

Senate Bill 30

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Orrock of the 36th, Henson of the 41st, Seay of the 34th,  
Parent of the 42nd and others

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**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 provide for Sustainable Community School  
3 Operational Grants; to provide for definitions; to provide for planning and implementation  
4 grants; to provide for applications for grants; to require the development of community  
5 school plans; to provide for requirements for grant recipients; to delineate the purposes for  
6 which grant funds may be used; to provide for reports; to provide for a short title; to provide  
7 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Unlocking the Promise Community  
11 Schools Act."

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
14 secondary education, is amended by revising Article 14, which is reserved, as follows:

15 **"ARTICLE 14**

16 20-2-640.

17 As used in this article, the term:

18 (1) 'Applicant' means a school, a local board of education, or a consortium, proposing  
19 to work in collaboration with one or more community organizations, which is seeking a  
20 Sustainable Community School Operational Grant pursuant to this article for a covered  
21 school site.

22 (2) 'Community organization' means a nonprofit organization that has been in existence  
23 for three years or more and has a verifiable track record of working with the community  
24 surrounding the covered school site on education and other issues.

25 (3) 'Community partner' means a community stakeholder including, but not limited to,  
 26 parents, parent organizations, students, student organizations, early learning programs,  
 27 businesses, civic engagement organizations, advocacy groups, local civic and community  
 28 based organizations, civil rights organizations, local governmental agencies, local school  
 29 employee organizations, and institutions of higher education.

30 (4) 'Community school plan' means a plan to implement community school programming  
 31 at a school submitted pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-644.

32 (5) 'Community school programming' means services, activities, and opportunities  
 33 described under subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-642.

34 (6) 'Consortium' means a group composed of a school or local board of education and  
 35 of at least one community partner and may include local education organizations,  
 36 governmental agencies, schools, other community partners, or community organizations  
 37 that propose to work with one another to plan or implement community school  
 38 programming pursuant to a grant.

39 (7) 'Covered school site' means any school site at which an applicant has proposed or has  
 40 been funded to provide community school programming pursuant to a grant.

41 (8) 'Grant' means a Sustainable Community School Operational Grant awarded pursuant  
 42 to this article.

43 (9) 'Grantee' means an applicant that has been awarded a grant.

44 (10) 'High-quality child care or early childhood education programming' means  
 45 educational programming for preschool aged children that is grounded in research and  
 46 consistent with best practices in the field.

47 (11) 'Lead partner agency' is the organization that joins the school to manage and lead  
 48 the work of developing and sustaining the community school plan. The lead partner  
 49 agency shall serve as the fiscal agent.

50 (12) 'Relevant experts' means individuals, institutions, or organizations with experience  
 51 in the design, implementation, or evaluation of programs related to the analyses required  
 52 pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-642. Reserved:

53 20-2-641.

54 (a) If appropriations are available, the Department of Education shall make grants  
 55 available to plan, implement, and improve sustainable community schools. Proposals may  
 56 be submitted by applicants provided that each covered school site referenced in the  
 57 proposal is:

58 (1) A Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that is among the  
 59 lowest-achieving 15 percent of Title I schools in the state;

60 (2) A secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I funds and that is  
 61 among the lowest-achieving 15 percent of secondary schools in the state; or

62 (3) A high school that has had a graduation rate as defined in 34 C.F.R. 200.19(b) that  
 63 is less than 60 percent over three years.

64 (b)(1) Grants may be awarded to applicants that have demonstrated a need to implement  
 65 community school programming but are in need of additional planning to establish or  
 66 expand existing programming. Schools that are not ready to implement community  
 67 school programming immediately are authorized to use up to one year of their grant funds  
 68 for planning purposes. At the end of this period, the school must submit a community  
 69 school plan pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-642.

70 (2) Applicants that have demonstrated readiness to begin operation of community school  
 71 programming and submitted a community school plan pursuant to subsection (b) of Code  
 72 Section 20-2-642 shall not be required to use the first year of the grant for planning  
 73 purposes and shall be authorized to begin implementation immediately upon receipt of  
 74 the grant award. Such grants shall supplement, not supplant, existing services and funds.

