



Legislative Update SB106 Wrap around Services

- Rhonda Briggins

Georgia General Assembly

- 2021 General Assembly started on January 10, 2021
- Legislators are in-person with no pagers nor lobbyist
- All chamber meetings, committee meetings and events are virtual and streamed live daily
- Committee Assignments for Senate and awaiting House Assignments
- Lobbying activities are virtual
- Lots of new members...

GA Code § 20-2-742 (2019)

Amended Language

- (a) As used in this Code section, the term:
 - (1) "Multi-tiered system of supports" or "MTSS" means a systemic, continuous-improvement framework in which data based problem solving and decision making is practiced across all levels of the educational system for supporting students at multiple levels of intervention.
 - (2) "Public preschool through third grade" means a public preschool, a Pre-K program in a public school administered pursuant to Code Section 20-1A-4, and kindergarten through third grade in a public school.
 - (3) "Response to intervention" or "RTI" means a framework of identifying and addressing the academic and behavioral needs of students through a tiered system.
 - (4) "Weapon" shall include dangerous weapons, firearms, and hazardous objects as defined in Code Section 20-2-751.
 - (5) "wraparound services" include:
 - Provide, either directly or through referral, early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services that will enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of participating children;
 - Ensure that the level of services provided to families responds to their needs and circumstances;
 - Promote positive parent-child interactions;
 - Provide services to parents to support their role as parents (including parenting skills training and training in basic child development) and services to help the families move toward self-sufficiency (including educational and employment services, as appropriate);
 - Coordinate Head Start services with services provided by other programs in the state (including home-based services) and programs in the community (including programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities and programs for homeless infants and toddlers) to ensure a comprehensive array; of services (e.g., health and mental health services, family support services)
 - Ensure children with documented behavioral problems, including problems involving behavior related to prior or existing trauma, receive appropriate screening and referral;
 - Ensure formal linkages with local Head Start programs to provide for continuity of services for children and families;
 - Develop and implement a systematic procedure for transitioning children and parents from an Early Head Start program to a Head Start or other local early childhood education and development program;
 - Establish channels of communication between staff of the Early Head Start program and staff of a Head Start program or other local providers of early childhood education and development programs to facilitate the coordination of program services;
 - In the case of an Early Head Start agency that operates a program and that also provides Head Start services through the age of mandatory school attendance, ensure that children and families participating in the program receive such services through such age;
 - Ensure formal linkages with providers of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), with the state interagency coordinating council as established in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), and with the agency responsible for administering section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a); and Meet such other requirements concerning design and operation of the program described in subsection (a) as the Secretary may establish

- GA Code § 20-2-742 (2019)

Amended Language

- (b) No student in public preschool through third grade shall be expelled or suspended from school for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year without first receiving a multi-tiered system of supports, **including** response to intervention **and wraparound services**, unless such student possessed a weapon, illegal drugs, or other dangerous instrument or such student's behavior endangers the physical safety of other students or school personnel. If such student is receiving or has received a multi-tiered system of supports, the school shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this Code section. The school or program shall comply with all federal laws and requirements regarding obtaining parental consent during any advanced tier within the system of supports prior to certain screenings or evaluations.
- (c) In addition to the requirements in subsection (b) of this Code section, prior to assigning any student in preschool through third grade to out-of-school suspension for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year, if such student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or a plan under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the school or program shall also convene an IEP or Section 504 meeting to review appropriate supports being provided as part of such Individualized Education Program or Section 504 plan.

Legislative One - Pagers

Council's logos brought great credibility to the process.

The Council on Black Health and our national partners are asking the Georgia General Assembly to update GA Code § 20-2-742 to include the requirement that the multi-tiered systems of support provide access to wraparound services that meet Head Start Standards in order to reduce incidents of classroom exclusion of young children as a form of disciplinary action.

CURRENT CODE

GA Code § 20-2-742 (2019).

GA Code § 20-2-742 (2019). Multi-tiered system of supports prior to suspension or expulsion for certain students.

(b) No student in public preschool through third grade shall be expelled or suspended from school for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year without first receiving a multi-tiered system of supports, such as response to intervention, unless such student possessed a weapon, illegal drugs, or other dangerous instrument or such student's behavior endangers the physical safety of other students or school personnel. If such student is receiving or has received a multi-tiered system of supports, the school shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this Code section. The school or program shall comply with all federal laws and requirements regarding obtaining parental consent during any advanced fee within the system of supports prior to certain screenings or evaluations.

