

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth offered the following substitute to SB 106:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-742 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 multi-tiered system of supports prior to suspension or expulsion for certain students, so as
3 to include wraparound services in the multi-tiered system of supports to be provided prior
4 to expelling or assigning a student in preschool through eighth grade to out-of-school
5 suspension for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year; to
6 provide a definition of wraparound services; to provide for related matters; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 20-2-742 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to multi-tiered
11 system of supports prior to suspension or expulsion for certain students, is amended by
12 revising subsections (a) and (b) as follows:

13 "(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Multi-tiered system of supports' or 'MTSS' means a systemic,
15 continuous-improvement framework in which data based problem solving and decision

16 making is practiced across all levels of the educational system for supporting students at
17 multiple levels of intervention.

18 (2) 'Public preschool through ~~third~~ eighth grade' means a public preschool, a ~~Pre-K~~
19 pre-kindergarten program in a public school administered pursuant to Code Section
20 20-1A-4, and kindergarten through ~~third~~ eighth grade in a public school.

21 (3) 'Response to intervention' or 'RTI' means a framework of identifying and addressing
22 the academic and behavioral needs of students through a tiered system.

23 (4) 'Weapon' ~~shall include~~ means and includes dangerous weapons, firearms, and
24 hazardous objects as defined in Code Section 20-2-751.

25 (5) 'Wraparound services' means services provided to students and, in some instances,
26 their families, which provide academic, social, or behavioral support for the student and
27 which:

28 (A) Provide for early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development
29 and family support services intended to enhance the physical, social, emotional, and
30 intellectual development of participating children;

31 (B) Provide referrals to relevant social services provided by programs in this state,
32 including, but not limited to, early intervention, home based services, community
33 programs, health and mental health services, nutrition services, and family support
34 services;

35 (C) Provide students who have documented behavioral problems, including, but not
36 limited to, issues involving behavior related to prior or existing trauma, with
37 appropriate screening and referral services;

38 (D) Provide parents with a resource list of services, including, but not limited to, state,
39 local, and community programs that support parents and provide training and support
40 for parenting skills, positive parent-child interactions, child development, and access
41 to health care;

42 (E) Provide information and referrals to students and families about state and
43 nationally accredited high quality early childhood education programs, such as
44 Early/Head Start programs, Georgia's Pre-K Program, or other providers of early
45 childhood education and development programs through third grade; and

46 (F) Educate families about, and refer students to, state and nationally accredited high
47 quality education programs for children in grades four through eight.

48 (b) Local school systems or schools shall make a multi-tiered system of supports, such as
49 response to intervention and wraparound services, available to students and families, or
50 shall provide appropriate referrals for such supports and services, at the discretion of school
51 system or school officials; provided, however, that no No student in public preschool
52 through ~~third~~ eighth grade shall be expelled or suspended from school for more than five
53 consecutive or cumulative days during a school year without first receiving a multi-tiered
54 system of supports, such as response to intervention and wraparound services, unless such
55 student possessed a weapon, illegal drugs, or other dangerous instrument or such student's
56 behavior endangers the physical safety of other students or school personnel. If such
57 student is receiving or has received a multi-tiered system of supports, the school shall be
58 deemed to have met the requirements of this Code section. The school or program shall
59 comply with all federal laws and requirements regarding obtaining parental consent during
60 any advanced tier within the system of supports prior to certain screenings or evaluations."

61

SECTION 2.

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