75 (c) The Department of Education shall use a request for proposal process in awarding  
 76 grants. Proposals shall be evaluated and scored on the basis of criteria consistent with this  
 77 article and other factors established by the Department of Education. The Department of  
 78 Education shall consider the applicant's prior performance under a grant, if applicable.  
 79 Grants shall be for a term of five years and shall be renewable at the discretion of the  
 80 Department of Education.

81 (d) Technical assistance, including but not limited to grant writing and support for the  
 82 design of community school programming, shall be made available to applicants. Such  
 83 technical assistance may be provided by the Department of Education directly or by an  
 84 organization with demonstrated experience with community school planning in partnership  
 85 with community organizations or civic engagement organizations funded by the  
 86 Department of Education through a request for proposal process to provide such technical  
 87 assistance.

88 20-2-642.

89 (a) Each applicant shall demonstrate how it will transition to positive discipline practices,  
 90 more engaging and relevant curriculum, and transformative parent engagement. In  
 91 addition, each applicant shall propose to provide a minimum of two of the following types  
 92 of community school programming at each covered school site during the grant period:

93 (1) Early childhood:

94 (A) Early childhood education;

95 (B) Programs under the Head Start Act, including Early Head Start programs; and

- 96        (C) Child care services;
- 97        (2) Academic:
- 98        (A) Academic support and enrichment activities, including expanded learning time;
- 99        (B) Summer or after-school enrichment and learning experiences;
- 100       (C) Job training, internship opportunities, and career counseling services;
- 101       (D) Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or
- 102       expelled; and
- 103       (E) Specialized instructional support services;
- 104       (3) Parental involvement:
- 105       (A) Programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy, including the
- 106       Reading First and Early Reading First programs authorized under Part B of Title I of
- 107       the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6361, et seq.);
- 108       (B) Parent leadership development activities; and
- 109       (C) Parenting education activities;
- 110       (4) Mental and physical health:
- 111       (A) Mentoring and other youth development programs, including peer mentoring and
- 112       conflict mediation;
- 113       (B) Juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation programs;
- 114       (C) Home visitation services by teachers and other professionals;
- 115       (D) Developmentally appropriate physical education;
- 116       (E) Nutrition services;
- 117       (F) Primary health and dental care; and
- 118       (G) Mental health counseling services;
- 119       (5) Community involvement:
- 120       (A) Service and service-learning opportunities;
- 121       (B) Adult education, including instruction in English as a second language; and
- 122       (C) Homeless prevention services; or
- 123       (6) Other programming designed to meet school and community needs identified through
- 124       the school leadership team analysis described in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code
- 125       Section 20-2-643.
- 126       (b) In addition, each applicant shall submit a community school plan for the following:
- 127       (1) Maintenance of attendance records in all programming components;
- 128       (2) Maintenance of measurable data showing annual participation and the impact of
- 129       community school programming on the participating children and adults; and
- 130       (3) Documentation of meaningful and sustained collaboration between the school and
- 131       community stakeholders, including local governmental units, civic engagement

132 organizations, businesses, social service providers, cultural organizations, institutions of  
 133 higher education, and health institutions.

134 (c) The application for a grant under this article shall include the following:

135 (1) A baseline analysis of needs at the covered school site, spearheaded by the lead  
 136 partner agency or school leadership team in collaboration with relevant experts as  
 137 appropriate, which shall include the following elements:

138 (A) Identification of challenges facing the school;

139 (B) Analysis of the student body, including:

140 (i) Number and percentage of students with disabilities and the needs of these  
 141 students;

142 (ii) Number and percentage of students who are English language learners and the  
 143 needs of these students; and

144 (iii) Number and percentage of students receiving free or reduced priced lunch and  
 145 the needs of these students;

146 (C) Analysis of enrollment and retention rates for students with disabilities, English  
 147 language learners, and students receiving free or reduced priced lunch;

