

# ***2019 Legislative Update***

## **2019-2020 GaDOE Data Conference**

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# 2019 Legislative Session Recap

- Legislative Day 40 (SINE DIE) – Tuesday, April 2
- 92 education-related bills were filed during the 2019 session.
- 24 education-related bills passed both chambers and will be sent to the Governor.

# FY20 State Budget

- Fully funded QBE (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row).
- Adjusts state base salary schedule to increase salaries for certified teachers and certified employees by \$3,000 effective July 1, 2019.
- Includes a \$3,000 increase for school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, media specialists, special education specialists, and technology specialists.
- Two percent salary increase to Bus Drivers, School Nutrition, and Nurses.

# FY20 State Budget

- \$30,000 safety grant per school.
- Districts should create a budget plan and expend \$30,000 per school to enhance security and safety systems.
- \$413,000 additional funds to RESAs to reduce austerity.
- \$1,600,000 for Mental Health Awareness Training.

# 2019 Legislative Session Recap

Bills	Education-Related Bills Passed Both Chambers and Will be Sent to the Governor
<u>HB12</u>	Mandates child abuse reporting posters in schools with DFCS phone number
<u>HB 59</u>	Military-connected students may pre-enroll in school based on military orders to parent; charter school board voting, and charter school out-of-district enrollment
<u>HB 68</u>	Restricts accrediting agencies from qualifying as a Student Scholarship Organization
<u>HB 83</u>	Mandatory recess in K-5 schools for at least 30 minutes each day with provisions – <i>vetoed</i>
<u>HB 130</u>	Georgia Foundation for Public Education non-profit status

# 2019 Legislative Session Recap

Bills	Education-Related Bills Passed Both Chambers and Will be Sent to the Governor
<u><a href="#">HB 315</a></u>	Consultants that assist in drafting bids have limitations for responding to RFPs
<u><a href="#">HB 322</a></u>	Revises the provisions relating to advertisement of certain bid or proposed opportunities for goods and/or services from \$10,000 to \$100,000
<u><a href="#">HB 346</a></u>	“Healthy Housing” bill to protect tenants that report unhealthy living conditions
<u><a href="#">HB 459</a></u>	School bus driver verification of CDL license
<u><a href="#">HB 514</a></u>	Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission
<u><a href="#">HB 527</a></u>	Updates QBE program weights to align with State Code
<u><a href="#">HB 530</a></u>	Protecting students withdrawn from school without enrolling in homeschool, private school, or another public school after 45 days; mandatory referral to DFCS

# 2019 Legislative Session Recap

Bills	Education-Related Bills Passed Both Chambers and Will be Sent to the Governor
<u>SB 2</u>	Allows EMCs to offer broadband in their service areas
<u>SB 9</u>	Penalties for sexual assault of students by school staff member
<u>SB 15</u>	School safety; requires site risk assessment; safe school plans; and other provisions – <i>vetoed</i>
<u>SB 25</u>	School Bus Passing
<u>SB 48</u>	Mandatory dyslexia screening of kindergarten students after three-year pilot based on state funding; screen for dyslexia when referred to RTI

# SB 48

- SBOE develops policies for referring K-3 students for dyslexia screening if the students have been identified through the response-to-intervention process.
- Requires universal dyslexia screening in kindergarten, beginning in the 2024-2025 school year (subject to appropriations).
- Allows the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) to create a dyslexia endorsement program for educators.
- Creates a three-year pilot program, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, to demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of early reading assistance programs for students with risk factors for dyslexia.



# 2019 Legislative Session Recap

Bills	Education-Related Bills Passed Both Chambers and Will be Sent to the Governor
<u><b>SB 60</b></u>	Mandatory cardiac arrest education for interscholastic participants in grades 6-12
<u><b>SB 67</b></u>	Provides for eligibility for regular funding, advance funding, and low-wealth capital outlay funding for educational facilities that are extensively destroyed or damaged by a fire or natural disaster
<u><b>SB 83</b></u>	Develop additional Bible history classes and codified the REACH program
<u><b>SB 108</b></u>	Mandatory computer science requirements for middle and high schools
<u><b>SR 452</b></u>	Senate Study Committee on the Financial Efficiency Star Rating (FESR)

# SB 108

- Requires computer science courses to be offered in some middle and high schools beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Requires such courses to be offered in all high schools by the 2024-2025 school year.
- Grants earmarked for educator professional development programs for teachers providing instruction in computer science courses and content.

