

House Bill 329

By: Representatives Lewis-Ward of the 109<sup>th</sup>, Wilkerson of the 38<sup>th</sup>, and Bennett of the 94<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to  
2 suspend school and school system ratings and report cards for the 2020-2021 school year,  
3 subject to certain exceptions; to provide that for the purposes of designating high needs  
4 schools, a school's school climate rating for the 2019-2020 school year shall apply to the  
5 2020-2021 school year as well; to revise a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia, relating to education, is amended in Code Section  
10 20-2-741, relating to positive behavioral interventions and supports and response to  
11 intervention, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as follows:

12 "(1) 'High needs school' means a public school which has received a school climate  
13 rating of '1-star' or '2-star' pursuant to Code Section 20-14-33; provided, however, that  
14 a public school's school climate rating for the 2019-2020 school year shall be applied for  
15 the 2020-2021 school year as well."

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16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-14-33, relating to indicators of quality of  
18 learning in individual schools and school systems, comparison to state standards, rating  
19 schools and school systems, providing information, and uniform definition of "dropout" and  
20 "below grade level," by revising subsection (d) as follows:

21 "(d) The office, in coordination with the Department of Education, shall establish and  
22 annually calculate individual school and school system ratings, which shall be a numerical  
23 score on a scale of 0-100, for each public school and school system in this state based on  
24 the indicators of quality of learning adopted pursuant to this Code section for student  
25 achievement, achievement gap closure, and student progress with a majority of the score  
26 based on student achievement; provided, however, that the calculation of individual school  
27 and school system ratings shall be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year except and  
28 only to the extent required to maintain eligibility for participation in any federal program  
29 which provides funding or other support for public education in Georgia."

30 **SECTION 3.**

31 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-14-34, relating to school and system report  
32 cards, required information, and dissemination of reports, by adding a new subsection to read  
33 as follows:

34 "(e) The preparation and distribution of report cards provided for in this Code section shall  
35 be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year except and only to the extent required to  
36 maintain eligibility for participation in any federal program which provides funding or  
37 other support for public education in Georgia."

38 **SECTION 4.**

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