REQUESTED UPDATE

All Head Start and Early Head Start Programs are required to:

1. Provide, either directly or through referral, early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services that will enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of participating children
2. Ensure that the level of services provided to families responds to their needs and circumstances
3. Promote positive parent-child interactions
4. Provide services to parents to support their role as parents (including parenting skills training and training in basic child development) and services to help the families move toward self-sufficiency (including educational and employment services, as appropriate)
5. Coordinate Head Start services with services provided by other programs in the state (including home-based services) and programs in the community (including programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities and programs for homeless infants and toddlers) to ensure a comprehensive array of services (e.g., health and mental health services, family support services)
6. Ensure children with documented behavioral problems, including problems involving behavior related to prior or existing trauma, receive appropriate screening and referral
7. Ensure formal linkages with local Head Start programs to provide for continuity of services for children and families
8. Develop and implement a systematic procedure for transitioning children and parents from an Early Head Start program to a Head Start or other local early childhood education and development program
9. Establish channels of communication between staff of the Early Head Start program and staff of a Head Start program or other local providers of early childhood education and development programs to facilitate the coordination of program services
10. In the case of an Early Head Start agency that operates a program and that also provides Head Start services through the age of mandatory school attendance, ensure that children and families participating in the program receive such services through such age
11. Ensure formal linkages with providers of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) with the state interagency coordinating council as established in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.) and with the agency responsible for administering section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a)
12. Meet such other requirements concerning design and operation of the program described in subsection (a) as the Secretary may establish



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Lessons learned and next steps

- 1) Develop white paper and one-pagers
- 2) Letter requesting support from legislative committee
- 3) Letter of Support from Senator Davenport
- 4) Provide technical support regarding issue not actual legislation
- 5) Sent a host of data to the House Education Committee members
- 6) Bill still alive for 2022 Session
- 7) Educate legislators
- 8) Review other public policy issues to advance as a Council

SENATOR GAIL DAVENPORT
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The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

COMMITTEES:

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February 25, 2021

Dr. Melicia Whit-Glover
Executive Director
Council on Black Health
Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health
3315 Market Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Dr. Whit-Glover:

The Georgia General Assembly is currently considering Senate Bill 106 to amend Code Section 20-2-742 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to multi-tiered systems of supports prior to suspension or expulsion for certain students. I write to request technical assistance from the National Black Organization Partnership team of the Council on Black Health to provide details and evidence to support various options that will be considered in the amendment that is being reviewed by the Georgia General Assembly during the 2021 session.

Based on Council and partnership team's expertise in clarifying ways that various social or economic factors affect health at various life stages and the characteristics of effective programs that affect children, the Georgia General Assembly welcomes your guidance and advice regarding the potential health impacts of the proposed bill. As part of this request, we ask that you conduct research on the potential health impacts of a multi-tiered system of supports prior to suspension or expulsion of students in grades Pre-K – 12 and provide the Committee and all members of the Georgia General Assembly with the findings from this analysis.

We also request that you be available to assist the Committee by responding to questions from all members of the Georgia General Assembly related to the proposed bill. The information that you will provide may be submitted as "no position" written testimony at the bill hearing, or shared via testimony in person if appropriate, included as part of the public record for each bill, and posted online for the general public.

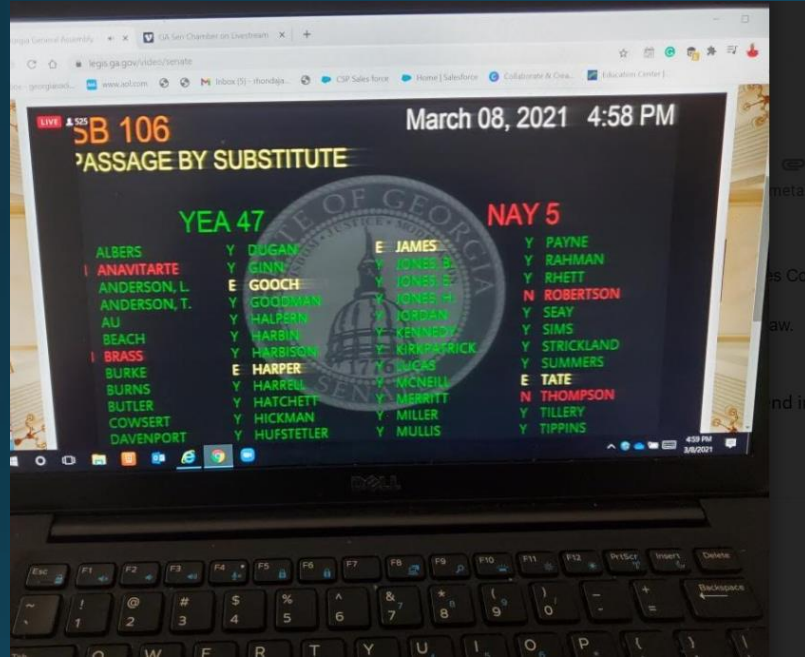
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Davenport".

Gail Davenport

SB106 pass Senate 47-5!!!



- Senate Bill sponsor Senator Gail Davenport (bill introduced from Preschool – 12th grade to include head start programs.)
- James Woodall from NAACP on the ground CBH advocate
- Strategy meeting planned with NAACP Legislative team on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 10am.
- Bill went to Senate Education, Rules, Senate floor with passage 47-5!
- (Bill amended on Senate floor from 8th grade back down to 3rd grade)
- Bill transmitted to House Education, first hearing bill confusion...legal counsel never clean bill once amended on Senate floor.
- Opposition from the Teachers Association Georgia Education Association ---requested to remove “multi-trier system” only wanted intervention and wrap-around services
- Some legislators need buy-in ...felt the previous bill dealt with wrap-around services
- Received lots of GOP support
- Email from House Education Committee ask us to come back next year...

Questions

