

Senate Bill 348

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Cowser of the 46th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Williams of the 27th and Sims of the 12th

**AS PASSED**

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 college and career academies as charter schools or as schools within a strategic  
3 waivers school system or charter system; to provide for requirements; to provide for related  
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended by  
8 revising subsection (e) of Code Section 20-2-161.2, relating to work based learning  
9 programs, as follows:

10 "(e) A college and career academy established in accordance with Code Section 20-4-37  
11 which participates in work based learning programs pursuant to this Code section ~~and its~~  
12 ~~charter~~ shall be eligible for any funding or assistance available for the implementation of  
13 this Code section."

14 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

15 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of Code Section 20-2-326, relating  
16 to definitions relative to the "Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's  
17 Economy Act," as follows:

18 "(4) 'College and career academy' means a specialized ~~charter~~ school established by as  
19 a charter school or pursuant to a contract for a strategic waivers school system or charter  
20 system, which formalizes a partnership which that demonstrates a collaboration between  
21 business, industry, and community stakeholders to advance ~~workforce~~ work force  
22 development between one or more local boards of education, a private individual, a  
23 private organization, or a state or local public entity in cooperation with one or more  
24 postsecondary institutions ~~and approved by the State Board of Education in accordance~~

25 ~~with Article 31 of this chapter or the State Charter Schools Commission in accordance~~  
 26 ~~with Article 31A of this chapter."~~

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-4-37, relating to the Office of  
 29 College and Career Transitions, as follows:

30 "20-4-37.

31 (a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

32 (A) Increase high school graduation rates, potential job opportunities, and educational  
 33 opportunities that will prepare students for success in college and the workplace;

34 (B) Establish intergovernmental cooperation between postsecondary institutions and  
 35 local boards of education and collaboration with business, industry, and community  
 36 stakeholders to aid relevant education programs and in the development and support of  
 37 new and existing college and career academies in Georgia;

38 (C) Assist in the development of academic and career ready curriculum;

39 (D) Establish and manage support grant opportunities and awards for new and existing  
 40 college and career academies;

41 (E) Establish a process that allows for college and career academy certification; and

42 (F) Collect and analyze data to evaluate the effectiveness of dual credit and dual  
 43 enrollment programs, secondary and postsecondary partnerships, and college and career  
 44 academics.

45 (2) The General Assembly finds that to accomplish these goals; an office should be  
 46 established to coordinate the efforts of the various education agencies.

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

48 (1) 'Board' means the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

49 (2) 'Certification' means a formal process established by the Office of College and Career  
 50 Transitions, and approved by the board, in which college and career academies  
 51 successfully demonstrate appropriate levels of student achievement, community  
 52 sustainability, ~~workforce~~ work force development, and school level governance.

53 (3) 'Charter petitioner' means a local board of education, group of local boards of  
 54 education, private individual, private organization, state or local public entity, or any  
 55 group of these; that submits a petition for a charter in cooperation with one or more  
 56 postsecondary institutions which have petitioned to establish a college and career  
 57 academy as a charter school pursuant to Article 31 or Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this  
 58 title.

59 (4) 'Charter school' shall ~~have the same meaning as~~ mean the schools included in  
 60 paragraph (3) of Code Section 20-2-2062 and ~~as in paragraph (2) (5) of Code Section~~  
 61 20-2-2081.

62 (5) 'College and career academy' means a specialized ~~charter~~ school established ~~by~~ as a  
 63 charter school or pursuant to a contract for a strategic waivers school system or charter  
 64 system, which formalizes a partnership which that demonstrates a collaboration between  
 65 business, industry, and community stakeholders to advance ~~workforce~~ work force  
 66 development between one or more local boards of education, a private individual, a  
 67 private organization, or a state or local public entity in cooperation with one or more  
 68 postsecondary institutions ~~and approved by the State Board of Education in accordance~~  
 69 ~~with Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title or the Georgia Charter Schools Commission in~~  
 70 ~~accordance with Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this title.~~ A charter school, charter system,  
 71 or strategic waivers school system contract establishing a college and career academy  
 72 shall include provisions requiring that the college and career academy have a governing  
 73 board reflective of the school community and the partnership with decision-making  
 74 authority and requiring that governing board members complete initial and annual  
 75 governance training, including, but not limited to, best practices on school governance,  
 76 the constitutional and statutory requirements relating to public records and meetings, and  
 77 the requirements of applicable statutes and rules and regulations.

78 (6) 'Office' means the Office of College and Career Transitions established pursuant to  
 79 subsection (c) of this Code section.

80 (7) 'Postsecondary institution' means a local technical college, community college,  
 81 university, or other postsecondary institution operating under the authority of the  
 82 Technical College System of Georgia or the University System of Georgia or other not  
 83 for profit postsecondary institution accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges  
 84 and Schools.

85 (8) 'Start-up costs' means initial operating or capital costs, including, but not limited to,  
 86 costs of improving real property.

87 (9) 'Supplemental funding' means funding for purposes other than start-up costs which  
 88 are related to the establishment and operation of college and career academies.

