level local boards find appropriate, and the state board shall encourage the
 852 implementation of such programs. In addition, the state board shall make information
 853 regarding such programs available to the Board of Regents of the University System of
 854 Georgia."

855 **SECTION 28.**

856 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (j) of Code Section 20-2-315, relating
 857 to the prohibition of gender discrimination, as follows:

858 "(j) The Department of Education ~~shall~~ may publish an annual report of local school
 859 systems to include information regarding expenditures and participation rates for each
 860 gender and such other information as the state board and department deem relevant."

861 **SECTION 29.**

862 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-319.1, relating to the Georgia
 863 Virtual School, as follows:

864 "20-2-319.1.

865 (a) The State Board of Education is authorized to establish the Georgia Virtual School
 866 whereby students may enroll in ~~state-funded~~ courses via the Internet or in any other manner
 867 not involving on-site interaction with a teacher. Any Georgia student who is age 21 or
 868 younger shall be eligible to enroll in the Georgia Virtual School, ~~at no cost to the student.~~
 869 The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations pertaining
 870 to the Georgia Virtual School. Such rules and regulations, if established, shall include, at
 871 a minimum, a process for students to enroll in Georgia Virtual School courses and a
 872 process whereby a student's grade in the course is reported on the student's transcript. All
 873 teachers who provide instruction through the Georgia Virtual School shall be certified by
 874 the Professional Standards Commission. A local school system shall not prohibit any
 875 student from taking a course through the Georgia Virtual School, regardless of whether the
 876 school in which the student is enrolled offers the same course.

877 (b)(1) The department is authorized to establish a Georgia Virtual School grant account
 878 with funds appropriated by the General Assembly. The department shall use funds from
 879 ~~this~~ such grant account to pay for costs associated with the Georgia Virtual School
 880 incurred by the department, including, but not limited to, actual costs associated with the
 881 maintenance of the Georgia Virtual School, such as new course development, credit
 882 recovery, blended learning training, and operating a ~~clearinghouse~~ clearing-house, and
 883 costs for tuition, materials, and fees for courses taken through the Georgia Virtual School
 884 by students in home study programs or private schools in this state.

885 (2) The local school system shall pay to the department costs for tuition, materials, and
 886 fees directly related to the approved course taken by a student in its school system
 887 through the Georgia Virtual School; provided, however, that in no event shall the amount
 888 of tuition charged to and paid by the local school system on behalf of such student exceed
 889 \$250.00 per student per semester course; and provided, further, that if a student
 890 participates in courses through the Georgia Virtual School that are in excess of the
 891 maximum number of courses a student may be enrolled in during a school day, such
 892 student shall be subject to the cost of tuition not to exceed \$250.00 per student per
 893 semester course.

894 (3) Students in home study programs and private schools in this state may enroll in
 895 courses through the Georgia Virtual School at no cost, if appropriations are provided for
 896 such purpose in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection. If appropriations are
 897 not provided or if appropriations are provided but have been expended for such purpose,
 898 students in home study programs and private schools in this state may enroll in courses
 899 through the Georgia Virtual School based on availability of slots; provided, however, that
 900 such students shall be subject to the cost of tuition not to exceed \$250.00 per student per
 901 semester course.

902 (c) The Georgia Virtual School shall not be considered a school for purposes of Article 2
 903 of Chapter 14 of this title."

904 **SECTION 30.**

905 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section
 906 20-2-319.3, relating to the online clearing-house of interactive distance learning courses, as
 907 follows:

908 "(2) 'Clearing-house' means the clearing-house established pursuant to subsection ~~(b)~~(c)
 909 of this Code section."

910 **SECTION 31.**

911 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-319.4, relating to virtual
 912 instruction programs, notice of opportunities, mechanisms for compliance, approved
 913 providers, approval status, and curriculum plan, as follows:

914 "20-2-319.4.

915 (a) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, each local school system shall provide
 916 opportunities to all students in grades three through 12 enrolled in public schools within
 917 its boundaries for participation in part-time and full-time virtual instruction program
 918 options. Written notice of such opportunities, including an open enrollment period for
 919 full-time students of at least 90 days and not ending earlier than 30 days prior to the first

920 day of the school year, shall be provided directly to parents of all students. The purpose
 921 of the program shall be to make quality virtual instruction available to students using online
 922 and distance learning technology in the nontraditional classroom. The program shall
 923 provide at least three options for:

- 924 (1) Full-time virtual instruction for students enrolled in grades three through 12; and
- 925 (2) Part-time virtual instruction for students enrolled in grades three through 12.