148 (D) Analysis of suspension and expulsion data, including the justification for such  
 149 disciplinary actions and the degree to which particular populations, including but not  
 150 limited to students of color, students with disabilities, students who are English  
 151 language learners, and students receiving free or reduced price lunch, are represented  
 152 among students subject to such actions;

153 (E) Analysis of school achievement data disaggregated by major demographic  
 154 categories, including but not limited to race or ethnicity, English language learner  
 155 status, disability status, and free or reduced price meals eligibility;

156 (F) Analysis of current parent engagement strategies and their success;

157 (G) Evaluation of the need for and availability of wraparound services, including but  
 158 not limited to:

159 (i) Mechanisms for meeting students' social, emotional, and physical health needs,  
 160 which may include coordination of existing services as well as the development of  
 161 new services based on student needs; and

162 (ii) Strategies to create safe and secure school environments and improve school  
 163 climate and discipline, such as implementing a system of positive behavioral supports  
 164 and taking additional steps to eliminate bullying; and

165 (H) Analyze the breadth and depth of community and school support for the school  
 166 curriculum and the breadth and depth of support for changes to the school curriculum;

167 (2) A baseline analysis of community assets and a strategic plan for utilizing and  
 168 aligning identified assets. This analysis should include, but not be limited to, a

169 documentation of individuals in the community, faith based organizations, community  
 170 and neighborhood associations, colleges, hospitals, libraries, businesses, and social  
 171 service agencies who may be able to provide support and resources;

172 (3) A baseline analysis of needs in the community surrounding the school, spearheaded  
 173 by the lead partner agency or the school leadership team, in collaboration with relevant  
 174 experts as appropriate, including but not limited to:

175 (A) The need for full-day, high-quality child care or early childhood education  
 176 programming;

177 (B) The need for physical and mental health care services for children and adults; and

178 (C) The need for job training and other adult education programming; and

179 (4) A plan detailing the steps the grantee and community partners will take to integrate  
 180 the elements to become a sustainable community school at the covered school site,  
 181 including plans for ensuring the following:

182 (A) Timely establishment and consistent operation of the school leadership team;

183 (B) Maintenance of attendance records in all programming components;

184 (C) Maintenance of measurable data showing annual participation and the impact of  
 185 community school programming on the participating children and adults;

186 (D) Documentation of meaningful and sustained collaboration between the school and  
 187 community stakeholders, including local governmental units, civic engagement  
 188 organizations, businesses, and social service providers;

189 (E) Establishment and maintenance of partnerships with institutions, such as  
 190 universities, hospitals, museums, corporations, community organizations, or other  
 191 community partners, to further the development and implementation of community  
 192 school programming; and

193 (F) School leadership team development.

194 20-2-643.

195 (a)(1) Upon award of a grant, each grantee shall establish a school leadership team  
 196 responsible for developing school-specific programming goals, assessing program needs,  
 197 and overseeing the process of implementing expanded programming at each covered  
 198 school site. The school leadership team shall meet the following requirements:

199 (A) The school leadership team for an elementary or middle school shall have between  
 200 12 and 15 members. The school leadership team shall be composed of no less than 60  
 201 percent parents, residents, and teachers and shall include the following stakeholders:

202 (i) The school principal, who shall be a voting member of the school leadership team  
 203 but shall not be the chairperson;

204 (ii) Community partners, including representatives from the lead partner agency;

205 (iii) Parents and residents and, if the school has a relevant civic association or  
206 parent-teacher organization or civic engagement organization such as a Parent  
207 Teacher Association chapter, the lead partner agency or principal shall work with  
208 such organizations to hold elections to select representatives; and

209 (iv) Teachers chosen by a democratic selection process led by the lead partner agency  
210 or principal; and

211 (B) The school leadership team for a high school shall have between 12 and 15  
212 members, shall include the stakeholders in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, and  
213 shall also include two students elected by students of the school who shall serve as  
214 voting members.

