

House Bill 1132

By: Representatives Benfield of the 85th, Henson of the 87th, Dobbs of the 53rd, Morgan of the 39th, and Drenner of the 86th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to eliminate criterion-referenced
3 competency tests in grades one and two; to revise provisions for purposes of conformity; to
4 provide for related 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 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section
9 20-2-281, relating to the assessment of effectiveness of educational programs, as follows:
10 "(a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a student assessment program consisting of
11 instruments, procedures, and policies necessary to implement the program and shall fund
12 all costs of providing and scoring such instruments, subject to appropriation by the General
13 Assembly. Each local school system may elect to administer, with state funding, nationally
14 norm-referenced instruments in reading, mathematics, science, or social studies in grade
15 three, four, or five and in grade six, seven, or eight, subject to available appropriations,
16 with assistance to such school systems by the State Board of Education with regard to
17 administration guidance, scoring, and reporting of such assessments. The State Board of
18 Education shall review, revise, and upgrade the quality core curriculum. Following the
19 adoption of this revised curriculum, the State Board of Education shall contract for
20 development of criterion-referenced competency tests to measure the quality core
21 curriculum. Such tests in English and language arts, mathematics, and reading, shall be
22 administered annually to students in grades one through eight, and such tests in science,
23 and social studies shall be administered annually to students in grades three through eight.
24 This action shall be completed according to a schedule established by the State Board of
25 Education. A ~~curriculum-based~~ curriculum based assessment shall be administered in
26 grade 11 for graduation purposes. Writing assessments shall be administered to students

27 in grades three, five, eight, and 11. The writing assessments shall provide students and
 28 their parents with performance outcome measures resulting from the administration of such
 29 tests."

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SECTION 2.

31 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-153, relating to early intervention
 32 program for students at risk of not reaching or maintaining academic grade level, by revising
 33 subsection (b) as follows:

34 "(b) The early intervention program shall serve students who are at risk of not reaching or
 35 maintaining academic grade level, including but not limited to students who are identified
 36 through the first grade readiness assessment required by Code Sections 20-2-151 and
 37 20-2-281 and students with identified academic performance below grade levels defined
 38 by the Office of Student Achievement in Code Section 20-14-31 for any
 39 criterion-referenced assessment administered in accordance with Code Section 20-2-281
 40 for grades ~~one~~ three through five. Local school systems shall devise a process for the
 41 identification of such students at the beginning of each school year and also during the
 42 school year as a continuous process of early identification and monitoring. School systems
 43 may use indicators such as but not limited to the student's scores on previous assessments,
 44 the student's classroom performance in the same or previous years, and other reliable
 45 indicators to identify such students. A student shall be assigned to the early intervention
 46 program as soon as is practicable after the student is identified as at risk or after the results
 47 of the first-grade readiness assessment, the criterion-referenced assessment, or other
 48 indicators are known. The school shall provide timely notice and an opportunity for a
 49 conference with the student and his or her parents or guardians to discuss the student's
 50 academic performance and the role of the early intervention program."

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SECTION 3.

53 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-284, relating to criteria for local boards
 54 of education and model placement and promotion policy, by revising subsection (b) as
 55 follows:

56 "(b) Except for those criterion-referenced assessments specified in Code Section 20-2-283,
 57 the placement and promotion policy as developed and adopted by each local board of
 58 education shall state how the criterion-referenced competency tests administered under
 59 Code Section 20-2-281 for grades ~~one~~ three through eight will be weighted or otherwise
 60 utilized by the school principal or the principal's designee in determining the overall
 61 academic achievement of a student and an appropriate plan of accelerated, differentiated,
 62 or additional instruction, placement, promotion, or retention of a student."

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SECTION 4.

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