# Vetoed Education Bills – HB 83

**HB 83 would have mandated recess in K-5 school for at least 30 minutes each day with provisions.**

**Veto Message:** *Currently, local boards of education hold broad authority to establish recess policies for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. This local control allows school boards to set these policies based on a thorough understanding of day-to-day educational operations as well as regular interaction with administrators, educators, families, and students. **House Bill 83 would dramatically restrict this local control, stripping long-held authority from school boards.** While I support expanded recess opportunities for Georgia's students, I am a firm believer in local control, especially in education. This legislation would impose unreasonable burdens on educational leaders without meaningful justification.*

**For the foregoing reasons, I VETO HOUSE BILL 83.**

# Vetoed Education Bills – SB 15

**SB 15 school safety; requires site risk assessment; school safe plan; and other provisions**

**Veto Message:** *Senate Bill 15 is a well-intentioned piece of legislation, but many school superintendents, non-partisan advocacy groups, and educators across Georgia have expressed concern over its provisions. These stakeholders agree that this legislation **undermines local control, generates an unfunded mandate for school safety coordinators, and places a ministerial duty on school administrators, increasing their exposure to legal liability.** In stark contrast, House Bill 30 – the State’s Amended 2019 Budget – allocates \$69,000,000 in school security grants to every public school and allows local leaders – who best understand the needs and operations of their communities – to decide how to use this funding for safer learning environments...*

# Vetoed Education Bills – SB 15

**SB 15 Veto Message, continued:** *..Moving forward, it is important for local leaders to first have an opportunity to utilize state grant funding before imposing additional requirements. The State will continue to invest in the safety of our children by working closely with local officials, parents, and students to ensure a safer, stronger Georgia.*

**For the foregoing reasons, I VETO SENATE BILL 15**

# Teacher Retirement System (TRS)

- Many proposed changes this year to Teachers Retirement System.
- No bills made it through the General Assembly in 2019.
- HB 292 is eligible to pass during the 2020 session – actuarial analysis is anticipated to provide more insight into the \$600-\$660 million non-payment by the University System of Georgia to TRS.

# More on TRS

- HB 109 seeks to change TRS benefits for future educators.
- Several important bills were sent to actuarial study by the House & Senate Retirement Committees.
- In addition, a Feb. state audit showed that the University System of GA has not remitted payments estimated at \$600-660 million to TRS for USG employee participation in TRS.

# Vouchers

- No voucher bills (a couple were dropped) made it through the legislature in 2019.
- These bills sought to create a third Georgia voucher program called an Education Savings Account (ESA).



# Dual Enrollment

- No change to law this year.
- The Georgia Student Finance Commission's board voted in favor of a plan recently to plug a \$25 million budget gap.
- Costs for student books and fees will be passed along to colleges and universities providing the courses.

# Dual Enrollment

- State leaders discussed several options to lower costs for the dual enrollment program, such as limiting access to 11th and 12th graders.
- Enrollment nearly quadrupled in five years from 11,484 students during FY13 to 43,639 students in FY18.
- The state's budget for Dual Enrollment has increased by similar totals.
- The FY20 budget is about \$100 million.
- The cost in FY20 is estimated to be about \$125 million.

# What's in play for 2020?

*All education legislation that didn't pass in 2019*

- School vouchers/education savings accounts
- Mandatory school start
- Dual enrollment
- Tim Tebow Act
- TRS changes

Additionally, anything that was vetoed may be reintroduced

# Education Listening Sessions

## RESA's, superintendents, GOSA, & GaDOE

### Emerging themes:

- Accountability
  - A-F grading of schools
  - 0-100 point scale of CCRPI
- Assessment
  - Move to federal minimum
- Pupil transportation
- Dual enrollment
- Educator recruitment and retention,
- Teacher and leader evaluation
- Private school vouchers
- TRS

# Preparing students for life.

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