

House Bill 217

By: Representatives Hong of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Martin of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Wade of the 9<sup>th</sup>,  
and Ballard of the 147<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the Dual Achievement Program, so as to make the Dual Achievement Program  
3 a permanent state-wide program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
4 and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 6 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
8 Dual Achievement Program, is amended by revising Code Section 20-4-141, relating to  
9 establishment of pilot program, awarding of high school diploma to successful participants,  
10 skills and knowledge, eligibility for participation, and regulation, as follows:

11 "20-4-141.

12 (a)(1) The state board shall, in coordination with the State Board of Education,  
13 Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of  
14 Corrections, and the Office of Planning and Budget, establish a ~~pilot~~ program to allow  
15 students who meet eligibility requirements to qualify for enrollment in the Dual  
16 Achievement Program at a participating unit of the technical college system and, upon

17 successful completion of the program, be awarded a high school diploma. The purpose  
18 of the pilot program is to assess the feasibility of implementing a state-funded program  
19 for allow eligible students who have withdrawn from high school to enroll in a unit of the  
20 technical college system to participate in an academic and technical education and  
21 training program which, upon successful completion, allows the student to earn a high  
22 school diploma while also earning a technical college associate degree, a technical  
23 college diploma, or technical college certificates of credit in specific career pathways.

24 (2) To implement the pilot program, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
25 contrary, the ~~State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia~~ state board and the  
26 State Board of Education shall be authorized to waive or provide variances to state rules,  
27 regulations, policies, and procedures and to provisions of this title that may be reasonably  
28 necessary to meet the goals of the pilot program. ~~Such waivers or variances shall~~  
29 ~~automatically expire at the end of five years unless an earlier expiration is provided for.~~  
30 ~~The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia~~ state board and the State  
31 Board of Education shall be authorized to seek waivers or variances of federal laws, rules,  
32 regulations, policies, and procedures that may be reasonably necessary to meet the goals  
33 of the pilot program.

34 ~~(3) The pilot program, as determined by the state board, may include up to five units of~~  
35 ~~the technical college system for a period of five years. In an effort to pilot the program~~  
36 ~~under various conditions present in the state, the state board shall seek to include in the~~  
37 ~~pilot program units of the technical college system from various geographic areas in the~~  
38 ~~state.~~

39 ~~(4)~~ (3) The state board shall review the results of the pilot program and shall no later than  
40 February † November 15 each year during the program provide the General Assembly  
41 chairpersons of the House Committee on Education, the Senate Education and Youth  
42 Committee, the House Committee on Higher Education, and the Senate Higher Education  
43 Committee with a comprehensive report on the program with any recommendations for

44 ~~its continued use~~ and any needed changes in the program. Such report shall include a  
45 comprehensive list of any such waivers or variances requested as provided for in  
46 paragraph (2) of this subsection, a statement of necessity for each request, and whether  
47 each request was granted in whole or in part.

48 (b) The ~~pilot~~ program established by the state board pursuant to this article shall provide  
49 for the award of a high school diploma to students who successfully complete the program.

50 (c) The state board shall determine the specific competencies concerning the skills and  
51 knowledge needed for completion of each component of the program; provided, however,  
52 that the state board shall make such determination regarding the skills and knowledge  
53 needed to meet the requirements for a high school diploma as provided for in this program  
54 in consultation with the State Board of Education and the Department of Education.

55 (d) In order to minimize the risk of prospective students prematurely withdrawing from  
56 a secondary school in order to participate in the program, the state board shall provide for  
57 preliminary review of academic records, including, but not limited to, official secondary  
58 school transcripts, submitted by prospective students to determine whether such students  
59 meet the requirements provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (e) of this Code  
60 ~~Section~~ section. If a prospective student meets such requirements, the student shall be so  
61 notified and allowed to complete a readiness assessment required by the technical college  
62 system. Students who meet the requirements provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
63 subsection (e) of this Code ~~Section~~ section and attain an acceptable a score of admission  
64 ~~acceptable~~ on the readiness assessment shall be notified that they are eligible to participate  
65 in the program, subject to meeting the requirements provided for in paragraphs (4) and (5)  
66 of subsection (e) of this Code ~~Section~~ section.