215 Upon selection, the school leadership team shall immediately appoint two representatives  
216 from the community who are not parents, teachers, other employees of the school, or  
217 students to serve as voting members on the school leadership team. Following the  
218 selection of the community representatives, the school leadership team shall select a  
219 chairperson to guide the school leadership team's work. The school leadership team shall  
220 work in cooperation with and may have overlapping members with the school governing  
221 council for any school in a charter system.

222 (2) The school leadership team at each grantee's covered school site or sites shall be  
223 responsible for overseeing the baseline analyses described in subsection (c) of Code  
224 Section 20-2-642. Each such school leadership team shall also have ongoing  
225 responsibility for monitoring the development and implementation of sustainable  
226 community school operations and programming at each covered school site and shall  
227 issue recommendations to school leadership, the local board of education, and community  
228 partners on a regular basis and summarized in an annual report. These reports shall also  
229 be made available to the public at the covered school site or sites and on school system  
230 websites.

231 (b) Upon award of a grant, a grantee shall hire a resource coordinator to coordinate  
232 services at each covered school site. If proposing to serve three or more sites, the grantee  
233 shall also hire a program director to coordinate activities across covered school sites.  
234 Resource coordinators and program directors shall work collaboratively with school  
235 leadership and school leadership teams to provide the services and programs that meet  
236 school and community needs and priorities.

237 (c) A grantee shall submit quarterly progress reports to the Department of Education  
238 regarding implementation of community school programming to include financial status  
239 and any other items required by the department.

240 20-2-644.

241 (a) Grant funds awarded pursuant to this article may be used to support any of the  
 242 following activities:

243 (1) Up to a year of grant funds may be used for planning purposes to create a  
 244 comprehensive community school plan;

245 (2) Where the grantee has received funding to provide community school programming  
 246 at multiple covered school sites, selection and compensation of a program director to  
 247 oversee and coordinate programming across multiple covered school sites;

248 (3) Selection and compensation of a resource coordinator at each covered school site;

249 (4) Ongoing convening and consultation of institutional partners;

250 (5) General coordination of programs within and between covered school sites;

251 (6) Ongoing monitoring of the impact of community school programming on  
 252 participating children and adults;

253 (7) Development of alternative funding strategies to guarantee the long-term  
 254 sustainability of the community school;

255 (8) Ongoing operation of the school leadership team; and

256 (9) Other activities, both operational and programmatic, which assist in implementation  
 257 of the plan required under paragraph (4) of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-642.

258 (b) Before grantees begin using grant funds, the grantee shall provide the Department of  
 259 Education with a community school plan. For schools that opt to use their first year of  
 260 grant funding for planning purposes, the community school plan shall be submitted at the  
 261 end of the first year. The community school plan shall detail the steps the grantee and  
 262 community partners will take to integrate community school programming at the covered  
 263 school site and include plans for:

264 (1) Establishing programming that meets the needs indicated by the baseline analyses  
 265 required under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-642;

266 (2) Timely establishment and consistent operation of the school leadership team;

267 (3) Maintenance of attendance records in all programming components;

268 (4) Maintenance of measurable data showing annual participation and the impact of  
 269 community school programming on the participating children and adults;

270 (5) Documentation of meaningful and sustained collaboration between the school and  
 271 community partners, including local governmental units, civic engagement organizations,  
 272 businesses, and social service providers;

273 (6) Establishment and maintenance of partnerships with institutions, such as universities,  
 274 hospitals, museums, corporations, community organizations, or other community  
 275 partners, to further the development and implementation of community school  
 276 programming;

- 277 (7) Annual evaluation and public reporting on the impact of programming on the  
278 participating children and adults; and  
279 (8) Ensuring the continuation of the sustainable community school programming after  
280 the grant period ends.

281 20-2-645.