926 A virtual instruction program conducted by a local school system shall include specific
 927 ~~provision~~ provisions for at least two full-time options and one part-time option for students
 928 enrolled in dropout prevention and academic intervention programs or Department of
 929 Juvenile Justice education programs under Code Section 20-2-133.

930 (b) To provide students with the option of participating in virtual instruction programs as
 931 required by subsection (a) of this Code section, a local school system may apply one or all
 932 of the following mechanisms:

933 (1) Facilitate enrollment in the Georgia Virtual School established pursuant to Code
 934 Section 20-2-319.1;

935 (2) Facilitate enrollment in one or more courses pursuant to the clearing-house
 936 established pursuant to Code Section 20-2-319.3;

937 ~~(2)(3) Enter into a contract with an approved a provider under subsection (c) of this Code~~
 938 ~~section for the provision of a full-time program under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of~~
 939 ~~this Code section or a part-time program under paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of this~~
 940 ~~Code section; or~~

941 ~~(3)(4) Enter into an agreement with another local school system or systems to allow the~~
 942 ~~participation of its students in an approved virtual instruction program provided by such~~
 943 ~~other local school system or systems. The agreement shall indicate a process for the~~
 944 ~~transfer of funds.~~

945 Contracts and agreements entered into pursuant to paragraph ~~(2)(3)~~ or ~~(3)(4)~~ of this
 946 subsection may include multidistrict contractual arrangements that may be executed by a
 947 regional educational service agency for its member school systems.

948 ~~(c) The department shall annually provide local school systems with a list of providers~~
 949 ~~approved to offer virtual instruction programs. To be approved by the department, a~~
 950 ~~provider shall document that it:~~

951 ~~(1) Possesses prior, successful experience offering online courses to elementary, middle,~~
 952 ~~or high school students, as demonstrated through quantified student performance~~
 953 ~~improvements for each subject area and grade level provided for consideration as~~
 954 ~~instructional program options;~~

955 ~~(2) Assures instructional and curricular quality through a detailed curriculum and student~~
 956 ~~performance accountability plan that addresses every subject and grade level intended for~~
 957 ~~provision within local school system contracts, including:~~

- 958 ~~(A) Courses and programs that meet the nationally recognized standards for K-12~~
 959 ~~online learning;~~
- 960 ~~(B) Instructional content and services that align with and measure student attainment~~
 961 ~~of proficiency in the state-approved curriculum; and~~
- 962 ~~(C) Mechanisms that determine and ensure that a student has satisfied requirements for~~
 963 ~~grade level promotion and high school graduation with a standard diploma, as~~
 964 ~~appropriate; and~~

965 ~~(3) Publishes, in accordance with disclosure requirements adopted by the State Board of~~
 966 ~~Education, for the general public, as part of its application as a provider, and in all~~
 967 ~~contracts negotiated pursuant to this Code section:~~

- 968 ~~(A) Information and data about each full-time and part-time program regarding its~~
 969 ~~curriculum;~~
- 970 ~~(B) School policies and procedures;~~
- 971 ~~(C) Certification status of all administrative and instructional personnel;~~
- 972 ~~(D) Teacher-student ratios;~~
- 973 ~~(E) Student completion and promotion rates; and~~
- 974 ~~(F) Student, educator, and school performance accountability outcomes.~~

975 ~~(d) An approved provider shall retain its approved status for a period of five years after the~~
 976 ~~date of the department's approval pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section as long~~
 977 ~~as the provider continues to comply with all requirements of this Code section; provided,~~
 978 ~~however, that each provider approved by the department for the 2013-2014 school year~~
 979 ~~shall reapply for approval to provide a part-time program for students in grades three~~
 980 ~~through 12.~~

981 ~~(e)(c) Each contract entered into pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of this Code~~
 982 ~~section with an approved a provider shall at a minimum set forth a detailed curriculum plan~~
 983 ~~that illustrates how students will be provided services for, and be measured for attainment~~
 984 ~~of, proficiency in state curriculum requirements for content standards for each grade level~~
 985 ~~and subject."~~

986

SECTION 32.

987

Said chapter is further amended by repealing Code Section 20-2-319.5, relating to report on
 988 assisting local boards of education in acquiring digital learning, and designating said Code
 989 section as reserved.

989

990

SECTION 33.

