

SENATE BILL 72

SECTION 2.

Code Section 20-2-290 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to organization of schools under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

"(a)(1) The board of education of any local school system is authorized to organize or reorganize the schools and fix the grade levels to be taught at each school in its jurisdiction. Local school systems which have organized their schools in such a manner that facilities house grades six, seven, and eight or grades seven and eight shall qualify for the middle school program for students in grade levels so housed. A school which houses grades other than six, seven, or eight shall only be eligible if it has a full-time principal for grades seven and eight or six, seven, and eight and another full-time principal for grades above or below the middle school grades; provided, however, that such schools also meet all other provisions of this Code section. Schools with students in the sixth grade shall not be eligible for the middle school program if the sixth grades are not housed in middle schools which also contain both grades seven and eight. Further, two or more adjacent local school systems shall qualify for the middle school program if through their contractual arrangement they jointly meet the requirements of this Code section and the criteria and standards prescribed by the state board.

(2) The board of education of any local school system shall be authorized to employ school administrative managers in lieu of or in addition to assistant principals. Such school administrative managers shall not be required to be certificated by the Professional Standards Commission but

shall have such qualifications as determined by the local board with a minimum requirement of a bachelor's degree. The duties of school administrative managers shall be to oversee and manage the financial and business affairs of the school. The principal shall retain authority over the curriculum and instructional areas. The school administrative manager shall report directly to the principal. **In the event that a local board considers hiring or utilizing school administrative managers pursuant to this subsection, it shall receive and give all due consideration to recommendations by the school council as to whether or not to utilize such position and as to selection of the manager.** Existing employees of the local board shall be eligible to serve as school administrative managers if they meet other qualifications and requirements established by the local board for such position. For purposes of earning funds for such positions, school administrative managers shall be treated in all respects the same as assistant principals."