



GEORGIA  
CENTER *for* OPPORTUNITY

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# 2019 LEGISLATOR REPORT CARD

on school choice for the Georgia General Assembly



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# GEORGIA'S CHILDREN CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT

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Thousands of students in Georgia are being left behind by schools that fail to meet their needs. Many of these families are trapped in failing schools simply because of their zip code and income level.

Our state can do better, but we have a narrow window of opportunity to help these families before it's too late. We can't afford to wait for reforms to happen two or three years down the line—change is needed today to ensure our most vulnerable students get the education they need in order to flourish.

That's why, here at the Georgia Center for Opportunity, we advocate tirelessly for the broadest range of educational choices possible. And we're happy to report that over the last decade, Georgia has made significant strides in a positive direction. But there is so much left to do.

This report card aims to provide insight into school choice bills that made it to a vote in 2019 and how your elected leaders voted.

**Join us in the fight for school choice by visiting [GeorgiaOpportunity.org](https://GeorgiaOpportunity.org)**





# SUMMARY OF GRADED BILLS

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**SB 173, introduced in the Senate, and HB 301, introduced in the House, would create an Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program in Georgia.**

Through an ESA program, parents can sign up to have their child's state K-12 education funding deposited into an account that they can use to pay for a variety of state approved schools, courses, programs and services, including:

- online courses
- tutoring
- virtual schooling
- private schooling
- and special education services or adaptive technologies.

The program proposed in SB 173 is capped at 0.5 percent of public school students in Georgia in its first year and gives priority access to students in need:

- military students
- foster students
- students with special needs
- and students in lower-income families.

By providing access to a range of educational options, ESAs empower families with the ability to create a customized education plan that maximizes a child's natural learning abilities.




















By using existing education dollars, the program is revenue neutral to the state and stands to increase per-pupil spending at the district level.
































GEOFF DUNCAN  
Lt. Governor

# GEORGIA STATE SENATE

SENATOR	SB 173 (SV #112)	2019 SCORE
 ALBERS, John (R) 56TH	Y	A★
 ANDERSON, Lee (R) 24TH	Y	A
 ANDERSON, Tonya (D) 43RD	N	F
 BEACH, Brandon (R) 21ST	E	NA
 BLACK, Ellis (R) 8TH	N	F
 BRASS, Matt (R) 28TH	Y	A
 BURKE, Dean (R) 11TH	N	F
 BUTLER, Gloria (D) 55TH	N	F
 COWSERT, Bill (R) 46TH	Y	A
 DAVENPORT, Gail (D) 44TH	N	F
 DOLEZAL, Greg (R) 27TH	Y	A★
 DUGAN, Mike (R) 30TH	E	NA
 GINN, Frank (R) 47TH	Y	A
 GOOCH, Steve (R) 51ST	Y	A
 HARBIN, Marty (R) 16TH	Y	A★
 HARBISON, Ed (D) 15TH	N	F
 HARPER, Tyler (R) 7TH	N	F
 HARRELL, Sally (D) 40TH	N	F
 HEATH, Bill (R) 31ST	Y	A

SENATOR	SB 173 (SV #112)	2019 SCORE
 HENSON, Steve (D) 41ST	N	F
 HILL, Jack (R) 4TH	N	F
 HUFSTETLER, Chuck (R) 52ND	Y	A★
 JACKSON, Lester (D) 2ND	N	F
 JAMES, Donzella (D) 35TH	N	F
 JONES II, Harold (D) 22ND	N	F
 JONES, Burt (R) 25TH	Y	A★
 JONES, Emanuel (D) 10TH	N	F
 JORDAN, Jennifer (D) 6TH	N	F
 KARINSHAK, Zahra (D) 48TH	N	F
 KENNEDY, John (R) 18TH	Y	A
 KIRK, Greg (R) 13TH	N	F
 KIRKPATRICK, Kay (R) 32ND	Y	A
 LIGON, JR., William (R) 3RD	Y	A
 LUCAS, David (D) 26TH	N	F
 MARTIN IV, P.K. (R) 9TH	Y	A
 MILLER, Butch (R) 49TH	N	F
 MULLIS, Jeff (R) 53RD	E	NA
 ORROCK, Nan (D) 36TH	N	F

SENATOR	SB 173 (SV #112)	2019 SCORE
 PARENT, Elena (D) 42ND	N	F
 PAYNE, Chuck (R) 54TH	Y	A★
 RAHMAN, Sheikh (D) 5TH	N	F
 RHETT, Michael 'Doc', (D) 33RD	N	F
 ROBERTSON, Randy (R) 29TH	Y	A★
 SEAY, Valencia (D) 34TH	N	F
 SIMS, Freddie (D) 12TH	N	F
 STONE, Jesse (R) 23RD	Y	A★
 STRICKLAND, Brian (R) 17TH	Y	A★
 TATE, Horacena (D) 38TH	N	F
 THOMPSON, Bruce (R) 14TH	Y	A
 TILLERY, Blake (R) 19TH	Y	A
 TIPPINS, Lindsey (R) 37TH	N	F
 UNTERMAN, Renee (R) 45TH	Y	A★
 WALKER III, Larry (R) 20TH	Y	A
 WATSON, Ben (R) 1ST	Y	A★
 WILKINSON, John (R) 50TH	Y	A
 WILLIAMS, Nikema (D) 39TH	N	F

\* To see legislator grades for previous legislative sessions, please visit [www.georgiaopportunity.org](http://www.georgiaopportunity.org)

**HONOR ROLL** ★ Designation earned by legislators for sponsoring or cosponsoring legislation to expand school choice options.































DAVID RALSTON  
Speaker of the House

# GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Unfortunately, no school choice legislation received a vote in the House this year, resulting in insufficient information to score individual House members. However, honorable mention goes to those who sponsored or co-sponsored legislation that would give parents and students more quality education options.

The following Representatives receive an honorable mention for sponsoring HB 301:

 Timothy Barr (R), District 103	★	 Jodi Lott (R), District 122	★
 Josh Bonner (R), District 72	★	 Chuck Martin (R), District 49	★
 Michael Caldwell (R), District 20	★	 Karen Mathiak (R), District 73	★
 Wes Cantrell (R), District 22	★	 Marc Morris (R), District 26	★
 Kasey Carpenter (R), District 4	★	 Jason Ridley (R), District 6	★
 John Carson (R), District 46	★	 Dale Rutledge (R), District 109	★
 Heath Clark (R), District 147	★	 Ed Setzler (R), District 35	★
 Barry Fleming (R), District 121	★	 Ron Stephens (R), District 164	★
 Sherri Gilligan (R), District 24	★	 Valencia Stovall (D), District 74	★
 Micah Gravely (R), District 67	★	 Steve Tarvin (R), District 2	★
 Brett Harrell (R), District 106	★	 Scot Turner (R), District 21	★
 Todd Jones (R), District 25	★	 Bill Werkheiser (R), District 157	★

HONOR ROLL ★





# GEORGIA STUDENTS ARE SHORT ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS



# CASTING A VISION FOR 2020

When it comes to school choice, we're confident that the best is yet to come. That's why we're excited about 2020 as a key year to see Educational Scholarship Accounts become a reality. Let's keep pushing forward so that, one day, all of Georgia's children have access to the best educational fit for them.