991

Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (5) of Code Section 20-2-326, relating to definitions relative to the "Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy Act," as follows:

992

993

994

"(5) 'Focused program of study' means a rigorous academic core combined with a focus in mathematics and science; a focus in humanities, fine arts, and foreign language; or a coherent sequence of career pathway courses that is aligned with graduation requirements established by the State Board of Education and ~~curriculum requirements~~ content standards established pursuant to Part 2 of this article that prepares a student for postsecondary education or immediate employment after high school graduation."

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SECTION 34.

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Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of Code Section 20-2-329, relating to requirements for high schools that receive a reform grant, as follows:

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"(1) Provide focused programs of study which are designed to provide a well-rounded education for students by fostering artistic creativity, critical thinking, and self-discipline through the teaching of academic content, knowledge, and skills that students will use in the workplace, further education, and life. The focused programs of study, whether provided at a choice technical high school, a college and career academy, a traditional high school, or on site at a technical school or college or a public college or university, shall be aligned with graduation requirements established by the State Board of Education and ~~curriculum requirements~~ content standards established pursuant to Part 2 of this article, including, at a minimum, four years of mathematics, Algebra I and higher, and four years of English, with an emphasis on developing reading and writing skills to meet college and career readiness standards;"

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SECTION 35.

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Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, relating to educational entities and requirements for private schools and home study programs, as follows:

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"(c) Parents or guardians may teach their children at home in a home study program which meets the following requirements:

(1) The parent, parents, or guardian must submit within 30 days after the establishment of a home study program and by September 1 annually thereafter a declaration of intent to utilize a home study program to the Department of Education, which shall provide for written or electronic submittal of such declaration of intent;

1024 (2) The declaration shall include a list of the names and ages of the students who are
1025 enrolled in the home study program, the address where the home study program is
1026 located, the local school system in which the home study program is located, and a
1027 statement of the 12 month period that is to be considered the school year for that home
1028 study program. Enrollment records and reports shall not be used for any purpose except
1029 providing necessary enrollment information, except with the permission of the parent or
1030 guardian of a child, or pursuant to the subpoena of a court of competent jurisdiction;

1031 (3) Parents or guardians may teach only their own children in the home study program,
1032 provided the teaching parent or guardian possesses at least a high school diploma or a
1033 general educational development diploma, but the parents or guardians may employ a
1034 tutor who holds a high school diploma or a general educational development diploma to
1035 teach such children;

1036 (4) The home study program shall provide a basic academic educational program which
1037 includes, but is not limited to, reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and
1038 science;

1039 (5) The home study program must provide instruction each 12 months to home study
1040 students equivalent to 180 school days of education with each school day consisting of
1041 at least four and one-half school hours unless the child is physically unable to comply
1042 with the rule provided for in this paragraph;

1043 (6) The parent or guardian shall have the authority to execute any document required by
1044 law, rule, regulation, or policy to evidence the enrollment of a child in a home study
1045 program, the student's full-time or part-time status, the student's grades, or any other
1046 required educational information. This shall include, but not be limited to, documents for
1047 purposes of verification of attendance by the Department of Driver Services, for the
1048 purposes set forth in subsection (a.1) of Code Section 40-5-22, documents required
1049 pursuant to Chapter 2 of Title 39 relating to employment of minors, and any documents
1050 required to apply for the receipt of state or federal public assistance;

1051 (7) Students in home study programs shall be subject to an appropriate nationally
1052 standardized testing program administered in consultation with a person trained in the
1053 administration and interpretation of norm reference tests to evaluate their educational
1054 progress at least every three years beginning at the end of the third grade and records of
1055 such tests and scores shall be retained but shall not be required to be submitted to public
1056 educational authorities; and

1057 (8) The home study program instructor shall write an annual progress assessment report
1058 which shall include the instructor's individualized assessment of the student's academic
1059 progress in each of the subject areas specified in paragraph (4) of this subsection, and

1060 such progress reports shall be retained by the parent, parents, or guardian of children in
 1061 the home study program for a period of at least three years."

