

Senate Bill 401

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Sims of the 12th, Millar of the 40th, Tate of the 38th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for collection of enrollment
3 and student record data by the Office of Student Achievement for students in dual credit
4 courses; to provide for guidance in career oriented aptitudes and career interests in
5 developing an individual graduation plan; to provide for a review and report of a school
6 counselor's role, workload, program service delivery, and professional learning; to provide
7 for legislative findings; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to
8 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

SECTION 1.

10 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
11 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended in Code Section 20-2-161.3, relating to the dual
12 credit courses, by revising subsection (j) and by adding a new subsection to read as follows:
13 "(j) In order to participate in the program, each eligible postsecondary institution shall be
14 required to enter into a participation agreement with the commission agreeing to:
15 (1) Waive all mandatory and noncourse related fees for eligible high school students
16 participating in the program;
17 (2) Provide course books to eligible high school students participating in the program at
18 no charge to the student; ~~and~~
19 (3) Accept the amount paid by the commission as full payment for an eligible high
20 school student's tuition, mandatory and noncourse related fees, and course books; and
21 (4) Provide enrollment and student record data to the Office of Student Achievement and
22 to the state-wide longitudinal data system maintained by such office. Such data shall be
23 submitted in accordance with timelines and formats established by the Office of Student
24 Achievement."
25

26 "(n) The Office of Student Achievement shall collect and monitor enrollment and student
 27 record data for dual credit courses taken pursuant to this Code section. The Office of
 28 Student Achievement shall annually measure and evaluate the program. The commission,
 29 the department, eligible postsecondary institutions, and local boards of education shall
 30 cooperate with and provide data as necessary to the Office of Student Achievement to
 31 facilitate the provisions of this subsection. The Office of Student Achievement is
 32 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to implement the provisions
 33 of this subsection."

34 **SECTION 2.**

35 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-327, relating to recognition of advanced
 36 proficiency/honors courses and counseling and development of individual graduation plans,
 37 by revising subsection (c) as follows:

38 "(c)(1) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, students Students in the sixth,
 39 seventh, and eighth grades shall be provided counseling, advisement, career awareness,
 40 career interest inventories, and information to assist them in evaluating their academic
 41 skills, career oriented aptitudes, and career interests. Before the end of the second
 42 semester of the eighth grade, students shall develop an individual graduation plan based
 43 on their academic skills, career oriented aptitudes, and career interests in consultation
 44 with their parents, guardians, or individuals appointed by the parents or guardians to
 45 serve as their designee. A student's individual graduation plan shall be taken into
 46 consideration when scheduling a student's courses in ninth grade. High school students
 47 shall be provided guidance, advisement, and counseling annually that will enable them
 48 to successfully complete update and implement their individual graduation plans,
 49 preparing them for a seamless transition to postsecondary study, further training, or
 50 employment. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, such guidance, advisement, and
 51 counseling for high school students shall include providing career oriented aptitude and
 52 career interest guidance. An individual graduation plan shall:

53 (1)(A) Include rigorous academic core subjects and focused ~~course work~~ coursework
 54 in mathematics and science or in humanities, fine arts, and foreign language or
 55 sequenced career pathway ~~course work~~ coursework;

56 (2)(B) Incorporate provisions of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP),
 57 where applicable;

58 (3)(C) Align educational and broad career goals and a student's course of study;

59 (4)(D) Be based on the student's selected academic and career focus area as approved
 60 by the student's parent or guardian;

61 ~~(5)(E)~~ Include experience based, career oriented learning experiences which may
 62 include, but not be limited to, participation in work based learning programs such as
 63 internships, apprenticeships, cooperative education, service learning, and employability
 64 skill development;

65 ~~(6)(F)~~ Include opportunities for postsecondary studies through articulation, dual
 66 enrollment, and joint enrollment;

67 ~~(7)(G)~~ Be flexible to allow change in the course of study but be sufficiently structured
 68 to meet graduation requirements and qualify the student for admission to postsecondary
 69 education; and

70 ~~(8)(H)~~ Be approved by the student and the student's parent or guardian with guidance
 71 from the student's school counselor or teacher adviser.

72 (2) An individual graduation plan shall be reviewed annually, and revised, if appropriate,
 73 upon approval by the student and the student's parent or guardian with guidance from the
 74 student's school counselor or teacher adviser. An individual graduation plan may be
 75 changed at any time throughout a student's high school career upon approval by the
 76 student and the student's parent or guardian with guidance from the student's school
 77 counselor or teacher adviser.

78 (3) The General Assembly finds that school counselors help students focus on academic,
 79 career, social, and emotional development so that students can achieve success in school
 80 and be prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society. The
 81 Department of Education shall review each school counselor's role, workload, and
 82 program service delivery in grades six through 12. Such review shall include the scope
 83 of school counselor professional learning and annual school counselor evaluation
 84 instruments. The Department of Education shall provide a report of its findings to the
 85 State Board of Education and the General Assembly by December 31, 2018, that includes
 86 recommendations for counselor improvements to ensure student success in academic
 87 skills, career oriented aptitudes, and career interests. This paragraph shall stand repealed
 88 on December 31, 2018."

89 **SECTION 3.**

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