

## Bills that passed

*\*All bill #s are linked to the [GA General Assembly website \(www.legis.ga.gov\)](http://www.legis.ga.gov) for more information*

### **FCS Local Bills (Only relate to Fulton County Schools)**

[HB 1349](#) – Broadens eligibility for the FCS Pension Board

[HB 1514](#) – Changes the date of FCS Board Officer elections to December in odd years

### **Academics**

[HB 1009](#) – Prohibits public school students from accessing personal electronic devices during the school day, with K-8 restrictions starting July 2026 and grades 9-12 restrictions beginning July 2027. Requires local school systems to establish policies for device storage, emergency communication protocols, and enforcement procedures by January 2026.

[HB 1030](#) – Establishes the 'Math Matters Act' requiring Georgia schools to provide advanced math courses and automatic enrollment for high-performing students. Mandates minimum math instruction time for grades 4-5 and requires teacher certification programs to include evidence-based math instruction training.

[HB 1193](#) – Establishes comprehensive literacy requirements for Georgia public schools including mandatory kindergarten, literacy coaches, and science-based reading instruction. Creates the Georgia Literacy Task Force to recommend universal reading screeners and develops a statewide literacy awareness campaign.

[HB 1123](#) – Requires certain schools that offer after-school programs to make such programs available to pre-kindergarten students on the same basis as the school's other students. (Jan Jones)

[HB 1284](#) – Requires local boards of education to issue a diploma to student enrolled in a high school program who has a medical diagnosis of a terminal condition, or posthumously.

[SB 589](#) – Amends Georgia education code to allow parents to enroll children ages 4 or 5 in voluntary pre-kindergarten programs and to choose kindergarten over first grade for eligible students. Requires public schools issuing student ID badges for grades 6-12 to include 988 crisis hotline information starting July 1, 2026.

[HB 907](#) – Amends Georgia's Completion Special Schools Act to require local school systems to either partner with completion special schools or provide alternative education programs for grades 9-12. Establishes new information sharing requirements between completion special schools and local districts while allowing direct parent registration for students. (Jan Jones)

[SB 552](#) – True Patriotism and Universal Student Access (TPUSA) Act establishes equal access rights for students to engage in political activities and expression in Georgia public schools. Requires schools with limited open forums to provide the same opportunities for partisan and nonpartisan political groups as other noncurricular student organizations.

[HB 328](#) – Added multiple provisions, among other things, it returns the SSO tax credit cap increase to \$150mm from the \$225mm set in the Senate. It also includes language disqualifying underperforming virtual schools (defined as a two year average CCRPI of 65 or lower) from taking out-of-district students.

### **Charter**

[SB 369](#) – Revises Georgia's education laws to expand virtual school student access to extracurricular activities and establishes new oversight for nontraditional education programs. Creates dropout recovery charter schools with specialized performance standards and requires technology cost analysis for school device purchases.

In addition to the charter school provisions, it added language mandating school districts to consider total ownership costs when purchasing technology devices over \$100 and report repair data annually.

It also allows qualifying virtual school students to participate in resident public school extracurricular and interscholastic activities starting in 2027-28.

### **Budget/Tax/Finance**

[SB 33](#) – Property Tax Reform. The final property tax bill passed late last night. Key provisions include removal of the HB 581 opt-out provisions, an increase in reserve limits from 15% to 25%, and inclusion of exemptions in the local 5-mill share (aka local fair share).

[HB 974](#) – FY27 Budget; includes \$70.4 M in QBE funds for elementary school-based literacy coaches. Mr. Dereef will provide additional updates on the budget.

[HB 1379](#) – Requires Georgia public educational institutions to file annual reports detailing funding received from foreign countries and entities of concern totaling \$10,000 or more. Establishes penalties including withholding state funding for institutions that fail to comply with reporting requirements.

[HB 1164](#) – Require the State Board of Education to appoint an audit committee. Establishes enhanced oversight and accountability measures for Georgia's public education system through mandatory audit committees, progressive monitoring systems, and stricter financial controls.

[SB 472](#) – Establishes new suspension procedures for local school board members following audit findings of financial mismanagement or significant risk. Creates a 50% cap on advance state funding distributions and requires state auditor-developed intervention plans for districts needing additional funds.

### **Human Resources**

[HB 1118](#) – Creates a new 120-hour paid maternal birth leave benefit for eligible state employees and local education agency employees in Georgia. Requires implementation by October 1, 2026, and must be taken within three weeks following childbirth.

[SB 515](#) – Amends Georgia's teacher recruitment and retention tax credit program by increasing participating teachers from 1,000 to 1,200 and reducing credits from \$3,000 to \$2,500 for new participants after 2026.

[SB 150](#) – Extends the program to permit public school systems to employ certain beneficiaries of TRS as classroom teachers in a full-time capacity to 2030 and allows for areas of highest need to be determined for a public school system rather than a RESA.

### **Safety**

[HB 651](#) – Revises provisions governing automated traffic enforcement safety devices (speed cameras) in school zones by establishing new permit requirements, warning signs, and penalties. Authorizes enforcement of speed limits ten miles per hour over the posted limit during school hours and creates civil monetary penalties ranging from \$75 to \$125.

[SB 523](#) – Education; public schools and postsecondary educational institutions to consider antisemitism in the same manner as discrimination based on religion; authorize. Prohibits discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion in all Georgia public schools and postsecondary institutions. Establishes a state-wide K-12 Title VI Coordinator and requires complaint procedures with enforcement mechanisms including potential funding withholding.

## **Study Committees**

*\*Dates and times of study committee meetings TBD*

### **House**

- Study Committee on Local Government Taxation, Funding, and Budgeting
- Study Committee on Education Performance Metrics and Workforce Stability
- Study Committee on the Impact of Online Platforms on Georgia Youth

### **Senate**

- Paid Student Teacher Study Committee
- Study Committee on Funding Charter School Capital Improvements