

Senate Bill 447

By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Stone of the 23rd, Mullis of the 53rd, Dugan of the 30th, Miller of the 49th and others

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-161.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 work based learning programs, legislative intent, participation, standards, coordination, and  
3 funding, so as to provide for definitions regarding work based learning and related positions  
4 and programs; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-2-161.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to work based  
9 leaning programs, legislative intent, participation, standards, coordination, and funding, is  
10 amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

11 "(a)(1) The General Assembly finds that it would be beneficial to students, employers,  
12 and the economic health of the state to assist in providing highly trained, technologically  
13 sophisticated, and career oriented students which will aid in the development of a  
14 successful twenty-first century work force. By opening their doors to work based  
15 learning opportunities, employers can play an active role in shaping the quality of their  
16 future work force, by preparing potential leaders for their company and their community,  
17 and by helping shape future curriculum to create an educated work force for their industry  
18 as a whole. Work based learning programs can provide students the opportunity to work  
19 and learn in a real-world environment and prepare them for future career opportunities.  
20 Such work based learning opportunities can be accomplished by developing partnerships  
21 between and among the business community, industry, students, parents, school systems,  
22 and postsecondary education institutions.

23 (2) As used in this Code section, the term:

24 (A) 'Career day' and 'career fairs' means designated times in which students are allowed  
25 to explore a variety of industries or industry projects in one setting and may include an  
26 industry professional who can explain the industry or project and answer questions.

27 (B) 'Career technical student organizations' means student organizations related to a  
28 particular career with extracurricular activities that take place outside of the classroom.  
29 Such organizations provide a structure that promotes hands-on, project based learning  
30 of the program curriculum which allows students to experience the real-world  
31 application of their studies. Such structured learning experiences and projects shall  
32 enhance classroom curriculum and prepare students to be college and career ready.

33 (C) 'Cooperative education' or 'co-op' means a structured program that provides  
34 rigorous and relevant classroom curriculum with related paid work site experiences.  
35 Students in a co-op program are guided by a formal written training plan that defines  
36 specific classroom and workplace skills to be mastered in the program. Students must  
37 be enrolled in a concurrent course that corresponds directly to the job placement.

38 (D) 'Employability skill development' means a program in which a student is employed  
39 for no more than one school year in a job that is not directly correlated to a career  
40 pathway or course of study. The job shall be intended to improve the student's  
41 understanding of general workplace environment, to increase understanding of potential  
42 careers available to the student, or to add to an overall portfolio of the student's work  
43 experience. Employability skill development programs are intended as a precursor to  
44 future student placement in employment in the student's chosen career pathway or  
45 course of study.

46 (E) 'Field trip' means a school-sponsored visit by students to an industry project site  
47 where students can see or experience industry output directly, tour facilities, and speak  
48 with or hear from industry professionals.

49 (F) 'Industry guest speaker' means an industry professional who is invited to speak  
50 directly to a classroom or group of students for the purposes of sharing insight into a  
51 particular industry field, line of work, or industry project and to answer questions from  
52 students.

53 (G) 'Internship' means a temporary position that offers development of key skills and  
54 knowledge for a specific task or set of tasks. An adult present at the work site shall be  
55 responsible for the overall development of the student's skills while on the job and for  
56 the training of the student in the specific job role. The student is not entitled to a  
57 continuation of the internship after completing its original term.

58 (H) 'Job shadowing' means a temporary, short-term, unpaid position or program in  
59 which a student is paired with an employee for observation and understanding of a  
60 particular industry field or industry project or for application of a student's classroom  
61 curriculum in a workplace or project environment.

62 (I) 'Mock interview' means a structured program where students are guided through  
63 potential job interview scenarios in particular industry fields.

64 (J) 'School based enterprise' means a school sponsored, student-led business conducted  
65 onsite at the student's school and advised or administered by the local school.  
66 (K) 'Service-learning experience' means a position or program in which a student  
67 volunteers, without payment, with a nonprofit entity that is registered with the Secretary  
68 of State.  
69 (L) 'Work based learning' means a credit-earning course or program in a secondary or  
70 postsecondary curriculum which is developed in partnership with a company or set of  
71 companies and a local school and is designed around a specific industry role or project.  
72 Work based learning is an intentional and progressive sequence of authentic,  
73 employer-driven experiences that allow a student to develop and demonstrate the  
74 academic, technical, and employability skills supportive of his or her career goals and  
75 interests in actual or simulated workplace settings.  
76 (M) 'Youth apprentice' means a student participating in Georgia's Youth  
77 Apprenticeship Program established or approved by the Department of Education in  
78 conjunction with the Department of Labor and the Technical College System of  
79 Georgia and may include apprentice programs which meet the Federal Apprentice  
80 Standards of the United States Department of Labor or programs developed by  
81 collaborations between industry and education that are certified in the United States or  
82 internationally. A Youth Apprenticeship Program is a category of work based learning  
83 that integrates school based learning and a training plan coordinated with business,  
84 industry, and labor that facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary  
85 education by providing the apprentice the opportunity to earn a high school diploma,  
86 a postsecondary credential or diploma, or a completer certificate. The program results  
87 in the awarding of a portable, industry recognized skill certificate for participating  
88 students. Students participating in a Youth Apprenticeship Program integrate  
89 classroom curriculum with work based learning in the apprenticeship."

90

**SECTION 2.**

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