

House Bill 1293

By: Representatives Jones of the 47th, Martin of the 49th, Dickey of the 134th, Carpenter of the 4th, and Fleming of the 114th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 vocational, technical, and adult education, so as to provide updated eligibility requirements
3 for the Dual Achievement Program; to provide for continued eligibility for students already
4 enrolled in the program; to provide for the creation of a funding formula; to provide for
5 policies, rules, and regulations; to repeal provisions regarding participation agreements, QBE
6 funding, and accountability assessments for the program; to provide for continuation of the
7 program and eliminate a provision providing for automatic repeal; to provide for related
8 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vocational,
12 technical, and adult education, is amended by revising Article 6, relating to the Dual
13 Achievement Program, as follows:

14 "ARTICLE 6

15 20-4-140.

16 As used in this article, the term:

17 (1) 'Dual Achievement Program' or 'program' means the program provided for in this
18 article.19 (2) 'Eligible student' means a student who meets the qualifications to participate in the
20 program.21 ~~(3) 'Extracurricular activities' and 'interscholastic activities' shall have the same
22 respective meanings as set forth in Code Section 20-2-319.6.~~23 ~~(4) 'QBE formula earnings' means funds earned for the Quality Basic Education Formula
24 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161 and shall include the portion of such funds that are
25 calculated as the local five mill share in accordance with Code Section 20-2-164. QBE
26 formula earnings shall include the salary portion of direct instructional costs, the
27 adjustment for training and experience, the nonsalary portion of direct instructional costs,
28 and earnings for psychologists and school social workers, school administration, facility
29 maintenance and operation, media centers, and staff development, as determined by the
30 Department of Education.~~31 ~~(5) 'State board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.~~32 ~~(6) 'Resident school' means the public school in which an eligible student is or would be
33 enrolled based on his or her primary residence.~~34 ~~(7) 'Resident school system' means the public school system in which an eligible student
35 is or would be enrolled based on his or her primary residence.~~36 ~~(8)~~(4) 'Technical college system' means the Technical College System of Georgia.37 (5) 'Wraparound services' means structured student support services, including, but not
38 limited to, academic advising, career counseling, tutoring, case management, and other
39 services necessary to support students enrolled in the program.

40 20-4-141.

41 (a)(1) The state board shall, in coordination with the State Board of Education,
42 Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of
43 Corrections, and the Office of Planning and Budget, establish a pilot program to allow
44 students who meet eligibility requirements to qualify for enrollment in the Dual
45 Achievement Program at a participating unit of the technical college system and, upon
46 successful completion of the program, be awarded a high school diploma. The purpose
47 of the pilot program is to assess the feasibility of implementing a state-funded program
48 for allow eligible students who have withdrawn from high school to enroll in a unit of the
49 technical college system to participate in an academic and technical education and
50 training program which, upon successful completion, allows the student to earn a high
51 school diploma while also earning a technical college associate's degree, a technical
52 college diploma, or technical college certificates of credit in specific career pathways.

53 (2) To implement the pilot program, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
54 contrary, the state board and the State Board of Education shall be authorized to waive
55 or provide variances to state rules, regulations, policies, and procedures and to provisions
56 of this title that may be reasonably necessary to meet the goals of the pilot program;
57 ~~including, but not limited to, such rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and provisions~~
58 ~~as relate to the calculation, allocation, and distribution of QBE formula earnings. Such~~
59 ~~waivers or variances shall automatically expire at the end of ten years unless an earlier~~
60 ~~expiration is provided for.~~ The state board and the State Board of Education shall be
61 authorized to seek waivers or variances of federal laws, rules, regulations, policies, and
62 procedures that may be reasonably necessary to meet the goals of the pilot program.

