



2022 Georgia Legislative Update on Education Bills

No Left Turn in Education (NLTE) is a national non-partisan 501c3 organization with boots on the ground in 26 states including Georgia.

We are NOT paid lobbyists

Bills that passed the 2022 Session

NLTE will join Governor Kemp's "Education Bill Signing" event.

All are welcome to join at 1150 Dahlonega Hwy Cumming GA 30040 at 8:30am on Thursday, 4/28.

SB226 by Sen. Jason Anavitarte -Sale or Distribution of Harmful Materials to Minors; provisions of Code Section 16-12-103 shall be applicable to libraries operated by schools. Click [here](#) to see how legislators voted.

Kemp expected to sign on April 28th.

Summary

- Requires local boards of education to create a formal appeal process.
- Requires principals to investigate an appeal w/in 7 days of filed appeal.
- Authorizes principals to decide what is harmful to minors.
- Requires that the appealed book title be posted on a website accessible to the public for 24 months.

Concerns

- This bill allows school libraries to continue to provide physical books & online media resources that contain pornography & obscenity such as Gender Queer & Fun Home -scroll down at <https://bit.ly/3MjbNFg>.
- Principals are the sole decision makers on what is harmful.
- Constituents w/o public school students are NOT allowed to file an appeal.

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SB226 Cons Cont'd

- Bill stipulates if the appeal reaches the local school board, the party appealing can provide input in the form of a public comment at a local board meeting. Public comment does not allow for dialogue with school board.

SB 588 by Sen. Butch Miller -Local Boards of Education; all meetings of local boards of education shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law. [Click here](#) to see how legislators voted. Kemp expected to sign on April 28th.

Summary

- Requires local boards of education to make all meetings open to the public except for those that are legally exempt.
- Requires local boards to create a code of conduct for public meetings & post rules prominently on its main website.
- Members of the public may be removed from meetings for a disruption per the adopted code of conduct.

Concerns

- Community stakeholders are not invited to the creation of the code of conduct & we are concerned that it will be used to silence civil discourse.

HB517 - Rep. John Carson - Education; calculation of minimum revenue obligations for scholarships and tuition grants; provide for the inclusion of earned interest. [Click here](#) to see how legislators voted. Kemp expected to sign on April 28th.

Summary

- Increases the individual contribution from \$1k to \$2500.
- Increases the married contribution from \$2500 to \$5k.
- Increases LLC,S Chapter, Partnership contribution from \$10k to \$25k.

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HB1084 - by Rep. Will Wade- Education; curricula or training programs which encourage certain concepts. [Click here](#) to see how legislators voted. Kemp expected to sign on April 28th.

Summary

- Requires public local boards of education & charter systems to ensure that teaching, curriculum & training programs (employees & students) refrain from "divisive concepts" (defined in the bill) related to discrimination based on race.
- Prohibits school personnel from espousing personal political beliefs unto school personnel & students.
- Provides a formal complaint resolution process with time constraints for alleged violations.
- Provides a remedy if alleged violations have been proven.
- Requires the Professional Standards Commission ensures training programs for teacher certification do not include divisive concepts defined in the bill (relating to race discrimination).
- Creates an Executive Oversight Committee to provide governance & operational oversight for compliant high school athletic associations.
- Authorizes participating & compliant athletic associations to adopt a policy to prohibit a student whose gender is male from participating in female athletic events.

Concerns

- Bill does not address compelled speech (impacting school personnel and students) regarding gender fluidity which is a divisive concept.
- Bill does not address prohibiting coursework that may be required for a grade or extra credit that is associated with any organization involved in lobbying at the state, local or federal level. Or any organization involved advocating for social & public policy.

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- Bill stipulates if the appeal reaches the local school board, the party appealing can provide input in the form of a public comment at a local board meeting. Public comment can be 2- 5mins for most boards w/o response from board and is not a dialogue.
- Preferred language for this bill would have been to use biological male & female as opposed to student whose gender is male or female. The use of "Gender" creates a slippery slope especially with anticipated Title IX changes.
- Protecting female sports should have been codified without creating more committees & giving this level of authority to a high school athletics association.

HB1178 - by Rep. Jason Bonner - Parents Rights

Click [here](#) to see how legislators voted. Kemp expected to sign on April 28th.

Summary

- Parents have the right to enroll their child in a public school, private school, including religious school, or home school study program as they choose.
- Local school systems must adopt policies/regulations that promote parental involvement in public schools. This policy must be posted on the local school or governing body's website.
- Bill will provide transparency of primary curriculum by allowing parents to access the instructional material, as well as any student educational records within the review period.
- Procedures must also be established for a parent to object to instructional materials intended for use in his or her minor child's classroom or recommended by his or her teacher.

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- Bill allows parents/legal guardians to provide a written notice stating that photographs/video or voice recordings of their child are not permitted if they do so choose.
- Parents may also withdraw their child from sex education if a written objection to the prescribed course is provided.
- The superintendent or school principal must provide information to parents within 3 business days from request date.
- Establishes an appeal process for parent request denials.

Concerns

- Bill does NOT require schools to make supplemental curriculum accessible to parents or permanent guardians, even if requested. This has caused 90% of the transparency problems K-12 schools.
- Bill does not include language that states parents have the fundamental rights over their children's physical & mental healthcare decisions.