1062 **SECTION 36.**

1063 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-892, relating
 1064 to contributions by employees, state, and local employers and withholding or deducting
 1065 employees' contributions for health insurance for public school teachers, as follows:

1066 "(b) As the local employer's share, the local employer shall contribute to the health
 1067 insurance fund such portion of the cost of such benefits as may be established by the
 1068 Governor and the board and, in addition thereto, an amount to be established by the board
 1069 to defray the cost of administration. The board shall determine whether such portion shall
 1070 be determined based upon a percentage of the total outlay for the salaries of teachers
 1071 employed by the local employer or determined on an amount per employee electing
 1072 coverage under the plan based on the coverage elected, in accordance with the
 1073 appropriation of funds. If a local employer fails to remit the employer's share as calculated
 1074 by the commissioner, as provided in this Code section, it shall be the duty of the
 1075 commissioner to notify the State Board of Education of such failure and it shall be the duty
 1076 of the State Board of Education to, with reasonable promptness, withhold from the
 1077 employer which has failed to comply ~~all appropriations allotted to such employer until such~~
 1078 ~~employer has fully complied with the provisions of this Code section by making remittance~~
 1079 ~~of the sums required~~ sufficient state funds as calculated by the commissioner to fully
 1080 satisfy the outstanding obligation of the local employer to the health insurance fund. Such
 1081 withheld funds shall be promptly transmitted by the state board to the Department of
 1082 Community Health."

1083 **SECTION 37.**

1084 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-920, relating
 1085 to withholding or deducting employees' contributions for health insurance for public school
 1086 employees, as follows:

1087 "(b) The Department of Education and local school systems shall contribute to the health
 1088 insurance fund such portion of the costs of such benefits as may be established by the board
 1089 to maintain the employee contributions consistent with other health insurance plans
 1090 administered by the board. In the event that the commissioner shall determine that a local
 1091 employer has failed to contribute the full amount of such portion, as calculated by the
 1092 commissioner, it shall be the duty of the commissioner to notify the State Board of
 1093 Education of such failure and it shall be the duty of the State Board of Education to, with
 1094 reasonable promptness, withhold from the employer which has failed to comply ~~all~~

1095 ~~appropriations allotted to such employer until such employer has fully complied with the~~
 1096 ~~provisions of this Code section by making remittance of the sums required~~ sufficient state
 1097 funds as calculated by the commissioner to fully satisfy the outstanding obligation of the
 1098 local employer to the health insurance fund. Such withheld funds shall be promptly
 1099 transmitted by the state board to the Department of Community Health."

1100 SECTION 38.

1101 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-942, relating
 1102 to procedure for nonrenewal after acceptance by teacher of school year contract for fourth
 1103 consecutive school year, as follows:

1104 "(b)(1) A teacher who accepts a school year contract for the fourth consecutive school
 1105 year from the same local board of education may be demoted or the teacher's contract
 1106 may not be renewed only for those reasons set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section
 1107 20-2-940.

1108 (2) In order to demote or fail to renew the contract of a teacher who accepts a school year
 1109 contract for the fourth or subsequent consecutive school year from the same local board
 1110 of education, the teacher must be given written notice of the intention to demote or not
 1111 renew the contract of the teacher. Such notice shall be given by certified mail or statutory
 1112 overnight delivery as provided in subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-940. Such notice
 1113 shall contain a conspicuous statement in substantially the following form:

1114 You have the right to certain procedural safeguards before you can be demoted or
 1115 dismissed. These safeguards include the right to notice of the reasons for the action
 1116 against you and the right to a hearing. If you desire these rights you must send to the
 1117 school superintendent by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery a statement that
 1118 you wish to have a hearing; and such statement must be mailed to the school
 1119 superintendent within 20 days after this notice was mailed to you. Your rights are
 1120 governed by subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-211, Code Section 20-2-940, and
 1121 Code Sections 20-2-942 through 20-2-947, and a copy of this law is enclosed.

1122 A copy of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-211, Code Section 20-2-940, this Code
 1123 section, and Code Sections 20-2-943 through 20-2-947 shall be enclosed with the notice.
 1124 A teacher who is so notified that he or she is to be demoted or that his or her contract will
 1125 not be renewed has the right to the procedures set forth in subsections (b) through (f) of
 1126 Code Section 20-2-940 before the intended action is taken. A teacher who has the right
 1127 to these procedures must serve written notice on the superintendent of the local board
 1128 employing the teacher within 20 days of the day the notice of the intended action is
 1129 served that he or she requests a hearing. In order to be effective, such written notice that
 1130 the teacher requests implementation of such procedures must be served by certified mail

1131 or statutory overnight delivery as provided in subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-940.
 1132 Within 14 days of service of the request to implement the procedures, the local board
 1133 must furnish the teacher a notice that complies with the requirements of subsection (b)
 1134 of Code Section 20-2-940.

1135 (3) A teacher is deemed to have accepted a fourth consecutive school year contract if,
 1136 while the teacher is serving under the third consecutive school year contract, the local
 1137 board does not serve notice on the teacher by ~~April 15~~ May 15 that it intends not to renew
 1138 the teacher's contract for the ensuing school year, and the teacher does not serve notice
 1139 in writing on the local board of education by ~~May 1~~ June 1 of the third consecutive school
 1140 year that he or she does not accept the fourth consecutive school year contract.

