

MAY 12, 2026



FINAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: 2026 GENERAL SESSION

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Fulton
County Schools
Where Students Come First

PURPOSE



Items for Information

- Review legislation that passed during the 2026 Georgia General Assembly



SUMMARY: FCS LOCAL BILLS



HB 1349

- Broadens eligibility for the FCS Pension Board

HB 1514

- Changes the date of FCS Board Officer elections to December in even-numbered years

**Governor has until May 12, 2026
to sign or veto any passed bill**



SUMMARY: ACADEMICS

HB 1009 – KEMP SIGNED

- Prohibits public school students from accessing personal electronic devices during the school day
- K-8 restrictions beginning July 2026; grades 9-12 beginning July 2027
- Requires local school systems to establish device storage policies
- Requires emergency communication protocols and enforcement procedures by January 2026

HB 1030 – KEMP SIGNED

- Establishes the Math Matters Act
- Requires advanced math courses in Georgia schools and automatic enrollment for high-performing students
- Mandates minimum math instruction time for grades 4-5
- Requires evidence-based math instruction in teacher certification programs



SUMMARY: ACADEMICS

HB 1193 – KEMP SIGNED

- Establishes comprehensive literacy requirements
- Requires mandatory kindergarten literacy support, literacy coaches, and science-based reading instruction
- Creates the Georgia Literacy Task Force to recommend universal reading screeners and develop a statewide literacy awareness campaign

HB 1123 – KEMP SIGNED

- Requires after-school programs to be available to pre-K students

HB 1284 – KEMP SIGNED

- Requires issuing diplomas to students with terminal medical diagnoses
- Allows diplomas to be awarded posthumously

✓ PASS ✓

SUMMARY: ACADEMICS



SB 589

- Allows parents to enroll children ages 4 or 5 in voluntary pre-K
- Allows parents of eligible students to choose kindergarten over first grade
- Requires student ID badges (grades 6-12) to include 988 crisis hotline information

HB 907 – KEMP SIGNED

- Amends Georgia’s Completion Special Schools Act to require districts to partner with completion schools or provide alternative education (grades 9-12)
- Establishes new information-sharing requirements and allows direct parent registration



SUMMARY: ACADEMICS



SB 552

- Establishes the True Patriotism and Universal Student Access (TPUSA) Act to provide equal access for student political activities and expression
- Requires equal treatment of partisan and nonpartisan groups in school forums

HB 328 - KEMP SIGNED

- Increases Student Scholarship Organizations (SSO) tax credit cap to \$225 million
- Disqualifies underperforming virtual schools (CCRPI ≤ 65) from enrolling out-of-district students



SUMMARY: CHARTERS



SB 369

- Expands virtual student access to extracurricular activities
- Establishes oversight for nontraditional education programs
- Creates drop-out recovery charter schools
- Requires technology cost analysis for device purchases
- Requires reporting of repair data annually
- Allows virtual students to participate in resident school extracurriculars starting with the 2027-28 school year



SUMMARY: BUDGET/TAX/FINANCE



SB 33 - KEMP SIGNED

- Creates statewide property tax assessment cap; increases reserve limits from 15% to 25%; and includes exemptions in the local 5-mill share

HB 974

- FY27 budget bill – includes \$70.4 million for elementary literacy coaches

HB 1379

- Requires reporting of foreign funding \geq \$10,000

HB 1164

- Requires State Board of Education to appoint an audit committee
- Establishes enhanced oversight and financial controls

SB 472

- Establishes suspension process for board members after mismanagement audit findings
- Creates a 50% cap on advance state funding distributions with required auditor-developed intervention plan



SUMMARY: HUMAN RESOURCES



HB 1118

- Creates 120-hour paid maternal leave benefit for eligible state and local education employees; leave must be used within three weeks of childbirth
- Requires district implementation by October 1, 2026
- Leave must be used within three weeks of childbirth

SB 515

- Amends Georgia teacher recruitment and retention tax credit program to increase participating teachers (1,000 to 1,200)
- Reduces tax credit from \$3,000 to \$2,500 for new participants after 2026

SB 148 – KEMP SIGNED

- Hunting/gun safety curriculum, defibrillators
- Increases paid sick leave from three to five days

SB 150 – KEMP SIGNED

- Extends program for hiring retirees as teachers through 2030
- Allows districts to determine high-need areas



SUMMARY: SAFETY



HB 651

- Revises school zone speed camera rules to require permits, signage, and penalties
- Requires local referendum to approve the use of speed cameras

SB 523

- Requires schools to address antisemitism as religious discrimination
- Prohibits discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion
- Establishes statewide Title VI coordinator
- Requires complaint procedures and enforcement mechanisms



SUMMARY: STUDY COMMITTEES



House

- Study Committee on Local Government Taxation, Funding, and Budgeting
- Study Committee on Education Performance Metrics and Workforce Stability
- Study Committee on the Impact of Online Platforms on Georgia Youth

Senate

- Paid Student Teacher Study Committee
- Study Committee on Funding Charter School Capital Improvements



SUMMARY: BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS



HB 1308

- Would have expanded charter access to unused district facilities

SB 513

- Would have created stricter absenteeism interventions and penalties

SB 475

- Would have changed charter funding and dissolution thresholds

HB 1116 / HR 1114

- Proposed sales tax alternatives to property taxes
- Some provisions incorporated into SB 33 (statewide assessment cap and local fair share)

HB 1023

- Would have required weapon detection systems



SUMMARY: BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS



SB 74

- Would have removed immunity for librarians related to harmful materials

SB 497

- Would have required parent notification for non-instructional services

HB 634

- Would have expanded Special Needs Scholarship eligibility

SB 425

- Would have required cursive handwriting instruction by third grade



QUESTIONS



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