63 (3) ~~The pilot program, as determined by the state board, may include up to five units of~~
64 ~~the technical college system for a period of ten years. In an effort to pilot the program~~
65 ~~under various conditions present in the state, the state board shall seek to include in the~~

66 ~~pilot program units of the technical college system from various geographic areas in the~~
67 ~~state.~~

68 (4) The state board shall review the results of the pilot program and shall no later than
69 November 15 of each year ~~during the program~~ provide the Office ~~and of~~ Planning and
70 Budget and the chairpersons of the House Committee on Education, the Senate Education
71 and Youth Committee, the House Committee on Higher Education, the Senate Higher
72 Education Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate
73 Appropriations Committee with a comprehensive report on the program with ~~any~~
74 recommendations for ~~its continued use and~~ any needed changes in the program. Such
75 report shall include a comprehensive list of any such waivers or variances implemented
76 or requested as provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a statement of necessity
77 for each waiver or variance, and with respect to any such requests, whether each request
78 was granted in whole or in part. Beginning in 2027, such report shall include the funding
79 formula developed pursuant to Code Section 20-4-142, the factors considered to develop
80 the formula, and recommendations for any needed changes to such formula.

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

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

89 (d) ~~The~~ In order to minimize the risk of prospective students prematurely withdrawing
90 from a secondary school in order to participate in the program, the state board shall provide
91 for preliminary review of academic records, including; but not limited to official secondary
92 school transcripts, submitted by prospective students to determine whether such students

93 meet the requirements provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (e) of this Code
 94 section. If a prospective student meets such requirements, the student shall be so notified
 95 and allowed to complete a readiness assessment required by the technical college system.
 96 Students who meet the eligibility requirements provided for in ~~paragraphs (1) and (2) of~~
 97 ~~subsection (e) of~~ this Code section and attain an acceptable score of admission on the
 98 readiness assessment shall be notified that they are eligible to participate in the program;
 99 ~~subject to meeting the requirements provided for in the applicable paragraphs of subsection~~
 100 ~~(f) of this Code section.~~

101 (e) ~~To~~ Before July 1, 2029, to be eligible to participate in the program, a student shall:

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

103 (2) Have completed at least six of the nine following state required ninth and tenth grade
 104 level high school courses: two English courses, two mathematics courses, two science
 105 courses, two social studies courses, and one health and physical education course; and
 106 any state required tests associated with any such courses;

107 (3) Receive an acceptable score of admission on the readiness assessment required by
 108 the technical college system; ~~and~~

109 (4) ~~Meet the requirements provided for in the applicable paragraph of subsection (f) of~~
 110 ~~this Code section.~~

111 ~~(f)(1) Before July 1, 2026, to be eligible to participate in the program, a student shall be~~
 112 ~~withdrawn from a public secondary school of this state, shall meet the requirements~~
 113 ~~provided for in subsection (e) of this Code section, and shall provide~~ Provide the
 114 following:

115 (A) If an unemancipated minor:

116 (i) Verification that the student's parent or legal guardian attended a conference with
 117 the student's high school principal or the principal's designee as provided for in
 118 subsection (f) of Code Section 20-2-690.1;

- 119 (ii) A copy of the form provided for in subsection (f) of Code Section 20-2-690.1
120 signed by the student's parent or legal guardian;
- 121 (iii) Written acknowledgment by the student's parent or guardian that withdrawal of
122 the student from secondary school may result in loss of eligibility for
123 accommodations, specialized instruction, and other services pursuant to the federal
124 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1400, et seq., and
125 Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 701, et seq.;
- 126 and
- 127 (iv) Written acknowledgment that the high school diploma available through the Dual
128 Achievement Program requires successful completion of the program; or
- 129 (B) If an emancipated minor or a student who is 18, 19, or 20 years of age:
- 130 (i) Written acknowledgment that the student has conferred with his or her secondary
131 school principal or the principal's designee or a qualified designated official of the
132 technical college system and discussed alternatives to withdrawing from high school
133 without completing graduation requirements and potential consequences of not having
134 a high school diploma, including lower lifetime earnings, fewer jobs for which the
135 student will be qualified, and the inability to avail oneself of higher educational
136 opportunities;
- 137 (ii) Written acknowledgment by the student's parent or guardian that withdrawal of
138 the student from secondary school may result in loss of eligibility for
139 accommodations, specialized instruction, and other services pursuant to the federal
140 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1400, et seq., and
141 Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 701, et seq.;
- 142 and
- 143 (iii) Written acknowledgment that the high school diploma available through the
144 Dual Achievement Program requires successful completion of the program; and
- 145 (5) Be withdrawn from a public secondary school of this state.

