

House Bill 1122 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Hilton of the 48th, Jones of the 47th, Dubnik of the 29th, Ballard of the 147th, Adeyina of the 110th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
2 provide for funding requirements to apply to local education agencies; to provide for one
3 superintendent for each state charter school; to provide for funding for local and state charter
4 school principals; to make conforming changes; to provide for definitions; to increase
5 opportunities for students to attend and be enrolled in the public schools where their parents
6 or guardians are employed, including charter schools, regardless of school attendance zone
7 or school system residency; to limit the application of certain state charter school conflict of
8 interest provisions to executive-level employees, rather than all employees, of local boards
9 of education or local school systems; to clarify that accountability ratings are a single
10 numerical score based on indicators of quality of learning for each public school and school
11 system in the state; to require timely publication of such scores; to provide for related
12 matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

14 SECTION 1.

15 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in Part
16 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 2, relating to program weights and funding requirements under the
17 "Quality Basic Education Act," by revising Code Section 20-2-186, relating to allocation of
18 funds for local systems to pay beginning salaries of superintendents, secretaries, accountants,
19 nurses, and certain other personnel, and eligibility of failing schools for funds, as follows:
20 "20-2-186.

21 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

22 (1) 'Local charter school' shall have the same meaning as in Code Section 20-2-2062.

23 (2) 'Local education agency' means any local school system, any charter school subject
24 to the provisions of Article 31 or 31A of this chapter, and any completion special school
25 subject to the provisions of Article 31C of this chapter, except this shall not include local
26 charter schools or system charter schools, as such terms are defined in Code Section
27 20-2-2062, or college and career academies that are charter schools.

28 (3) 'State charter school' shall have the same meaning as in Code Section 20-2-2081.

29 (b) Funds provided under this article shall include the following for local ~~systems~~
30 education agencies to pay, on a 12 month basis, the beginning salaries of superintendents,
31 assistant superintendents, and principals and the salaries of secretaries, accountants, and
32 nurses, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly:

33 (1) Each local ~~system~~ education agency shall earn, for any number of full-time
34 equivalent students equal to or under 5,000, funds sufficient to pay the beginning salaries
35 of a superintendent and two assistant superintendents and the salaries of a secretary and
36 an accountant; and

- 37 (2) For numbers of full-time equivalent students over 5,000 and less than 10,001, funds
38 sufficient to pay the beginning salaries of a superintendent and four assistant
39 superintendents and the salaries of a secretary and an accountant; and
- 40 (3) For numbers of full-time equivalent students over 10,000, funds sufficient to pay the
41 beginning salaries of a superintendent and eight assistant superintendents and the salaries
42 of a secretary and an accountant; and
- 43 (4) Each local education agency ~~local system shall earn funds for the 2000-2001 school~~
44 ~~year sufficient to pay the beginning salary of a principal for each school in the local~~
45 ~~school system with a principal of record for the preceding year. Thereafter, each local~~
46 ~~school system~~ shall earn funds sufficient to pay the beginning salary of a principal for
47 each school in the local school system that reported a principal on the October certified
48 personnel information report; provided, however, that any school which operates as a
49 combination school, which is defined as any of the elementary grades, kindergarten
50 through grade five, contiguous with one or more of the middle grades, grades six through
51 eight; or as a combination school of any of the middle grades, grades six through eight,
52 contiguous with one or more of the elementary grades or contiguous with one or more of
53 the high school grades, grades nine through 12; or as a combination school of any of the
54 high school grades, contiguous with one or more of the middle grades, shall earn funds
55 sufficient to pay the beginning salary of a principal for each of the elementary, middle,
56 or high school combinations. For purposes of this paragraph, 'contiguous' means grade
57 levels in sequence, regardless of whether schools operating as a combination school are
58 on the same campus sharing facilities or at different locations. Beginning with the
59 2001-2002 school year, funds cannot be earned for more than one principal's salary for
60 schools on the same campus sharing facilities unless the schools operate as a combination
61 school as defined in this paragraph with separate facility codes issued by the Department
62 of Education. A ~~local school system~~ education agency shall earn funds in the midterm
63 adjustment sufficient to pay the beginning salary of a principal for a new school, if not

64 otherwise earning the funds, when the school has reported full-time equivalent program
65 counts in the October count, has an approved new school facility code issued by the
66 department, and has reported a principal on the October certified personnel information
67 report under the new facility code. It is further provided that funds for the salary of a
68 principal shall not be earned under this paragraph for an evening school or alternative
69 school; and

70 (5) Each local ~~school system~~ education agency shall earn funding for one nurse for every
71 750 full-time equivalent students at the elementary school level and one nurse for every
72 1,500 full-time equivalent students at the middle and high school levels. Such funding
73 shall have a ratio of one registered professional nurse to five licensed practical nurses.
74 Such funding shall be based on a contract length of 180 days and shall be sufficient to
75 pay 50 percent of the average salary and benefits, as determined by the Department of
76 Education, for a registered professional nurse or for a licensed practical nurse; provided,
77 however, that such amount shall be phased in so that, in Fiscal Year 2013, such amount
78 shall be 40 percent and, in Fiscal Year 2014, such amount shall be 45 percent. Local
79 school systems shall not be required to provide any local matching funds for school
80 nurses to receive funds pursuant to this paragraph. Local school systems that do not meet
81 the minimum full-time equivalent student counts set out in this paragraph shall receive
82 a base amount of funding. Each local school system shall expend 100 percent of the
83 funds earned pursuant to this paragraph for salaries and benefits for school nurses.

