Education

HB 147 (Wade-9th)  Bill Link
“Safe Schools Act” - Requires the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) to consult with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS), the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to create a school safety and anti-gang endorsement for eligible certificated professional personnel who volunteer to complete a training program approved by the PSC in multidisciplinary best practices for promoting and preserving safe schools, and for identifying and deterring youth gangs. The legislation adds GEMA/HS to those agencies to which the school must submit their school safety plan. Schools are required to conduct intruder alert drills by October 1 of each school year and report to GEMA/HS when the drill is completed. All students are required to participate, but each system may allow an option for a parent/legal guardian to elect, in writing, that the child is not participating.
Status: PASSED HOUSE, PASSED SENATE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

SB 45 (Anavitarte-45)  Bill Link
Creates 'A.J.'s Law' to provide for the care of students being treated for epilepsy or a seizure disorder. A school nurse or other school employee should be trained in the proper protocols should a student experience a seizure while at school. The parent or guardian must annually supply the school with a seizure action plan which provides specific directions about what to do in emergency situations.
Status: PASSED SENATE, PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

SB 86 (Brass-28th)  Bill Link
Allows eligible dual enrollment students to access HOPE grant funds for eligible career, technical, and agricultural education (CTAE) courses. The bill requires reporting of specified information relating to the dual enrollment program.
Status: PASSED SENATE, PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

SB 204 (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
Requires accrediting agencies that operate in Georgia to focus on student achievement, academic success, and fiscal solvency of schools and school systems. The State Board of Education must establish evaluation criteria, procedures, and other requirements for recognized accrediting agencies. Defines an accrediting agency as a reliable authority as to the quality of education offered in Georgia secondary schools. The bill sets the standards and criteria accrediting agencies must meet by the State Board of Education to be recognized as an accrediting agency. The State Board of Education will have oversight authority of accrediting agencies, and may determine if an agency is not in compliance with state standards. When disputes arise between an accrediting agency and a public secondary school, the school has the right to appeal to the state board.
Status: PASSED SENATE, PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

HR 564 (Dubnik-29th)  Bill Link
Constitutional Amendment to provide for the election of members of the State Board of Education by the members of the House of Representatives and Senate whose respective districts are embraced or partly embraced by each congressional district of this state; and to provide for appointment of the State School Superintendent by the State Board of Education.
Status: House Education Committee

SB 318 (Setzler-37th)  Bill Link
Provides that the minimum salaries of special education teachers who meet certain criteria shall be 110 percent of the minimum salary such teacher would otherwise qualify for on the schedule of minimum salaries established by the State Board of Education.
Status: Senate Education and Youth Committee

HB 51 (Pirkle-169th)  Bill Link
Authorizes local boards of education to utilize alternative means of transportation other than school buses to transport students to school and school-related activities where appropriate. The bill was amended to include