

Senate Bill 401

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Sims of the 12th, Millar of the 40th, Tate of the 38th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-327 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 recognition of advanced proficiency/honors courses and counseling and development of  
3 individual graduation plans, so as to provide for guidance in career oriented aptitudes and  
4 career interests in developing an individual graduation plan; to provide for a review and  
5 report of a school counselor's role, workload, program service delivery, and professional  
6 learning; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for  
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 20-2-327 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to recognition  
11 of advanced proficiency/honors courses and counseling and development of individual  
12 graduation plans, is amended by revising subsection (c) as follows:

13 ~~"(c)(1) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, students~~ Students in the sixth,  
14 seventh, and eighth grades shall be provided counseling, advisement, career awareness,  
15 career interest inventories, and information to assist them in evaluating their academic  
16 skills, career oriented aptitudes, and career interests. Before the end of the second  
17 semester of the eighth grade, students shall develop an individual graduation plan based  
18 on their academic skills, career oriented aptitudes, and career interests in consultation  
19 with their parents, guardians, or individuals appointed by the parents or guardians to  
20 serve as their designee. A student's individual graduation plan shall be taken into  
21 consideration when scheduling a student's courses in ninth grade. High school students  
22 shall be provided guidance, advisement, and counseling annually that will enable them  
23 to successfully ~~complete~~ update and implement their individual graduation plans,  
24 preparing them for a seamless transition to postsecondary study, further training, or  
25 employment. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, such guidance, advisement, and

26 counseling for high school students shall include providing career oriented aptitude and  
 27 career interest guidance. An individual graduation plan shall:

28 (1)(A) Include rigorous academic core subjects and focused ~~course work~~ coursework  
 29 in mathematics and science or in humanities, fine arts, and foreign language or  
 30 sequenced career pathway ~~course work~~ coursework;

31 (2)(B) Incorporate provisions of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP),  
 32 where applicable;

33 (3)(C) Align educational and broad career goals and a student's course of study;

34 (4)(D) Be based on the student's selected academic and career focus area as approved  
 35 by the student's parent or guardian;

36 (5)(E) Include experience based, career oriented learning experiences which may  
 37 include, but not be limited to, participation in work based learning programs such as  
 38 internships, apprenticeships, cooperative education, service learning, and employability  
 39 skill development;

40 (6)(F) Include opportunities for postsecondary studies through articulation, dual  
 41 enrollment, and joint enrollment;

42 (7)(G) Be flexible to allow change in the course of study but be sufficiently structured  
 43 to meet graduation requirements and qualify the student for admission to postsecondary  
 44 education; and

45 (8)(H) Be approved by the student and the student's parent or guardian with guidance  
 46 from the student's school counselor or teacher adviser.

47 (2) An individual graduation plan shall be reviewed annually, and revised, if appropriate,  
 48 upon approval by the student and the student's parent or guardian with guidance from the  
 49 student's school counselor or teacher adviser. An individual graduation plan may be  
 50 changed at any time throughout a student's high school career upon approval by the  
 51 student and the student's parent or guardian with guidance from the student's school  
 52 counselor or teacher adviser.

53 (3) The General Assembly finds that school counselors help students focus on academic,  
 54 career, social, and emotional development so that students can achieve success in school  
 55 and be prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society. The  
 56 Department of Education shall review each school counselor's role, workload, and  
 57 program service delivery in grades six through 12. Such review shall include the scope  
 58 of school counselor professional learning and annual school counselor evaluation  
 59 instruments. The Department of Education shall provide a report of its findings to the  
 60 State Board of Education and the General Assembly by December 31, 2018, that includes  
 61 recommendations for counselor improvements to ensure student success in academic

62 skills, career oriented aptitudes, and career interests. This paragraph shall stand repealed  
63 on December 31, 2018."

64 **SECTION 2.**

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