84 ~~(b)~~(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section regarding the
85 number of and the funding earned for superintendents and principals:

86 (1) Each state charter school shall earn, for any number of full-time equivalent students
87 over 1,000, funds sufficient to pay the beginning salary of one superintendent;

88 (2) Each local charter school and state charter school that reported a principal on the
89 October certified personnel information report and serves students in any of grades
90 kindergarten through grade eight shall earn funds sufficient to pay the beginning salary

91 of one principal for every 300 full-time equivalent students; provided, however, that no
92 such school shall earn such funds for more than two principals; and

93 (3) Each local charter school and state charter school shall earn funds sufficient to pay
94 the beginning salary of one principal for each school that reported a principal on the
95 October certified personnel information report and serves grades nine through 12.

96 ~~(b)~~(d) All program weights, when multiplied by the base amount, shall reflect sufficient
97 funds to pay the beginning salaries of a visiting teacher using a base size of 2,475 full-time
98 equivalent students, for costs of operating an administrative office for certain local school
99 systems as deemed warranted by the department, and for workers' compensation and
100 employment security payments for personnel at the central office, school, and program
101 levels, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. Further, the program weights for
102 all special education programs pursuant to Code Section 20-2-152, when multiplied by the
103 base amount, shall reflect sufficient funds to pay the beginning salaries of special education
104 leadership personnel essential and necessary for the effective operation of such programs
105 in a base size local school system. Further, the program weights for all programs, when
106 multiplied by the base amount, shall reflect sufficient funds to pay the beginning salaries
107 of school psychologists and psychometrists essential and necessary for the effective
108 operation of such programs in a local school system using a base size of 2,475 full-time
109 equivalent students, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly; provided, however,
110 that beginning with Fiscal Year 2016, such base size shall be 2,420 full-time equivalent
111 students.

112 ~~(c)~~(e) Notwithstanding any provision of this Code section to the contrary, no local school
113 ~~system~~ education agency shall earn funds under this Code section, except for funds for
114 nurses, accountants, visiting teachers, school psychologists, and secretaries, if the local
115 board of education or other public school governing body has not implemented in a failing
116 school within the system the interventions, as defined in Code Section 20-14-41, that are
117 prescribed by the State Board of Education."

118

SECTION 2.

119 Said title is further amended in Part 13 of Article 6 of Chapter 2, relating to organization of
120 schools and school systems under the "Quality Basic Education Act," by revising subsection
121 (b) of Code Section 20-2-293, relating to student attending school in system other than
122 system of student's residence, as follows:

123 "(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section or any other
124 general law, and except as provided by the General Assembly by local law, a student shall
125 be allowed to attend and be enrolled in the school in which a parent or guardian of such
126 student is a full-time teacher, ~~professional~~ paraprofessional, or other employee,
127 notwithstanding the fact that such school is not located in the local unit of administration
128 in which such student resides. Each local unit of administration shall be authorized to
129 allow a student to attend and be enrolled in the school in which a parent or guardian of such
130 student is a part-time teacher, paraprofessional, or other employee who works for at
131 least 20 hours per school week on average measured monthly, notwithstanding the fact that
132 such school is not located in the local unit of administration in which such student resides.
133 Each ~~school system~~ local unit of administration of this state shall provide procedures to
134 implement the provisions of this subsection."

135

SECTION 3.

136 Said title is further amended in Article 31 of Chapter 2, the "Charter Schools Act of 1998,"
137 by revising divisions (1)(A)(iii) and (1)(B)(ii) of subsection (a) and paragraph (3) of
138 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2066, relating to admission, enrollment, and withdrawal
139 of students, as follows:

140 "(iii) A student whose parent or guardian is a member of the governing board of the
141 start-up charter school or is a full-time teacher, ~~professional~~, or a full-time or
142 part-time paraprofessional or other employee at the start-up charter school;"

168 establish the disaggregated components of the single score as ratings based on the
169 indicators adopted pursuant to this Code section for student achievement.

170 (2) Each year within 30 days of the date upon which the calculations required in
171 paragraph (1) of this subsection are complete:

172 (A) All individual school and school system single score and disaggregated
173 component scores shall be published on the public websites of the office and the
174 Department of Education as school and school system ratings;

175 (B) Each school system shall publish on its public website its school system ratings
176 and the individual school ratings of each school in such school system and links to
177 the public websites provided for in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; and

178 (C) Each public school that maintains a public website shall publish its individual
179 school ratings and link to the public websites provided for in subparagraph (A) of
180 this paragraph on such school's public website."

181 **SECTION 6.**

182 (a) Sections 1 through 4 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

183 (b) All other sections of this Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor
184 or upon its becoming law without such approval.

185 **SECTION 7.**

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