

House Bill 907 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Jones of the 47th, Burns of the 159th, Dubnik of the 29th, Jasperse of the 11th, Erwin of the 32nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 31C of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 the "Completion Special Schools Act," so as to require certain local school systems to either
3 be a party to a collaborative operating agreement with a completion special school or provide
4 certain education programs and services to students in grades nine through 12; to require
5 completion special schools to provide certain information to resident school systems twice
6 each year and for the resident school systems to provide such information to students in
7 grades nine through 12 and their parents and guardians; to provide for direct registration of
8 program students in completion special schools by parents and guardians; to require
9 completion special schools and resident school systems to coordinate enrollment of program
10 students; to revise provisions by which completion special schools may operate one or more
11 programs outside the attendance zone assigned to such completion special school; to provide
12 for transition period; to require local school systems to provide to completion special schools
13 the contact information for students who stop attending or withdraw from the local school
14 system, subject to conditions and exceptions; to provide for an effective date; to provide for
15 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

H. B. 907

17 **SECTION 1.**

18 Article 31C of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the
19 "Completion Special Schools Act," is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-2096.3,
20 relating to requirements of completion special schools, student enrollment, and waivers or
21 variances, as follows:

22 "20-2-2096.3.

23 (a) Each completion special school shall be a public school and shall:

24 (1) Provide education programs and services to students in grades nine through 12,
25 including, but not limited to:

26 (A) Nontraditional education programs and services for students who are eligible to
27 attend a traditional public school but are more likely to succeed in a nontraditional
28 setting such as that provided in such completion special school;

29 (B) Dropout prevention and academic intervention programs;

30 (C) Programs for high school credit recovery; and

31 (D) Opportunities for students to schedule classes on weekdays, evenings, and
32 weekends;

33 (2) Operate under the supervision and direction of a governing board as provided for in
34 Code Section 20-2-2096.4;

35 (3) Be treated as a single local education agency for administrative purposes, including
36 data reporting, student enrollment counting procedures, student achievement reporting,
37 funding allocations, and related purposes as defined by the state board and consistent with
38 department rules and regulations; and

39 (4) Be the subject of a school report card prepared and distributed by the Office of
40 Student Achievement as provided in Code Section 20-14-34.

41 (b) Only enrollment eligible students shall be enrolled in a completion special school.

42 (c)(1) Students in grades nine through 12 who are enrolled in a school in their resident
43 school system shall be permitted to attend one or more classes in a completion special

44 school's credit recovery, dropout prevention, or academic intervention program ~~on a~~
 45 ~~part-time basis~~ as program students, subject to the following conditions:

- 46 ~~(1)~~(A) The completion special school has available classroom space;
 47 ~~(2)~~(B) Such student shall not be included in the count provided for in Code Section
 48 20-2-161 of the completion special school;
 49 ~~(3)~~(C) Such student remains enrolled in his or her resident school system; and
 50 ~~(4)~~(D) Such student's resident school system is party to a current collaborative
 51 operating agreement with such completion special school which shall include, but shall
 52 not be limited to, provisions for the following:

53 ~~(A)~~(i) Funding to be provided by the resident school system to the completion special
 54 school for program students who attend such school as provided in this subsection,
 55 which funding shall be no less than what is required in subsection (b) of Code Section
 56 20-2-2096.6;

57 ~~(B)~~(ii) The number and qualifications of student liaisons to be employed by the
 58 resident school system to provide academic support and monitoring for program
 59 students who attend such school as provided in this subsection and the relevant terms
 60 and conditions for how such liaisons will provide such support and monitoring; ~~and~~

61 (iii)(I) By June 1 and December 1 each year, the completion special school shall
 62 provide the resident school system with an updated description of programs
 63 available for program students and detailed instructions and guidance for the
 64 registration of students in grades nine through 12 to attend one or more classes at
 65 such completion special school's credit recovery, dropout prevention, or academic
 66 intervention program as a program student.

67 (II) Within seven calendar days of receiving the information provided for in
 68 subdivision (I) of this division, the resident school system shall post such
 69 information in a prominent location frequented by students at each high school in

70 the resident school system and shall electronically provide such information to all
71 students in grades nine through 12 and their parents or guardians; and

72 ~~(C)~~(iv) Such other requirements as may be established by the state board consistent
73 with this article.

74 (2) The parent or guardian of a student in grades nine through 12 who is enrolled or
75 eligible to be enrolled in a school in his or her resident school system shall be permitted
76 to register such student directly with a completion special school to attend one or more
77 classes at such completion special school's credit recovery, dropout prevention, or
78 academic intervention program as a program student, subject to the provisions of
79 paragraph (1) of this subsection; provided, however, that, if such student is not currently
80 enrolled in a school in his or her resident school system, the completion special school
81 and the resident school system shall work in coordination and without delay to enroll
82 such student in the resident school system.

