Education

PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS AND WAITING ON CONSIDERATION FROM THE GOVERNOR

HB 87  (Erwin-32nd)  Bill Link
Focuses on Mountain Education, Foothills, and Coastal Plains Charter Schools. (alternative schools for students who are on the verge of dropping out and need flexibility and night classes). The bill allows these schools to continue as “Completion Special State Schools” and transition beyond their charter contracts. However, it changes their geographical boundaries, creates additional zones to serve the rest of the state, and establishes a funding mechanism for these programs. The bill also defines eligible students for these schools and their attendance zones and encourages the development of new completion special schools.
Status: **PASSED HOUSE, PASSED SENATE** Awaits consideration by the governor.

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.

HB 249  (Martin-49th)  Bill Link
Provides Georgia College Completion Grant eligibility to students who have completed 70% of a four-year program or 45% of a two-year program. The maximum award amount per eligible student is set at $3,500, with no single payment exceeding $2,500. The bill provides free tuition for specified training programs that relate to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle for qualified participants who are U.S. armed forces veterans.
Status: **PASSED HOUSE, PASSED SENATE** Awaits consideration by the governor.

HB 319  (Martin-49th)  Bill Link
Abolishes the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation and transfers any obligations, liabilities, or assets to the Georgia Student Finance Authority. The bill prohibits tuition and fee increases of more than 3% unless a joint resolution is passed by the General Assembly.
Status: **PASSED HOUSE, PASSED SENATE** **VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR.**

HB 340  (Corbett-174th)  Bill Link
Protects planning periods for teachers. Teachers who are in the classroom more than 50% of a regular school day are required to have a duty-free planning period, with some exceptions related to safety. The bill also amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.21, relating to tax credits for qualified education donations for the purpose of awarding grants to public schools by extending the repeal date to December 31, 2026. Local school board members are prohibited from discussing personnel matters with superintendents or other school personnel other than a referral of a personnel matter to the superintendent.
Status: **PASSED HOUSE, PASSED SENATE** Awaits consideration by the governor.

HB 538  (Ballard-147th)  Bill Link
“Georgia Early Literacy Act” - Beginning July 1, 2025, the department shall require teachers in all programs licensed or commissioned by the department to receive training on developmentally appropriate evidence-based literacy instruction. Such training shall be aligned with content standards promulgated the department in collaboration with the Office of Student Achievement. The state Board of Education, in consultation with the department and the Office of Student Achievement, shall establish such policies, rules, and regulations as necessary to implement uniform grade-appropriate metrics for measuring literacy. They shall approve high-quality instructional materials to be used for teaching students in kindergarten through third grade to read and establish a procedure for each public school and