

AN ACT

To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for positive behavioral interventions and supports and response to intervention initiatives; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-2-741.

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

(1) 'High needs school' means a public school which has received a school climate rating of '1-star' or '2-star' pursuant to Code Section 20-14-33.

(2) 'Positive behavioral interventions and supports' or 'PBIS' means an evidence based data-driven framework to reduce disciplinary incidents, increase a school's sense of safety, and support improved academic outcomes through a multitiered approach, using disciplinary data and principles of behavior analysis to develop school-wide, targeted, and individualized interventions and supports.

(3) 'Response to intervention' or 'RTI' means a framework of identifying and addressing the academic and behavioral needs of students through a tiered system.

(b) Local boards of education are encouraged to implement PBIS and RTI programs and initiatives in their schools, and particularly in high needs schools.

(c) The State Board of Education is authorized, subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, to provide funds to local school systems to support PBIS and RTI programs, initiatives, and personnel.

(d) The State Board of Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations for PBIS and RTI programs and initiatives which receive funding pursuant to this Code section."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.