282 (a) At the conclusion of each grant term, each grantee, spearheaded by the lead partner  
283 agency and supported by the school leadership team, shall submit to the Department of  
284 Education and make available at the covered school site and on its website a report  
285 describing efforts to integrate community school programming at each covered school site  
286 and the impact of the transition to a sustainable community school on participating children  
287 and adults. This report shall include, but shall not be limited to, discussion of the  
288 following:

289 (1) The number and percentage of students receiving community school programming  
290 who had not previously been served;

291 (2) Any improvement in retention among students who receive community school  
292 programming;

293 (3) Any improvement in academic achievement among students who receive community  
294 school programming;

295 (4) An accounting of anticipated local budget savings, if any, resulting from  
296 implementation of the program;

297 (5) An assessment of the effectiveness of the grantee in implementing the community  
298 school plan;

299 (6) Problems encountered in the design and execution of the community school plan,  
300 including identification of any federal, state, or local statute or regulation impeding  
301 program implementation;

302 (7) The operation of the school leadership team and its contribution to successful  
303 execution of the community school plan;

304 (8) Recommendations for improving delivery of community school programming to  
305 students;

306 (9) The number and percentage of nonstudent community members receiving community  
307 school programming who had not previously been served;

308 (10) Any changes in students' readiness to enter school; active involvement in learning  
309 and in their community; physical, social, and emotional health; and relationships with the  
310 school and community environment;

311 (11) Any improvements to the frequency or depth of families' involvement with their  
312 children's education;

- 313 (12) Assessment of community stakeholder satisfaction;  
314 (13) Assessment of institutional partner satisfaction;  
315 (14) The ability, or anticipated ability, of the grantee and community partners to continue  
316 to provide services in the absence of future funding under this article;  
317 (15) Increases in access to services for students and their families; and  
318 (16) The degree of increased collaboration among participating agencies and private  
319 community partners.
- 320 (b) Reports submitted by grantees pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section shall be  
321 evaluated by the Department of Education with respect to criteria developed by such  
322 department. The criteria shall include but not be limited to the following:
- 323 (1) The degree to which there has been an improvement in retention of students and  
324 improvement in academic achievement among students receiving community school  
325 programming;
- 326 (2) Local budget savings, if any, resulting from implementation of the program;  
327 (3) The degree of community stakeholder and institutional partner engagement;  
328 (4) The ability, or anticipated ability, of the grantee and community partners to continue  
329 to provide services in the absence of future funding under this article;  
330 (5) Increases in access to services for students and their families;  
331 (6) The degree of increased collaboration among participating agencies and private  
332 community partners;
- 333 (7) The effectiveness of the school, local board of education, or consortium in  
334 implementing the community school plan including the degree to which the grantee  
335 navigated difficulties encountered in the design and operation of the community school  
336 plan, including identification of any federal, state, or local statute or regulation impeding  
337 program implementation;
- 338 (8) The extent to which the recommendations of the school leadership team are reflected  
339 in the community school plan and the degree to which the school leadership team has  
340 been engaged in discussion and decision making;
- 341 (9) The extent to which the project has yielded lessons about ways to improve delivery  
342 of community school programming to students; and
- 343 (10) The degree to which there has been an increase in the number or percentage of  
344 students and nonstudents receiving community school programming.
- 345 (c) No later than August 30 of the year following the first full year of operation of the  
346 grant program established pursuant to this article and each year thereafter, the Department  
347 of Education shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the impact of  
348 implementing community school programming. The report shall be made publicly

349 available on covered school sites' websites and on the Department of Education website.  
350 All data featured in the report shall be made available in machine-readable formats.  
351 (d) The report shall draw upon the following data sources to provide analysis of the  
352 success of the grant program established pursuant to this article, the impact of funded  
353 initiatives, and recommendations for enhancing the program's effectiveness:  
354 (1) Aggregate data from reports required under subsection (b) of this Code section;  
355 (2) Aggregate data from grantee reports required under subsection (a) of this Code  
356 section;  
357 (3) Interviews and other consultations with students, parents, community members,  
358 program directors, and resource coordinators; and  
359 (4) Consultation with school leadership teams.  
360 (e) The report shall include analyses and recommendations related to the potential to  
361 replicate the best practices of grantees in nongrantor public schools.  
362 (f) The report shall include an analysis of cost savings in areas such as public health,  
363 public safety, and public education resulting from investment in community school  
364 programming."

365 **SECTION 3.**

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