

Senate Bill 348

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Cowser of the 46th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Williams of the 27th and Sims of the 12th

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
2 provide for college and career academies as charter schools or as schools within a strategic
3 waivers school system or charter system; to provide for requirements; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended by
8 revising subsection (e) of Code Section 20-2-161.2, relating to work based learning
9 programs, as follows:

10 "(e) A college and career academy established in accordance with Code Section 20-4-37
11 which participates in work based learning programs pursuant to this Code section ~~and its~~
12 ~~charter~~ shall be eligible for any funding or assistance available for the implementation of
13 this Code section."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of Code Section 20-2-326, relating
16 to definitions relative to the "Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's
17 Economy Act," as follows:

18 "(4) 'College and career academy' means a specialized ~~charter~~ school established by as
19 a charter school or pursuant to a contract for a strategic waivers school system or charter
20 system, which formalizes a partnership which that demonstrates a collaboration between
21 business, industry, and community stakeholders to advance ~~workforce~~ work force
22 development between one or more local boards of education, a private individual, a
23 private organization, or a state or local public entity in cooperation with one or more
24 postsecondary institutions ~~and approved by the State Board of Education in accordance~~

25 ~~with Article 31 of this chapter or the State Charter Schools Commission in accordance~~
 26 ~~with Article 31A of this chapter."~~

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-37, relating to the Office of
 29 College and Career Transitions, as follows:

30 "20-4-37.

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

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

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

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

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

41 (E) Establish a process that allows for college and career academy certification; and

42 (F) Collect and analyze data to evaluate the effectiveness of dual credit and dual
 43 enrollment programs, secondary and postsecondary partnerships, and college and career
 44 academics.

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

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

48 (1) 'Board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

49 (2) 'Certification' means a formal process established by the Office of College and Career
 50 Transitions, and approved by the board, in which college and career academies
 51 successfully demonstrate appropriate levels of student achievement, community
 52 sustainability, ~~workforce~~ work force development, and school level governance.

53 (3) 'Charter petitioner' means a local board of education, group of local boards of
 54 education, private individual, private organization, state or local public entity, or any
 55 group of these; that submits a petition for a charter in cooperation with one or more
 56 postsecondary institutions which have petitioned to establish a college and career
 57 academy as a charter school pursuant to Article 31 or Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this
 58 title.

59 (4) 'Charter school' shall ~~have the same meaning as~~ mean the schools included in
 60 paragraph (3) of Code Section 20-2-2062 and ~~as in paragraph (2) (5)~~ of Code Section
 61 20-2-2081.

62 (5) 'College and career academy' means a specialized ~~charter~~ school established ~~by~~ as a
 63 charter school or pursuant to a contract for a strategic waivers school system or charter
 64 system, which formalizes a partnership which that demonstrates a collaboration between
 65 business, industry, and community stakeholders to advance ~~workforce~~ work force
 66 development between one or more local boards of education, a private individual, a
 67 private organization, or a state or local public entity in cooperation with one or more
 68 postsecondary institutions ~~and approved by the State Board of Education in accordance~~
 69 ~~with Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title or the Georgia Charter Schools Commission in~~
 70 ~~accordance with Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this title.~~ A charter school, charter system,
 71 or strategic waivers school system contract establishing a college and career academy
 72 shall include provisions requiring that the college and career academy have a governing
 73 board reflective of the school community and the partnership with decision-making
 74 authority and requiring that governing board members complete initial and annual
 75 governance training, including, but not limited to, best practices on school governance,
 76 the constitutional and statutory requirements relating to public records and meetings, and
 77 the requirements of applicable statutes and rules and regulations.

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

80 (7) 'Postsecondary institution' means a local technical college, community college,
 81 university, or other postsecondary institution operating under the authority of the
 82 Technical College System of Georgia or the University System of Georgia or other not
 83 for profit postsecondary institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges
 84 and Schools.

