

# House Rural Development Council

Coastal College of Georgia

Brunswick, Georgia

*On Behalf of:*

**Georgia Vocational Agricultural Teachers  
Association (GVATA)**

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# Overview

- About GVATA
- Assumptions
- Pros
- Cons
- Alternatives

# About GVATA and its Members

- 451 GVATA Members (Active Ag Teachers)
- 333 Programs
- Enrollment
  - 71,207 Students (37,467 HS/33,740 MS)
  - 42,288 FFA Members
- Pathways
  - 34 Pathways
    - Animal Science
    - Agricultural Mechanics
    - Diversified Agriculture
    - Food Science
    - Forestry/Natural Resources
    - Plant Science/Horticulture

# Assumptions Based on HB 778

- Does Not Change
  - CTAE teachers remain local BOE employees
  - Principals/Counselors still provide local services
  - QBE funding unchanged for CTAE
  - Federal Perkins funds split initially unchanged
  - CTAE Teacher Certification remains unchanged
- Changes
  - CTAE teachers will be teaching new standards
  - CTAE teachers will potentially teach new TCSG-developed courses
  - TCSG becomes “State Eligible Agency” for federal Perkins
  - Accountability for Extended Day/Year funding with TCSG
  - CTAE leadership and state staff under direction of TCSG

# Potential Positive Outcomes

- Further alignment of content standards with employers' needs for selected technical pathways
- Increase dual enrollees participating in CTSO leadership
- Sustain policymakers' budgetary support for CTAE
- Additional assessment tools for CTAE Students

# Concerns with CTAE Transfer to TCSG

- Mission Alignment -- New Content Standards and TCSG-approved courses narrows focus of current agricultural education programs
  - TCSG Mission: develop globally competitive workforce
  - TCSG Vision: acknowledged as world leader in technical education
  - TCSG not historically focused statewide on agricultural education
    - Current offerings: Agribusiness, Agricultural Technology, Food Production, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Landscaping, and Turfgrass Management.
    - Not offered at every TCSG institution

# Concerns with CTAE Transfer to TCSG

- Mission Alignment -- New Content Standards and TCSG-approved courses narrows focus of agricultural education programs
  - Ag Ed Customers: Students go back to farms and UGA, FVSU, ABAC to major in agriculture.
  - Ag Ed Pathways are broader than just technical education
    - Most popular HS courses – Basic Agricultural Science, Animal Science Technology and Biotechnology, General Horticulture and Plant Science
  - Middle School and Elementary Students – some focus on agricultural literacy/beyond just career education

# Concerns with CTAE Transfer to TCSG

- Transformation of Ag Ed Student Population
  - Ag Ed Goal: Develop future agriculturalists for every aspect of the food and fiber supply chain
    - Farmers, agricultural mechanics, agronomists, poultry scientists, veterinarians, ag lenders, extension agents, etc.
  - High demand jobs in agriculture are broader than technical education's current footprint
  - Current Brand: You can take ag ed courses, be in the FFA, and pursue any career you desire
  - Changed parental and student perception of agricultural education under TCSG
  - Unknown: Colleges' perception of newly developed TCSG standards

# Other Concerns

- The unknown of five, ten, twenty years from now
- TCSG's limited experience with FFA/SAE
  - FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience are critical to agricultural education's three-ring model
- Diluted or changed focus of Area Teachers
- Local BOEs acting as fiscal agent for Area Teachers
- Young Farmer teachers' role in TCSG
  - YF teachers or classroom agriculture teachers required to teach at TCSG?
- The lost of an elected official as the leader
- Next generations of ag ed leaders within TCSG
  - Retention/Replacement of current State Staff
- Erosion of Perkins funds to CTAE

# Alternatives

- Thanks to prior support, the status quo in agricultural education is largely succeeding:
  - Turning out right mix of workforce and college prep.
  - Rely on industry partners to confirm meeting employers' demands
  - SB 330 codifies the importance of agricultural education
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> largest FFA Association in the nation
  - *But* we can always do better
- Focus on recruiting and retaining excellent teachers
- Fully Fund Extended Day/Year (FY '19 short \$175,178)
- Agree with 2017 Council's second recommendation:
  - Increase part-time to full-time and add new positions/coordinators for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education/work-based learning based on need.

# *Questions*

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