1141 (4) A teacher who has satisfied the conditions set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection
 1142 who is subsequently employed by another local board of education and who accepts a
 1143 second consecutive school year contract from the local board at which the teacher is
 1144 subsequently employed may be demoted or the teacher's contract may not be renewed
 1145 only for those reasons set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-940. The
 1146 provisions set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection shall likewise apply to such a
 1147 teacher.

1148 (5) A teacher is deemed to have accepted a second consecutive school year contract if,
 1149 while the teacher is serving under the first school year contract, the local board does not
 1150 serve notice on the teacher by ~~April 15~~ May 15 that it intends not to renew the teacher's
 1151 contract for the ensuing school year, and the teacher does not serve notice in writing on
 1152 the local board of education by ~~May 1~~ June 1 of the first school year that he or she does
 1153 not accept the second consecutive school year contract.

1154 (6) Local boards shall make contract offers available to teachers for a minimum ten-day
 1155 review period. A teacher accepts the contract by signing and returning it any time during
 1156 the ten-day period.

1157 (7)(A) Professional certificated personnel employed by a county or independent local
 1158 school system that becomes consolidated with or merged into another county or
 1159 independent local school system as provided in Article 8 of this chapter or otherwise
 1160 shall retain their employment, except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,
 1161 in the newly created, or surviving, school system. ~~Said~~ Such professional certificated
 1162 personnel shall retain and carry over all the rights already accrued and earned in the
 1163 professional certificated personnel's prior school system and as set forth in this
 1164 paragraph.

1165 (B) Any reductions in staff due to loss of students or cancellation of programs in the
 1166 newly created, or surviving, school system necessitated by the consolidation or merger
 1167 shall be made first in preference of retaining professional certificated personnel on the

1168 basis of uniformly applied criteria set forth in local school board policies of the newly
 1169 created, or surviving, school system."

1170 **SECTION 39.**

1171 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-1160,
 1172 relating to local board tribunals to determine school law controversies, appeals, and special
 1173 provisions for disabled children, as follows:

1174 "(b) Any party aggrieved by a decision of the local board rendered on a contested issue
 1175 after a hearing shall have the right to appeal therefrom to the State Board of Education.
 1176 The appeal shall be in writing and shall distinctly set forth the question in dispute, the
 1177 decision of the local board, and a concise statement of the reasons why the decision is
 1178 complained of; and the party taking the appeal shall also file with the appeal a transcript
 1179 of testimony certified as true and correct by the local school superintendent. The appeal
 1180 shall be filed with the superintendent within 30 days of the decision of the local board, and
 1181 within ten days thereafter it shall be the duty of the superintendent to transmit a copy of the
 1182 appeal together with the transcript of evidence and proceedings, the decision of the local
 1183 board, and other matters in the file relating to the appeal to the state board. The state board
 1184 shall adopt regulations governing the procedure for hearings before the local board and
 1185 proceedings before it. The state board may affirm, reverse, or remand the local board
 1186 decision or may refer the matter to mediation."

1187 **SECTION 40.**

1188 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2065,
 1189 relating to waiver of provisions of Title 20, as follows:

1190 "(b) In determining whether to approve a charter petition or renew an existing charter, the
 1191 local board and state board shall ensure that a charter school, or for charter systems, each
 1192 school within the system, shall be:

1193 (1) A public, nonsectarian, nonreligious, nonprofit school that is not home based,
 1194 provided that a charter school's nonprofit status shall not prevent the school from
 1195 contracting for the services of a for profit entity and that nothing in this Code section
 1196 shall preclude the use of computer and Internet based instruction for students in a virtual
 1197 or remote setting;

1198 (2) Subject to the control and management of the local board of the local school system
 1199 in which the charter school is located, as provided in the charter and in a manner
 1200 consistent with the Constitution, if a local charter school;

1201 (3) Subject to the supervision of the state board, as provided in the charter and in a
 1202 manner consistent with the Constitution, if a state chartered special school;

1203 (4) Organized and operated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of this state;
1204 provided, however, that this paragraph shall not apply to any charter petitioner that is a
1205 local school, local school system, or state or local public entity;

1206 (5) Subject to all federal, state, and local rules, regulations, court orders, and statutes
1207 relating to civil rights; insurance; the protection of the physical health and safety of
1208 school students, employees, and visitors; conflicting interest transactions; and the
1209 prevention of unlawful conduct; provided, however, that if:

