

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

AS PASSED SENATE

**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 that local school systems shall publish certain student
6 disciplinary and placement action information for ready access by parents and other
7 community members; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for related matters;
8 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Code Section 20-14-33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to indicators of
12 quality of learning in individual schools and school systems, comparison to state standards,
13 rating schools and school systems, providing information, and uniform definition of
14 "dropout" and "below grade level," is amended by revising subsection (c) as follows:

15 **"(c)(1)** Performance on the indicators of quality of learning, financial efficiency, school
16 climate, and any other indicators the office adopts shall be compared to state standards,

17 progress on improved student achievement, and comparable performance. The standards
18 for comparison shall be established by the office as provided in Code Section 20-14-31,
19 in coordination with the Department of Education. Data and information regarding the
20 standards shall be included in the annual report provided for in paragraph (2) of
21 subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-27. Financial efficiency may include an analysis
22 of how federal and state funds spent by local school systems impact student achievement
23 and school improvement, and components used to determine financial efficiency may
24 include actual achievement, resource efficiency, and student participation in standardized
25 testing. School climate determinations may utilize data from student health surveys; ~~data~~
26 ~~on environmental and behavior indicators, data on student behavioral and school-based~~
27 ~~reactions;~~ and teacher and parent survey instruments; provided, however, that school
28 climate determinations shall not include student discipline data. Financial efficiency and
29 school climate shall have one of the following star ratings based upon the factors included
30 in this subsection, as further defined by rules and regulations of the office:

31 ~~(1)~~(A) '5-star' schools ranked excellent according to the state determined financial
32 efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate;

33 ~~(2)~~(B) '4-star' schools ranked above average according to the state determined financial
34 efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate;

35 ~~(3)~~(C) '3-star' schools ranked average according to the state determined financial
36 efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate;

37 ~~(4)~~(D) '2-star' schools ranked below satisfactory according to the state determined
38 financial efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate; or

39 ~~(5)~~(E) '1-star' schools ranked unsatisfactory according to the state determined financial
40 efficiency or school climate index, as appropriate.

41 (2) Data and information regarding student discipline shall be included in the annual
42 report provided for in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-27.

43 (3) Each local school system shall publish electronically on its website the reported
44 information regarding student disciplinary and placement actions provided for in
45 subsections (a) and (b) of Code Section 20-2-740 and shall furnish a print copy of the
46 specific information as reported for a particular school to any requester at no charge in
47 a format that can be easily understood by parents and other members of the community
48 who are not educators, and such publication shall include such reported information for
49 each school in the local school system.

50 (4) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to relieve any school system or
51 school administrator or personnel from any obligation to report a violation of a code of
52 student conduct as provided for by law or policy."

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SECTION 2.

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