146 ~~(2) Beginning July 1, 2026, to be eligible to participate in the program, a student shall~~
147 ~~be enrolled in a public secondary school of this state, shall not have reached 21 years of~~
148 ~~age, shall meet the requirements provided for in subsection (e) of this Code section, and~~
149 ~~shall provide the following:~~

150 ~~(A) Written acknowledgment that such student shall not be eligible to participate in~~
151 ~~extracurricular activities or interscholastic activities under the sponsorship, direction,~~
152 ~~or control of such student's resident school or resident school system; and~~

153 ~~(B) Written acknowledgment that the high school diploma available through the Dual~~
154 ~~Achievement Program requires successful completion of the program.~~

155 ~~(g)(f) Any Notwithstanding subsection (g) of this Code section, any student who is~~
156 ~~enrolled in the program on June 30, 2026 2029, shall remain eligible to participate in the~~
157 ~~program according to the terms and conditions of such student's original eligibility to~~
158 ~~participate in the program.~~

159 (g) On and after July 1, 2029, to be eligible to participate in the program, a student shall:

160 (1) Be at least 18 years of age and under 23 years of age;

161 (2) Have not yet earned a high school diploma;

162 (3) Meet the admission requirements for the program established by the state board;

163 (4) Participate in required wraparound services;

164 (5) Provide the following:

165 (A) Written acknowledgment that the student has conferred with his or her secondary
166 school principal or the principal's designee or a qualified designated official of the
167 technical college system and discussed alternatives to withdrawing from high school
168 without completing graduation requirements and potential consequences of not having
169 a high school diploma, including lower lifetime earnings, fewer jobs for which the
170 student will be qualified, and the inability to avail oneself of higher educational
171 opportunities;

172 (B) Written acknowledgment by the student's parent or guardian that withdrawal of the
173 student from secondary school may result in loss of eligibility for accommodations,
174 specialized instruction, and other services pursuant to the federal Individuals with
175 Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1400, et seq., and Section 504 of the
176 federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 701, et seq.; and

177 (C) Written acknowledgment that the high school diploma available through the Dual
178 Achievement Program requires successful completion of the program; and

179 (6) Be withdrawn from a public secondary school of this state.

180 ~~(h) By March 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall adopt any policies, rules, or~~
181 ~~regulations that are necessary to ensure that any student who withdraws from his or her~~
182 ~~resident school or resident school system and subsequently wishes to participate in the~~
183 ~~program shall be permitted to re-enroll in such resident school or resident school system~~
184 ~~in order to participate in the program on and after July 1, 2026. Such policies, rules, and~~
185 ~~regulations shall provide for such students to complete such re-enrollment without having~~
186 ~~to appear at such resident school or resident school system. Upon collaboration with the~~
187 ~~state board, such policies, rules, and regulations may provide for such re-enrollment to be~~
188 ~~facilitated by the technical college system.~~

189 ~~(i) The state board shall award a high school diploma to a student enrolled in the program~~
190 ~~provided for in this article who:~~

191 ~~(1) Completes all student counseling and assessment requirements of the program;~~

192 ~~(2) Completes rigorous coursework at a participating unit of the technical college~~
193 ~~system; and~~

194 ~~(3) Completes:~~

195 ~~(A) A technical college associate's degree program;~~

196 ~~(B) A technical college diploma program; or~~

197 ~~(C) At least two technical college certificate of credit programs in one specific career~~
198 ~~pathway.~~

199 ~~(j)(i)~~ A student who meets the requirements of subsection (h) of this Code section shall be
 200 deemed to have met all graduation requirements of the State Board of Education and shall
 201 not be subject to any assessments otherwise required for purposes of graduation.

202 ~~(k)(j)(1)~~ The state board, in consultation with the State Board of Education, Department
 203 of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Corrections, and the
 204 Office of Planning and Budget, shall establish rules and regulations to implement the
 205 provisions of this article.

