NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
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Achieves

Legislative Compliance Update



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NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

HB 268: Safety, Health, & Well-being of Students

Summary	Impact	Required Action	Current Status
Provide for the safety, health, and well-being of students and school communities; to create an Office of Safe Schools within the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency; to provide technical assistance for local school systems to develop policies and procedures for their threat management teams	Requires schools to have up-to-date mapping and mobile panic alert systems, requires student records to be transferred within five school business days so dangers can be addressed quickly, provides for a Student Advocacy Specialist grant program to reimburse districts for hiring, requires local boards to offer anonymous reporting program, and creates the offenses of “terroristic threat”	• Develop a process for student records to be transferred within five school business days • Offer an anonymous reporting program • Create the offenses of “terroristic threat of a school” and “terroristic act upon a school” • Effective July 1, 2026	• Comprehensive analysis of HB 268 requirements • Reviewing enrollment and student records processes for alignment with statutory changes in collaboration with Infinite Campus representatives • Coordinating the development of Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) teams and identifying a system for the Anonymous Reporting System (ARS) as part of the broader implementation framework • MOUs have been sent to Legal for updates and review, ensuring alignment with new expectations for law enforcement collaboration and data-sharing

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

HB 307: Quality Basic Education Act (Dyslexia)

Summary	Impact	Required Action	Current Status
Relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to include provisions for students significantly at risk of not achieving grade level reading proficiency or with characteristics of dyslexia; relating to screening for dyslexia and related disorders, training and professional development, pilot program evaluating early intervention, and data	Amends the “Georgia Literacy Act” by ensuring the Georgia Professional Standards Commission adopts rules for state-approved teacher preparation programs that are aligned to the “Science of Reading.”	• Distribute information relevant to dyslexia and the characteristics of dyslexia • Prohibit the three-cueing systems model from high-quality instructional materials or structured literacy for students in grades K-3 • Prohibit instructional materials/practices/ interventions that utilize the three-cueing system	• Dyslexia Informational Handbook shared with staff • Core Literacy Resource (K–5) HMH Into Reading is the district’s adopted HQIM curriculum. **This resource does not use the three-cueing system.* • Developing clear Structured Literacy Guidance for K–5 structured literacy training

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

HB 340: Distraction-Free Education Act

Summary	Impact	Required Action	Current Status

Requires local school systems and public schools to enact policies and procedures for use of personal electronic devices at school and school sponsored events by students in kindergarten through eighth grade; to provide for permissible student use of personal electronic devices	Requires local school systems and public schools to enact policies and procedures regarding using personal electronic devices at school and school-sponsored events by students in grades K- 8	• Remove access to personal devices or personal electronic devices at school-sponsored events and during school hours, "bell-to-bell," for students in grades K-8
		• Implementation July 1, 2026
			• Distraction Free Pilot Programs
			  • *Heard-Mixon Elementary School (*Hanging Cell Phone Storage Systems)
			  • *Liberty Middle School (*Cell Phone Lockers)
			• Policy for Review with Legal
			• Aligning the Student Handbook to ensures procedures met requirements
			• Development of Implementation and Communication Strategies

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

SB 1: Fair and Safe Athletic Opportunities Act

Summary	Impact	Required Action	Current Status
Provides for competitively fair and safe student participation in middle school, high school, and college sports; to promote fair and safe competition; to provide for equal athletic opportunities and safety; to provide for specific designations of teams operated or sponsored by local school systems	Prohibits males from participating in interscholastic competitions on teams designated as female; prohibits females from participating in competitions on interscholastic teams designated as male in middle school, high school, and college sports and requires multiple occupancy restrooms, changing areas, and sleeping quarters to be designated for use exclusively by one gender	• Adopt and publish grievance procedures for complaints • Designate multiple occupancy restrooms, changing areas, and sleeping quarters for use exclusively by one gender	• Revised policy is posted for public review and feedback

School Year 2025-2026

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS | ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

STRONG FOUNDATION BRIGHT FUTURE

ADVANCING ACADEMICS, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, AND STUDENT SUPPORTS

- *Strengthen the district's literacy foundation; clarify and document the district's literacy improvement philosophy, strategy, and resources*
- *Strengthen the instructional core (implement research-based instructional practices, interventions, and support systems in service of ensuring rigorous, Tier 1 Instruction, district-wide*

ADVANCING OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- *Advance school safety through coordinated improvement strategy*
- *Ensure the development of a multi-year Strategic Plan*
- *Identify and implement necessary operational efficiencies to streamline core systems and enhance organizational effectiveness*
- *Evaluate district-wide facilities to explore opportunities for future use, right sizing, efficiency, upgrades, and modernization*

ADVANCING CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT

- *Develop a commonly applied, Tier I behavior support and intervention framework*
- *Deepen community and stakeholder engagement*

ADVANCING INNOVATION & ORGANIZATIONAL STABILITY

- *Strengthen pathways and programs for students that support workforce development, aligned with community needs and industry partnerships*
- *Evaluate and modernize policies to promote coherence and to correspond with the current state of the district*
- *Invest in the professional growth of current and aspiring leaders to strengthen executive capacity, develop a sustainable leadership pipeline, and ensure high-impact leadership at all levels*

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