

Senate Bill 42

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Gooch of the 51st, Harbison of the 15th, Payne of the 54th, Miller of the 49th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-14-33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 indicators of quality of learning in individual schools and school systems, comparison to state
3 standards, rating schools and school systems, providing information, and uniform definition
4 of "dropout" and "below grade level," so as to provide that the school climate rating does not
5 include discipline data; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 20-14-33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to indicators of
10 quality of learning in individual schools and school systems, comparison to state standards,
11 rating schools and school systems, providing information, and uniform definition of
12 "dropout" and "below grade level," is amended by revising subsection (c) as follows:
13 "(c) Performance on the indicators of quality of learning, financial efficiency, school
14 climate, and any other indicators the office adopts shall be compared to state standards,
15 progress on improved student achievement, and comparable performance. The standards
16 for comparison shall be established by the office as provided in Code Section 20-14-31, in

coordination with the Department of Education. Data and information regarding the standards shall be included in the annual report provided for in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-27. Financial efficiency may include an analysis of how federal and state funds spent by local school systems impact student achievement and school improvement, and components used to determine financial efficiency may include actual achievement, resource efficiency, and student participation in standardized testing. School climate determinations may utilize data from student health surveys, ~~data on environmental and behavior indicators, data on student behavioral and school-based reactions,~~ and teacher and parent survey instruments; provided, however, that school climate determinations shall not include student discipline data. Financial efficiency and school climate shall have one of the following star ratings based upon the factors included in this subsection, as further defined by rules and regulations of the office:

- (1) '5-star' schools ranked excellent according to the state determined financial efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate;
- (2) '4-star' schools ranked above average according to the state determined financial efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate;
- (3) '3-star' schools ranked average according to the state determined financial efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate;
- (4) '2-star' schools ranked below satisfactory according to the state determined financial efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate; or
- (5) '1-star' schools ranked unsatisfactory according to the state determined financial efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate."

SECTION 2.

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