206 (2) Not later than January 1, 2029, such rules and regulations shall include:

207 (A) Eligibility and admission requirements consistent with the eligibility criteria
 208 provided for in subsection (g) of this Code section; and

209 (B) Standards and requirements for wraparound services offered to students enrolled
 210 in the program.

211 ~~20-4-141.1:~~

212 ~~(a) By January 1, 2026, the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the state board,~~
 213 ~~the Office of Planning and Budget, and the Office of Student Achievement, shall establish~~
 214 ~~whatever policies, rules, and regulations are necessary to implement the requirements of~~
 215 ~~this article, including, but not limited to, any such policies, rules, or regulations that are~~
 216 ~~necessary to accurately account for each student who is participating in the program~~
 217 ~~pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of Code Section 20-4-141 in the counts required~~
 218 ~~by Code Section 20-2-160.~~

219 ~~(b) For each eligible student enrolled in the program on or after July 1, 2026, the State~~
 220 ~~Board of Education shall pay to the state board an amount not less than a proportional share~~
 221 ~~of QBE formula earnings, QBE grants, and federal funds earned by the resident school~~
 222 ~~system for such eligible student. Such proportional share shall be calculated pro rata based~~
 223 ~~on the number of one-sixth segments of the school day such eligible student attends at a~~
 224 ~~participating unit of the technical college system.~~

225 ~~(c)(1) By April 1, 2026, and by April 1 each year thereafter, the state board and the State~~
226 ~~Board of Education shall publish on the public website of the technical college system~~
227 ~~a comprehensive list of courses at participating units of the technical college system that~~
228 ~~shall be counted towards high school diploma requirements and shall be considered a~~
229 ~~one-sixth segment of the school day for the purposes of this article. Once such a~~
230 ~~comprehensive list is published on the public website of the technical college system, it~~
231 ~~may only be revised upon written agreement by the state board and the State Board of~~
232 ~~Education detailing the reasons for each revision. In the event such comprehensive list~~
233 ~~is revised pursuant to such a written agreement, the comprehensive list published on the~~
234 ~~public website of the technical college system shall be updated immediately along with~~
235 ~~a copy of such written agreement.~~

236 ~~(2) Each revision to the comprehensive list required by paragraph (1) of this subsection~~
237 ~~shall be prospective, and no revision to such comprehensive list shall result in any~~
238 ~~adverse action for any student enrolled and in good standing at the time of such revision.~~

239 ~~(d) Beginning July 1, 2026, each resident school system with an eligible student who is~~
240 ~~participating in the program pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of Code Section~~
241 ~~20-4-141 shall enter into a participation agreement with the state board agreeing that each~~
242 ~~such student:~~

243 ~~(1) Is enrolled in the resident school system and resident school for administrative~~
244 ~~purposes and for the purposes of education accountability assessment programs provided~~
245 ~~for in Article 2 of Chapter 14 of this title only, and~~

246 ~~(2) Shall not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities or interscholastic~~
247 ~~activities under the sponsorship, direction, or control of such student's resident school or~~
248 ~~resident school system.~~

249 20-4-142.

250 ~~This article shall stand repealed on July 1, 2031.~~ (a) The state board, in coordination with
251 the Office of Planning and Budget, shall develop a funding formula for the program.
252 Beginning with Fiscal Year 2029, and for each fiscal year thereafter, such formula shall be
253 used to calculate the amount of funding needed for the program for each fiscal year which
254 shall be included in the state board's budget request to the General Assembly.

255 (b) To develop the funding formula, the state board and the Office of Planning and Budget
256 shall consider factors relevant to determining the amount of funding needed for the
257 program, including, but not limited to:

258 (1) The number of students enrolled in the program and the number of students expected
259 to be enrolled in the program in the relevant fiscal year;

260 (2) The number of credit hours attempted and completed by students participating in the
261 program;

262 (3) Wraparound services provided to students participating in the program;

263 (4) Student outcomes and performance, including, but not limited to, diploma and
264 credential attainment and student persistence."

265 **SECTION 2.**

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