89 (c) The Office of College and Career Transitions shall be established within the Technical  
 90 College System of Georgia to coordinate the efforts by the State Board of Education, the  
 91 University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and other not for  
 92 profit postsecondary institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
 93 Schools in the professional development, curriculum support, and development and  
 94 establishment of college and career academies.

95 (d) The board shall be authorized to allocate funds, including state funds, federal funds,  
 96 proceeds of general obligation debt, or any other available funds, for a particular purpose  
 97 for college and career academies for start-up costs or for other purposes related to the  
 98 establishment and operation of such academies by a grant consideration process.

99 (e) A charter petitioner for a college and career academy that has submitted for approval  
 100 or that has drafted for submission for approval a charter petition for a college and career  
 101 academy or a local school system that is proposing a college and career academy as part  
 102 of a contract to be a strategic waivers school system or charter system shall be authorized  
 103 to submit to the board an application for start-up funds for a such college and career  
 104 academy. The board shall approve applications for start-up funds for college and career  
 105 academies that meet the criteria and requirements established pursuant to subsections (i)  
 106 and (j) of this Code section. As part of such funding application process, the office shall  
 107 consider charter applications for college and career academies in cooperation with the  
 108 Office of Charter School Compliance and consider proposed college and career academies  
 109 as part of contracts to be strategic waivers school systems or charter systems and make  
 110 recommendations to the State Board of Education for the approval, denial, and renewal of  
 111 college and career academy charter petitions or proposed college and career academies  
 112 within strategic waivers school systems or charter systems and specify the reasons for such  
 113 recommendations. The State Board of Education ~~should~~ shall consider such a  
 114 recommendation from the office prior to approving or denying a charter petition for a  
 115 college and career academy or a proposal for a college and career academy as part of a  
 116 contract to be a strategic waivers school system or charter system. Funds shall not be  
 117 released to an approved applicant unless the charter petition is approved by the State Board  
 118 of Education pursuant to Article 31 of Chapter 2 of this title or the Georgia Charter Schools  
 119 Commission in accordance with Article 31A of Chapter 2 of this title or unless the contract  
 120 for a strategic waivers school system or charter system which is proposing a college and  
 121 career academy has been approved.

122 (f) The board shall be authorized to disburse supplemental funding to existing or new  
 123 college and career academies which demonstrate a need for such funding.

124 (g)(1) The office shall establish a certification process, in collaboration with the  
 125 Department of Education, for approval by the board. The office shall be authorized to  
 126 certify college and career academies. The State Board of Education shall accept  
 127 certification by the office as one component of determining compliance with charter and  
 128 strategic waivers school system or charter system contract requirements. The State Board  
 129 of Education may request supplemental information from charter petitioners, strategic  
 130 wavers school systems, or charter systems.

131 (2) Any certification process established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection  
132 ~~must~~ shall require that the applicant demonstrates how the proposed college and career  
133 academy will increase student achievement, provide for dual credit and dual enrollment  
134 opportunities, increase work based learning opportunities, and address ~~workforce~~ work  
135 force development needs; articulates how the collaboration between business, industry,  
136 and community stakeholders will advance ~~workforce~~ work force development;  
137 demonstrates local governance and autonomy; and shows other benefits that meet the  
138 needs of the students and community.

139 (3) Certification by the office shall constitute a positive recommendation to the State  
140 Board of Education for renewal of a charter school or charter system pursuant to Code  
141 Section 20-2-2064.1 or an extension of a strategic waivers school system contract  
142 pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 2 of this title.

143 (h) The office shall be responsible for collecting and analyzing appropriate data from and  
144 about college and career academies on matters consisting of but not limited to college and  
145 career academy effectiveness. Collecting and reporting of data shall be in coordination  
146 with the Office of Charter School Compliance.

147 (i) The board shall establish eligibility criteria, requirements, and procedures for the  
148 disbursement of funding to college and career academies pursuant to this Code section.  
149 Such criteria, requirements, and procedures shall consider the strength of the proposed  
150 cooperative arrangements between the local board of education, the group of local boards  
151 of education, a private individual, a private organization, or a state or local public entity  
152 and one or more postsecondary institutions and must include active support from and a  
153 partnership with local business and community leaders for the college and career academy.  
154 The board may establish a matching requirement for recipients of funds under this Code  
155 section.

156 (j) A college and career academy receiving funds pursuant to this Code section shall  
157 submit an annual report to the board regarding the performance of such academy and the  
158 expenditure of funds received pursuant to this Code section. The report shall include, but  
159 not be limited to, academic data, financial statements, an evaluation of the progress relative  
160 to relationships between and among the business, industry, and community stakeholders,  
161 and any other information requested by the board to demonstrate the yearly progress or  
162 effectiveness of the college and career academy.

163 (k) Representatives from business, industry, civic, and governmental agencies and  
164 educational organizations which are designated by the commissioner of the Technical  
165 College System of Georgia shall advise the board on matters pertaining to both the  
166 certification and governance of college and career academies."

167

**SECTION 4.**

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