SB220- by Sen. Chuck Payne, Georgia Civics Renewal Act

Click [here](#) to see how legislators voted. Kemp expected to sign on April 28th.

Summary

- Provides a mandatory course of instruction in financial literacy for 11th & 12th grade students & related professional certification for educators.
- Creates a Georgia Commission on Civics Education.
- Commission can recommend legislation pertaining to civics education.

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SB220 Cont'd:

- A third party non-profit civics organization has been included on the commission.
- Member from the Georgia Superintendents Association & the Georgia School Board Association will also sit on the commission.
- The State DOE will encourage local school districts to recruit & utilize **supplemental** resources from **local & community organizations** that promote civics & civics education.
- Bill states " It is the intent of the General Assembly that the commission shall promote and enhance the education of students on the importance of civic involvement in a constitutional republic, the study of state and local government among the state's citizenry, the importance of civic engagement and public service, and communication and collaboration among organizations in the state that conduct civics education."

Concerns:

- Has the potential for enabling & empowering woke educators & 3rd party organizations to bring Action Civics into the public school classroom. Schools should be free of ALL political agendas.
- HB1178 gave parents no rights to request or access supplemental curriculum so why would we codify the use of supplemental curriculum?
- Bill does not provide language to prevent compelled speech for teachers & students.
- Commission can recommend legislation pertaining to civics education.

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SB220 Cont'd

- Bill could lead to potential private funding of curriculum.
- Bill does not provide language that would prevent the potential for issuing grades or extra credit for civic engagement. It seems this would be the purpose of the bill.
- Bill does not mention promoting American patriotism.

SB514 Sen. Clint Dixon "Unmask Georgia Students Act"

Passed and signed into law by Governor Kemp. Click [here](#) to see how legislators voted. Kemp expected to sign on April 28th.

Summary

- Bill prohibits local school boards or any school personnel from requiring students to wear a mask or face covering on school property.
- Bill does NOT require a reason or a student's health certification
- Bill prohibits disciplinary or academic consequences for students not electing to wear a mask or face covering.

NLTE Comment - Thank you Georgia Assembly & Governor Kemp!

Bills that did not pass the 2022 Session

HB1217 Rep. Chris Irwin - Student Technology Protection Act

See how legislators voted [here](#).

Summary

- Bill proposed to prevent children in K-12 from being able to access online content of pornography and obscenity through their online media center resources.
- PSA - It's an election year!

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HB60, HB999 Rep. Wes Cantrell - School Choice
Ralston killed the bill per [AJC article](#).

SB 601 - Senator Butch Miller - School Choice
Click [here](#) to see how legislators voted.

Summary

- Better efforts need to be made to get school choice passed next session.

NLTE supports a school choice bill that allows the funding to follow the child so that Georgia parents can make the best decisions for their children's educational needs.

HR1239 Rep. Jason Ridley -House Study Committee on Transparency and Accountability for Nonpublic Schools Benefiting from Public Funds

Summary

- A resolution to create a committee ensuring that private schools that receive public funding are not engaging in unlawful discrimination & encouraging divisive concepts such as stating one race is inherently superior to another or that a person of one race is responsible for the entire race.

NLTE Comments

This needs to be codified as opposed to a non-binding resolution.

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SB613- Sen Carden Summers - Common Humanity in Private Education

Summary

- Provides curriculum transparency in private & nonpublic schools.
- Prohibits the teachings & teacher trainings of Critical Theories regarding race & gender that leads to discrimination.
- Strengthens parents rights w/ respect to mental health concerns of their child brought up by the school.
- Prohibits developmentally inappropriate discussion of gender identity and sexual orientation in the school.

NLTE Comments

We will focus our efforts to get this passed next session.

Issues not addressed in the 2022 session

- Closing the obscenity exemption loophole for Georgia School libraries.
- School accreditation monopolies in Georgia - Cognia.
- Protecting minor children from the harmful practice of gender transitioning.
- Prohibiting compelled speech regarding gender fluidity & sexual orientation (schools should not ask a child to define their pronoun or sexual preference in k-12 public schools).
- Prohibiting the distribution of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones in K-12 public schools.
- Allowing parents to request and access supplemental curriculum.

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Conclusion

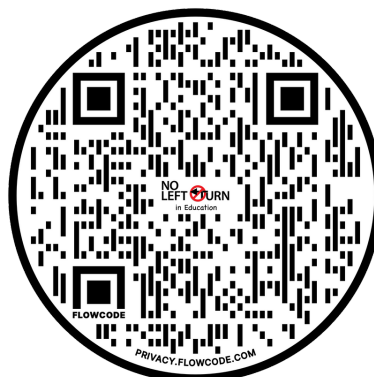
NLTE spent the legislative season engaging parents at the Capitol through testimony, speaking with legislators & attending peaceful rallies. We will continue to actively expose what is happening in Georgia schools, actively engage citizen & encourage all Georgians to do the same.

What can you do between now and next legislative session?

- Research how your legislators voted at www.legis.ga.gov.
- Vote for legislators who are fighting for our children, not against our children.
- Join or start an NLTE Chapter in Georgia!
- Donate to NLTE Georgia Chapter to help us keep fighting!

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Support our efforts by donating!



www.noleftturn.us