

Senate Bill 421

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Harrell of the 40th, Orrock of the 36th, Harbison of the 15th,
Jackson of the 2nd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for a certification program for
3 sustainable whole child model schools; to provide for pilot programs to plan, implement, and
4 improve sustainable whole child model schools; to provide for planning grants and
5 operational grants; to authorize the use of grant funds; to provide for reports on
6 implementation and progress; to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions; to
7 provide for a contingent effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Unlocking the Promise Whole Child Model
12 Schools Act."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
15 secondary education, is amended by revising Article 14, which is reserved, as follows:

16 "ARTICLE 14

17 20-2-640.

18 As used in this article, the term:

19 (1) 'Applicant' means a school, a local school system, or the State Charter Schools
20 Commission, proposing to work in collaboration with one or more community
21 organizations, which is seeking a planning grant or operational grant pursuant to this
22 article for a covered school site.

23 (2) 'Community organization' means a nonprofit organization that has been in existence
 24 for three years or more and has a verifiable record of working consistently with the
 25 community surrounding the covered school site on education and other issues.

26 (3) 'Community partner' means a community stakeholder including, but not limited to,
 27 parents, parent organizations, students, student organizations, early learning programs,
 28 community organizations, businesses, civic engagement organizations, local
 29 governmental agencies, local school employee organizations, institutions of higher
 30 education, and the like.

31 (4) 'Covered school site' means any school site at which an applicant has proposed or has
 32 been funded to provide community school programming pursuant to a planning grant or
 33 operational grant.

34 (5) 'Department' means the Department of Education.

35 (6) 'Grantee' means an applicant that has been awarded an operational grant.

36 (7) 'Operational grant' means a whole child model school grant awarded pursuant to this
 37 article.

38 (8) 'Planning grant' means a whole child model school planning grant awarded pursuant
 39 to this article.

40 (9) 'School' means a public school, including local charter schools, state charter schools,
 41 and state chartered special schools.

42 (10) 'State board' means the State Board of Education.

43 (11) 'State superintendent' means the State School Superintendent.

44 (12) 'Whole child model school certification' means certification by the state
 45 superintendent that a school has developed and made operational a sustainable whole
 46 child model school plan to promote and ensure effective coordination of wraparound
 47 services and supports for the school and provide for processes to actively engage
 48 community partners in meaningful ways.

49 ~~Reserved.~~

50 20-2-641.

51 (a) The state board shall establish a program to provide whole child model school
 52 certification to schools that successfully implement a sustainable whole child model school
 53 plan which is developed in consultation with community partners to promote and ensure
 54 effective coordination of wraparound services and supports for the school and provide for
 55 processes to actively engage community partners in meaningful ways.

56 (b) The state board shall promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of
 57 this article.

58 (c) The department shall develop and post on its publicly available website guidelines and
59 other relevant materials relating to whole child model schools and the provisions of this
60 article.

61 20-2-642.

62 (a) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the state board may award
63 planning grants and operational grants to establish pilot programs to plan, implement, and
64 improve sustainable whole child model school plans. The department shall make
65 recommendations to the state board on the disbursement of planning grants and operational
66 grants if funds are made available.

67 (b)(1) Whole child model school planning grants may be awarded to applicants that have
68 demonstrated a need to implement a whole child model school plan. Schools that are not
69 immediately ready to implement a whole child model school plan or are in need of
70 additional planning to establish or expand existing programming shall be eligible to
71 receive one year planning grants to create a comprehensive whole child model school
72 plan. At the end of the planning grant period, the school shall submit a whole child
73 model school plan.

74 (2) Applicants that have demonstrated readiness to begin implementation of a whole
75 child model school plan, submitted the plan, and made available a list of individuals
76 participating in its implementation shall be eligible for operational grants to begin or
77 continue implementation of such plan. Operational grants shall be for a term of five
78 years. Based on assessment of the effectiveness of the whole child model school plan
79 implementation, operational grants may be renewed at the discretion of the state board
80 upon the recommendation of the department. Operational grants awarded pursuant to this
81 article shall be used to support activities which assist in the implementation of a whole
82 child model school plan and shall be subject to review by the department.

83 (3) Planning grants and operational grants shall supplement, not supplant, existing
84 services and funds.

85 (c) The department may use a request for proposal process to determine whether to
86 recommend that the state board award planning grants and operational grants. Proposals
87 shall be evaluated and scored on the basis of criteria consistent with this article and other
88 factors established by the department. The department may consider the applicant's prior
89 performance under a grant, if applicable.

90 (d) Technical assistance, including, but not limited to, grant writing and support for the
91 design of whole child model school programming may be made available to applicants.
92 Such technical assistance may be provided directly by the department or, through a request
93 for proposal process to provide technical assistance, by an organization with demonstrated

94 experience with community school programming in partnership with community
 95 organizations or civic engagement organizations funded by the department.

96 20-2-643.

97 (a) At the conclusion of an operational grant term, a grantee shall submit to the department
 98 and make available at the covered school site and on its website a report describing efforts
 99 to implement a whole child model school plan at each covered school site and the impact
 100 of the transition to a whole child model school on participating students. The department
 101 shall determine what information shall be included in such report.

102 (b) Reports submitted by grantees pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section shall be
 103 evaluated by the department. No later than October 31 of each year following the
 104 completion of the first full operational grant term, the department shall report to the
 105 Governor, the General Assembly, and the state board on the pilot program regarding whole
 106 child model schools. The report shall be made publicly available on covered schools'
 107 websites and on the department's website.

108 (c) The report required pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section may include an
 109 analysis of cost savings in areas such as public health, public safety, and public education
 110 resulting from investment in community school programming."

111 **SECTION 3.**

112 (a) This Act shall become effective only if funds are specifically appropriated for the
 113 purposes of this Act in an appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly.

114 (b) If funds are so appropriated, then this Act shall become effective on the later of:

115 (1) The date on which such appropriations Act becomes effective; or

116 (2) The beginning date of the fiscal year for which such appropriations are made.

117 **SECTION 4.**

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