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

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

89 (c) The Office of College and Career Transitions shall be established within the Technical
 90 College System of Georgia to coordinate the efforts by the State Board of Education, the
 91 University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and other not for
 92 profit postsecondary institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and
 93 Schools in the professional development, curriculum support, and development and
 94 establishment of college and career academies.

95 (d) The board shall be authorized to allocate funds, including state funds, federal funds,
96 proceeds of general obligation debt, or any other available funds, for a particular purpose
97 for college and career academies for start-up costs or for other purposes related to the
98 establishment and operation of such academies by a grant consideration process.

99 (e) A charter petitioner for a college and career academy that has submitted for approval
100 or that has drafted for submission for approval a charter petition for a college and career
101 academy or a local school system that is proposing a college and career academy as part
102 of a contract to be a strategic waivers school system or charter system shall be authorized
103 to submit to the board an application for start-up funds for a such college and career
104 academy. The board shall approve applications for start-up funds for college and career
105 academies that meet the criteria and requirements established pursuant to subsections (i)
106 and (j) of this Code section. As part of such funding application process, the office shall
107 consider charter applications for college and career academies in cooperation with the
108 Office of Charter School Compliance and consider proposed college and career academies
109 as part of contracts to be strategic waivers school systems or charter systems and make
110 recommendations to the State Board of Education for the approval, denial, and renewal of
111 college and career academy charter petitions or proposed college and career academies
112 within strategic waivers school systems or charter systems and specify the reasons for such
113 recommendations. The State Board of Education ~~should~~ shall consider such a
114 recommendation from the office prior to approving or denying a charter petition for a
115 college and career academy or a proposal for a college and career academy as part of a
116 contract to be a strategic waivers school system or charter system. Funds shall not be
117 released to an approved applicant unless the charter petition is approved by the State Board
118 of Education pursuant to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title or the Georgia Charter Schools
119 Commission in accordance with Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this title or unless the contract
120 for a strategic waivers school system or charter system which is proposing a college and
121 career academy has been approved.

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

124 (g)(1) The office shall establish a certification process, in collaboration with the
125 Department of Education, for approval by the board. The office shall be authorized to
126 certify college and career academies. The State Board of Education shall accept
127 certification by the office as one component of determining compliance with charter and
128 strategic waivers school system or charter system contract requirements. The State Board
129 of Education may request supplemental information from charter petitioners, strategic
130 wavers school systems, or charter systems.

131 (2) Any certification process established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection
132 ~~must~~ shall require that the applicant demonstrates how the proposed college and career
133 academy will increase student achievement, provide for dual credit and dual enrollment
134 opportunities, increase work based learning opportunities, and address ~~workforce~~ work
135 force development needs; articulates how the collaboration between business, industry,
136 and community stakeholders will advance ~~workforce~~ work force development;
137 demonstrates local governance and autonomy; and shows other benefits that meet the
138 needs of the students and community.

139 (3) Certification by the office shall constitute a positive recommendation to the State
140 Board of Education for renewal of a charter school or charter system pursuant to Code
141 Section 20-2-2064.1 or an extension of a strategic waivers school system contract
142 pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 2 of this title.

143 (h) The office shall be responsible for collecting and analyzing appropriate data from and
144 about college and career academies on matters consisting of but not limited to college and
145 career academy effectiveness. Collecting and reporting of data shall be in coordination
146 with the Office of Charter School Compliance.

147 (i) The board shall establish eligibility criteria, requirements, and procedures for the
148 disbursement of funding to college and career academies pursuant to this Code section.
149 Such criteria, requirements, and procedures shall consider the strength of the proposed
150 cooperative arrangements between the local board of education, the group of local boards
151 of education, a private individual, a private organization, or a state or local public entity
152 and one or more postsecondary institutions and must include active support from and a
153 partnership with local business and community leaders for the college and career academy.
154 The board may establish a matching requirement for recipients of funds under this Code
155 section.

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

163 (k) Representatives from business, industry, civic, and governmental agencies and
164 educational organizations which are designated by the commissioner of the Technical
165 College System of Georgia shall advise the board on matters pertaining to both the
166 certification and governance of college and career academies."

167

SECTION 4.

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