1210 (A) A facility used for a charter school is owned or operated by any state agency or
1211 entity, and such facility or equipment purchased or used by the facility meets the safety
1212 standards of the state agency or entity that owns or operates such facility; or

1213 (B) A facility used for a charter school is owned by a local educational agency and
1214 operated utilizing standards of a state agency or entity, and such facility or equipment
1215 purchased or used by the facility meets the safety standards of the state agency or entity
1216 with respect to structural soundness and sufficient maintenance,

1217 the facility or equipment or both shall be deemed to meet the safety requirements of this
1218 paragraph; provided, further, that in no event shall the state agency or entity or local
1219 educational agency owner or operator of a charter school with such facility or equipment
1220 be disqualified from eligibility for state grants or for federal grants awarded pursuant to
1221 state regulations due to such facility or equipment;

1222 (6) Subject to all laws relating to unlawful conduct in or near a public school;

1223 (7) Subject to an annual financial audit conducted by the state auditor or, if specified in
1224 the charter, by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this state; provided,
1225 however, that a separate audit shall not be required for a charter school if the charter
1226 school is included in the local school system audit conducted by the state auditor pursuant
1227 to Code Section 50-6-6;

1228 (8) Subject to the provisions of Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of this title, and such
1229 provisions shall apply with respect to charter schools whose charters are granted or
1230 renewed on or after July 1, 2000;

1231 (9) Subject to all reporting requirements of Code Section 20-2-160, subsection (e) of
1232 Code Section 20-2-161, Code Section 20-2-320, and Code Section 20-2-740;

1233 (10) Subject to the requirement that it shall not charge tuition or fees to its students
1234 except as may be authorized for local boards by Code Section 20-2-133;

1235 (11) Subject to the provisions of Code Section 20-2-1050 requiring a brief period of
1236 quiet reflection;

1237 (12) Subject to the provisions of Code Section 20-2-210 relating to annual performance
1238 evaluations;

1239 (13) Subject to the provisions of Code Section 20-2-211.1 relating to fingerprint and
 1240 criminal background checks; and
 1241 ~~(13)~~(14) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-327 relating
 1242 to individual graduation plans."

1243 **SECTION 41.**

1244 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-2067.1, relating to amendment of
 1245 terms of charter for charter schools, initial term of charter, and annual report by revising the
 1246 introductory language of subsection (c) as follows:

1247 "(c) Each start-up and conversion charter school and each charter system shall submit an
 1248 annual report outlining the previous year's progress to the authorizing local board or state
 1249 board, as appropriate; to parents and guardians of students enrolled in the school, or, for
 1250 a charter system, to parents and guardians of students enrolled in school within the local
 1251 school system; and to the Department of Education no later than ~~October 1~~ November 1
 1252 of each year. The report submitted by a charter system shall include, but not limited to,
 1253 data on all of its system charter schools. The report shall contain, but is not limited to:"

1254 **SECTION 42.**

1255 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of Code Section
 1256 20-2-2084, relating to petition for charter schools, requirements of school, governing board
 1257 membership, and annual training, as follows:

1258 "(2) For petitions for state charter schools with a defined attendance zone, the petitioner
 1259 shall concurrently submit such petition to the commission, to the local board of education
 1260 in which the school is proposed to be located, and to each local school system from which
 1261 the proposed school plans to enroll students. The commission shall not act on a petition
 1262 unless the local board of education in which the school is proposed to be located denies
 1263 the petition; provided, however, that such local board shall approve or deny the petition
 1264 no later than ~~60~~ 90 days after its submission, as required pursuant to subsection (b) of
 1265 Code Section 20-2-2064, unless the petitioner requested an extension. Failure to approve
 1266 or deny such petition by such local board, in violation of Code Section 20-2-2064, shall
 1267 be deemed a denial for purposes of this paragraph. A local board that has denied a
 1268 petition for a state charter school shall be permitted to present to the commission in
 1269 writing or in person the reasons for denial and the deficiencies in such petition resulting
 1270 in such denial."

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SECTION 43.

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An Act to provide in all counties of 500,000 or more population according to the United States Census of 1960 or any future United States Census that the pension board of the board of education in such counties shall recompute the pension paid to those teachers and employees who had retired as a matter of right prior to April 1, 1955, and who had been awarded a basic pension for 20 years of service, approved March 21, 1963 (Ga. L. 1963, p. 2469), is repealed in its entirety.

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SECTION 44.

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