

**Georgia Association of School Psychologists
2017 General Assembly Legislative Recap**

House of Representatives:

- HB 338
- Rep. Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville)
 - First Priority Act
 - Intervention for struggling schools
 - Creates the position of Chief Turnaround Officer (CTO) within the Georgia Department of Education
- HB 237
- House Education Committee Chair Brooks Coleman (R-Duluth)
 - Allows for the creation of the "Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation."
 - The foundation, financed through tax credits awarded in exchange for taxpayer donation to the foundation, is capped at \$5 million annually.
 - Funding source for First Priority Act.
 - Award grants to public schools "for the implementation of academic and organizational innovations to improve student achievement."
 - Priority given to schools performing in the lowest five percent in this state.
 - Award grants via a competitive grant process.
- HB 425
- Rep. Joyce Chandler (R-Grayson)
 - Commonly referred to as the "Opt Out Bill."
 - Strongly encourages the SBOE and local school districts to adopt policies enabling students who desire to take standardized tests with pencil and paper
 - Prohibits punitive actions for students refusing to participate in federal, state, or locally mandated standardized assessments
 - Requires that students who refuse standardized tests be given alternate educational activities.
- HB 430
- Rep. Buzz Brockaway (R-Lawrenceville)
 - Codify many of the charter school-related recommendations put forth by Gov. Deal's Education Reform Commission.
 - Directs the SBOE and the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) to jointly establish a code of principles and standards to guide local boards of education, the SBOE, and the SCSC in meeting high-quality charter school authorizing practices.
 - Requires GaDOE to implement procedures to ensure that local start-up charter schools receive from their local school districts the proportionate amount of federal funds for which the charter schools are eligible.
 - Also includes several provisions related to charter school facilities.
 - Requires the SBOE to provide charter school facility funding "more comparable to traditional public schools" and creates a charter schools facilities grant program, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

- Additionally, requires local boards of education which deny charter schools the use of unused local school facilities to grant the petitioners a hearing before the local board and affords the petitioners a right of appeal.
- HB 463
- Rep. Katie Dempsey (R-Rome)
 - Allows the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to create the "Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning to Promote Public-Private Partnerships."
 - Foundation will promote partnerships between businesses, nonprofits, higher education, local school districts, public schools and early care and education programs.
 - Funds received by the foundation may be awarded through a competitive grant process administered by DECAL.
- HB 139
- Rep. Dave Belton (R-Buckhead)
 - Relating to education accountability assessment programs.
 - Requires local school districts to provide the public, to the greatest extent practicable, transparent and accurate financial information.
 - Directs GaDOE to create an online database for publication of this information and assignment of school financial efficiency ratings.
 - Also requires GaDOE to assign a unique identifier to children of active duty and reserve military families.
- HB 198
- Rep. Katie Dempsey (R-Rome)
 - Requires school districts which already provide information regarding immunizations and infectious diseases to also include information about influenza vaccines.
 - Repeals of the sunset provision on Georgia's SHAPE program.
- HB 245
- Rep. Allen Williams (D-Midway)
 - Directs the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to create a process by which military spouses may qualify for temporary teaching certificates, endorsement certificates, or expedited certificates upon moving to Georgia with their service member or transitioning service member spouse.

Senate Education and Youth Committee:

- **SB 186**
- Senate Education and Youth Committee Chair Lindsey Tippins (R-Marietta)
 - Seeks to clarify that high school students completing dual credit coursework are eligible for the HOPE scholarship to obtain an associate degrees through the Technical College System of Georgia.
 - Successfully amended to include kinship care provisions:
 - Kinship caregivers can make educational and medical decisions for children residing with them.

- **SB 149**
- Sen. Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur)
 - Provides for school resource officer standards and training.
 - Requires the Georgia Peace Officer Standards Training Council to maintain a 40 hour training course.
 - Provide training regarding the role of officers assigned to schools:
 - Search and seizure in schools, criminal offenses, gang awareness, drug awareness, interviews and interrogations, emergency preparedness and interpersonal interactions with adolescents-including encountering mental health issues.

- **SB 211**
- Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R-Marietta)
 - Builds on standardized testing reform passed during the 2016 legislative session.
 - One provision relates to first grade and second grade assessments in English, language arts/reading and math and mandates that research-based assessments will provide "real-time data."
 - Assessments may only be selected after consultation with local school districts. Assessments should allow flexible grouping of students based on skill level and should measure student progress toward grade level expectations throughout the school year.
 - Requires the SBOE to direct the work of the existing assessment workgroup to pursue "maximum flexibility for state and local assessments under federal law."
 - Earlier wanted to propose solution for ongoing formative assessments throughout the school year that can be combined with a summative assessment at the end of the school year.
 - Directs the SBOE to create and post a report regarding assessments no later than September 1, 2017, and to provide the report to legislative leaders.
 - Amended to include language from a bill prohibiting local school districts from refusing to award the distinction of salutatorian and valedictorian to Move on When Ready students.

Resources:

NASP Advocacy Action Center

Provides more targeted and intentional advocacy resources. This site tells you your local, state, and federal elected officials contact information and shows how to contact and encourage them to support public policy issues that are of importance to school psychologists.

<http://cqrcengage.com/naspweb/home>

NASP Advocacy Tools and Resources Page

General Information, tool kits, guides, and research summaries to help you advocate.

<https://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/advocacy-tools-and-resources>

Page Legislative Overview

Provides a collection of all the bills being discussed during the current legislative session. Via color code tells which bills PAGE supports, is opposed to, is watching, and/or is asking to be amended.

http://ciclt.net/sn/leg/l_main.aspx?ClientCode=page&L_Session=&L_Prior=&L_State=sc&StateName=

PAGE District Look Up

Another website to help you find your elected officials contact information.

http://www.ciclt.net/sn/pol/po_districtlookup.aspx?ClientCode=page&State=ga