

Senate Bill 595

By: Senators James of the 28th, Rhett of the 33rd, Howard of the 35th, Mangham of the 55th,
Kemp of the 38th and others

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 authorize the State Board of Education to
3 establish a student personal development and career readiness program; to provide for the
4 selection of third-party providers to administer the program; to provide requirements for
5 approved program providers; to provide for disbursement of funds to approved program
6 providers; to provide for reporting; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters;
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
11 secondary education, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

12 "ARTICLE 35

13 20-2-2140.

14 As used in this article, the term:

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15 (1) 'Academic improvement rate' means the academic improvement rate calculated in
16 accordance with Code Section 20-2-2142.

17 (2) 'Average cost per student' means the average cost per student calculated in accordance
18 with Code Section 20-2-2142.

19 (3) 'Public school' means any public elementary or secondary school in this state.

20 (4) 'State board' means the State Board of Education.

21 (5) 'Student personal development and career readiness program' and 'program' mean the
22 program provided for in this article.

23 20-2-2141.

24 (a) The state board shall be authorized to establish a student personal development and
25 career readiness program to allow public schools to participate in such program for the
26 purpose of enhancing academic growth, career preparedness, and overall personal
27 development for students.

28 (b) The state board shall be authorized to approve program providers to administer the
29 program. Such approved program providers shall be selected through an application
30 process as follows:

31 (1) Not later than August 15 of each year, the state board shall make available an
32 application for third-party entities to apply to become approved program providers;

33 (2) Not later than September 15 of each year, the state board shall review applications,
34 approve program providers that meet the requirements set forth in this article, and make
35 available a list of approved program providers on the state board's public website; and

36 (3) Approved program providers shall be authorized to begin enrolling public schools
37 upon being approved by the state board as an approved program provider.

38 (c) The state board shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
39 implement the provisions of this article.

40 20-2-2142.

41 (a) Approved program providers shall:

42 (1) Offer the following to public schools at no cost to students:

43 (A) On-site mental health support for students, including regular coordination with
44 teachers, case managers, and interns to ensure students receive consistent care;

45 (B) Instruction in essential soft skills, including self-awareness, managing emotions,
46 clear communication, responsible decision making, and resolving conflicts;

47 (C) Life skills and academic support, including help with setting goals, building
48 confidence and personal responsibility, and developing strategies to stay on track in
49 school and prepare for careers;

50 (D) Additional case management support to connect students and families with
51 community services and other resources that reduce barriers to attendance and academic
52 success;

53 (E) Training and implementation support for participating schools, including
54 on-boarding assistance and guidance for teachers to effectively integrate the program
55 into existing school operations; and

56 (F) One or more programs which public schools may choose to participate in;

57 (2) Have an academic improvement rate of not less than 50 percent; and

58 (3) Have an average cost per student of not more than \$1,500.00.

59 (b)(1) The average cost per student shall be calculated by dividing the total program
60 funding, including expenditures for materials, staffing, training, evaluation, and
61 administrative expenses disbursed to an approved program provider annually, by the
62 anticipated number of students served in the program annually.

63 (2) The academic improvement rate shall be calculated by dividing the number of
64 students served in the program that have shown an improvement in course grades
65 annually by the number of students for which such approved program provider has
66 received program funding.

67 20-2-2143.

68 (a) The state board shall be authorized to establish a grant program to provide financial
69 assistance to public schools for the implementation of the program by an approved program
70 provider. The grant program shall include funding, subject to appropriations by the
71 General Assembly, for grants to program providers to purchase curricula materials, and to
72 fund staffing, training, evaluation, and administrative expenses.

73 (b) The state board shall establish and administer:

74 (1) Eligibility and selection criteria for grant applicants;

75 (2) Grant application procedures;

76 (3) Guidelines relating to grant amounts;

77 (4) Procedures for evaluation of grant applications; and

78 (5) Procedures for monitoring the use of a grant awarded under the program and ensuring
79 compliance with any conditions of a grant.

80 (c) Funds received by approved program providers pursuant to this Code section shall be
81 used for providing and preparing for instruction, instructional materials, and support
82 services for students and teachers, including coaching and mentoring.

83 (d) An approved program provider receiving a grant under this Code section shall, as soon
84 as practicable after spending the grant money, provide to the state board proof of purchase,
85 as applicable, of curricula materials, staffing, training, evaluation, and administrative
86 expenses.

87 20-2-2144.

88 (a) Beginning in 2027, no later than August 15 of each year, each approved program
89 provider shall submit a report to the state board which shall include:

90 (1) The number of public schools participating in the program;

91 (2) The academic improvement rate of the program; and

92 (3) The average cost per student.

- 93 (b) Beginning in 2027, no later than December 1 of each year, the state board shall provide
94 the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
95 the chairpersons of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education and
96 Youth Committee with a report that includes:
- 97 (1) The information reported to the state board pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code
98 section; and
- 99 (2) The amount of funds disbursed to each approved program provider."

100

SECTION 2.

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