67 (e) To be eligible to participate in the program, a student shall:

68 (1) Be 16 years of age or older;

69 (2) Have completed at least six of the nine following state required ninth and tenth grade  
70 level high school courses: two English courses, two mathematics courses, two science

- 71 courses, two social studies courses, and one health and physical education course; and  
72 any state required tests associated with any such courses;
- 73 (3) Receive a score of admission acceptable on the readiness assessment required by the  
74 technical college system;
- 75 (4) Provide the following:
- 76 (A) If an unemancipated minor:
- 77 (i) Verification that the student's parent or legal guardian attended a conference with  
78 the student's high school principal or the principal's designee as provided for in  
79 subsection (e) of Code Section 20-2-690.1;
- 80 (ii) A copy of the form provided for in subsection (e) of Code Section 20-2-690.1  
81 signed by the student's parent or legal guardian;
- 82 (iii) Written acknowledgment by the student's parent or guardian that withdrawal of  
83 the student from secondary school may result in loss of eligibility for  
84 accommodations, specialized instruction, and other services pursuant to the federal  
85 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, ~~20 U.S.C.A.~~ U.S.C. Section 1400, et seq.,  
86 and Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, ~~29 U.S.C.A.~~ U.S.C. Section  
87 701, et seq.; and
- 88 (iv) Written acknowledgment that the high school diploma available through the Dual  
89 Achievement Program requires successful completion of the program; or
- 90 (B) If an emancipated minor or a student who is 18, 19, or 20 years of age:
- 91 (i) Written acknowledgment that the student has conferred with his or her secondary  
92 school principal or the principal's designee or a qualified designated official of the  
93 technical college system and discussed alternatives to withdrawing from high school  
94 without completing graduation requirements and potential consequences of not having  
95 a high school diploma, including lower lifetime earnings, fewer jobs for which the  
96 student will be qualified, and the inability to avail oneself of higher educational  
97 opportunities;

- 98 (ii) Written acknowledgment by the student's parent or guardian that withdrawal of  
99 the student from secondary school may result in loss of eligibility for  
100 accommodations, specialized instruction, and other services pursuant to the federal  
101 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, ~~20 U.S.C.A. U.S.C.~~ Section 1400, et seq.,  
102 and Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, ~~29 U.S.C.A. U.S.C.~~ Section  
103 701, et seq.; and
- 104 (iii) Written acknowledgment that the high school diploma available through the  
105 Dual Achievement Program requires successful completion of the program; and
- 106 (5) Be withdrawn from a public secondary school of this state.
- 107 (f) The state board shall award a high school diploma to a student enrolled in the program  
108 provided for in this article who:
- 109 (1) Completes all student counseling and assessment requirements of the program;  
110 (2) Completes rigorous coursework at a participating unit of the technical college  
111 system; and
- 112 (3) Completes:
- 113 (A) A technical college associate degree program;  
114 (B) A technical college diploma program; or  
115 (C) At least two technical college certificate of credit programs in one specific career  
116 pathway.
- 117 (g) A student who meets the requirements of subsections (f) of this Code section shall be  
118 deemed to have met all graduation requirements of the State Board of Education and shall  
119 not be subject to any assessments otherwise required for purposes of graduation.
- 120 (h) The state board, in consultation with the State Board of Education, Department of  
121 Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Corrections, and the  
122 Office of Planning and Budget, shall establish rules and regulations to implement the  
123 provisions of this article."

124 **SECTION 2.**

125 Said article is further amended by repealing Code Section 20-4-142, relating to automatic  
126 repeal relative to the Dual Achievement Program.

127 **SECTION 3.**

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