83 (d) The state board shall be authorized to approve a request by a completion special school
84 for a waiver or variance of specifically identified state rules, regulations, policies, and
85 procedures or provisions of this chapter. The goal for each waiver and variance shall be
86 improvement of student performance. The state board shall not be authorized to waive or
87 approve variances on any federal, state, and local rules, regulations, court orders, and
88 statutes relating to civil rights; insurance; the protection of the physical health and safety
89 of school students, employees, and visitors; conflicting interest transactions; the prevention
90 of unlawful conduct; any laws relating to unlawful conduct in or near a public school; the
91 early intervention program provided for in Code Section 20-2-153; any reporting
92 requirements pursuant to Code Section 20-2-320 or Chapter 14 of this title; the
93 requirements of Code Section 20-2-210; the requirements of Code Section 20-2-211.1; or
94 the requirements in subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-327. A local school system that
95 has received a waiver or variance shall remain subject to the provisions of Part 3 of
96 Article 2 of Chapter 14 of this title, the requirement that it shall not charge tuition or fees

97 to its students except as may be authorized for local boards by Code Section 20-2-133, and
98 shall remain open to enrollment in the same manner as before the waiver request."

99

SECTION 2.

100 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2096.7,
101 relating to attendance zones, payments, and use of funds, as follows:

102 "(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, only one completion
103 special school may operate in each attendance zone provided for in subsection (a) of this
104 Code section.

105 (2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) or (C) of this paragraph, ~~upon being~~
106 ~~established as a completion special school, if such school is currently operating an~~
107 existing completion special school may operate one or more programs outside the
108 attendance zone assigned to such school by the state board ~~then~~, and the state board
109 shall be authorized to permit such school to continue to operate such program or
110 programs until ~~the earlier of June 30, 2028, or the establishment of a new completion~~
111 ~~special school that is assigned to the attendance zone where such program or programs~~
112 ~~are operating and, in such cases, the state board shall provide for a reasonable transition~~
113 period for students of the existing completion special school.

114 (B) The state board shall be authorized to permit one or more completion special
115 schools to operate one or more programs outside the attendance zone assigned to such
116 school; provided, however, that such permitted program exclusively provides education
117 programs and services for students in grades nine through 12 to individuals who are
118 attending a United States Department of Defense Youth Challenge Academy or who
119 are in the custody of a correctional facility, detention facility, jail, prison, or other
120 lawful place of confinement; and provided, further, that the state board shall be
121 authorized to designate which completion special school is authorized to provide such
122 program or programs.

123 (C) The state board shall be authorized to permit an enrollment eligible student to
124 attend a completion special school outside of his or her attendance zone, provided that
125 such student resides in a county that is contiguous to but outside of the attendance zone
126 of such school; and provided, further, that such school is located closer to such student's
127 residence than the completion special school with the attendance zone where such
128 student's residence is located."

129 **SECTION 3.**

130 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

131 "20-2-2096.9.

132 (a) Each local school system with all or part of its territory within the attendance zone of
133 one or more operating completion special schools shall:

134 (1) Be a party to a collaborative operating agreement with at least one such operating
135 completion special school; or

136 (2) Provide education programs and services to students in grades nine through 12,
137 including, but not limited to:

138 (A) Dropout prevention and academic intervention programs;

139 (B) Programs for high school credit recovery; and

140 (C) Opportunities for students to schedule classes on weekdays, evenings, and
141 weekends.

142 (b)(1) Each local school system with all or part of its territory within the attendance zone
143 of one or more operating completion special schools shall provide to each such operating
144 completion special school the full name and last known address and telephone number
145 for each student in grades nine through 12 who:

146 (A) Does not attend the public school in which he or she is enrolled for a period of ten
147 consecutive school days; or

148 (B) Withdraws from school pursuant to Code Section 20-2-690.1.

149 (2) The information required in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be provided by
150 each such local school system to each such operating completion special school no later
151 than ten school days after either condition provided for in subparagraph (A) or (B) of
152 paragraph (1) of this subsection is met.

153 (3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall not apply to any student:

154 (A) Who has successfully completed all requirements for a high school diploma or a
155 state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diploma; or

156 (B) Whose parent or guardian has provided such local school system within the
157 preceding 45 school days a notice of intent to enroll such student in another local school
158 system."

159 **SECTION 4.**

160 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
161 without such approval.

162 **SECTION 5.**

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