

**DISCOVERY REGIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**Zone 7 Completion  
School**



Established August 2024

# BOOTS ON THE GROUND



Starting a  
Completion  
School from  
the Ground Up



# MEET THE TEAM



Dr. Rowland  
Cummings  
Superintendent



Shanna Bogeajis  
Chief Financial  
Officer, Human  
Resources Director



Dr. Sarah Beecham  
Instructional  
Coordinator



Dr. Alvin Hudson  
Director of  
Operations

## MISSION

**To provide a flexible learning platform where students can maximize their potential and produce positive outcomes.**

## VISION

**To provide a pathway for students for high school completion and beyond.**

# HB 87 Completion Special Schools Overview

# Completion Special School Delineations

	Completion Special School (CSS)
<b>Entity Status</b>	LEA and Program
<b>Enrollment</b>	Assigned regional zone as outlined in law; specific requirements for CSS LEA vs. program students
<b>Funding</b>	Funding for CSS LEA students distributed directly to CSS; Funding for program students distributed by participating district
<b>Accountability</b>	CSS LEA students reported as students of LEA. CSS program students reported back to their school of residence.

# What is a Completion Special School (CSS)?

- ✓ Public School
- ✓ Students in grades 9 – 12
- ✓ Programs and services include, but not limited to:
  - Nontraditional education
  - Dropout prevention and academic intervention
  - HS credit recovery
  - Opportunities for weekday, evening, and weekend classes
- ✓ Governing Board
- ✓ LEA for administrative purposes
- ✓ Subject to state and federal accountability requirements

# What students are eligible to attend a CSS?

## CSS LEA Students (Direct Enrollment)

### ❖ Option 1

- 18 years of age or older;
- eligible for enrollment in appropriate education programs;
- meets definition of dropout; **AND**
- not currently enrolled in a public school in this state.

OR

### ❖ Option 2

- Attending Youth Challenge Academy; or
- In custody of correctional facility, detention facility, jail, prison, or other lawful place of confinement *for the period of such attendance or custody.*

OR

### ❖ Option 3

- Enrolled as of June 30, 2023 (grandfathered in)

OR

## CSS Program Students (Resident LEA Enrollment)

- Attend CSS pursuant to current *collaborative operating agreement* between CSS and resident school system;
- Not enrolled in CSS;
- Enrolled in resident school system;
- May attend one or more classes in CSS credit recovery, dropout prevention, or academic intervention program on a part-time basis;
- CSS has available classroom space;
- Not included in student count for CSS.

# Collaborative Operating Agreement

**Collaborative Operating Agreement** – an agreement between a local board of education and a CSS to provide for education programs and services focused on dropout recovery and prevention or high school credit recovery for students in grades 9 – 12 residing in the local school system represented by such local board of education.

- **What law says must be included in Collaborative Operating Agreement:**

- **Funding:** Funding to be provided by resident school system for program students attending a CSS (no less than required in Code Section 20-2-2096.6)
- **Student Liaisons:** Number, qualifications, and relevant terms and conditions of student liaisons employed by resident school system to provide academic support and monitoring for program students attending a CSS
- **State Board Requirements:** Other requirements that may be established by the State Board.



# CSS Funding

## CSS LEA Students

(Students Enrolled at CSS)

\$ Funding distributed by GaDOE

\$ CSS LEA earnings:

- QBE formula and QBE grants earned based on students enrolled;
- Proportional share of state grants based on students enrolled;
- Proportional share of federal funds based on eligibility and student enrollment; AND
- Difference between the actual QBE formula earnings and potential QBE formula earnings with alternative ed weight substitution.

## CSS Program Students

(Students Enrolled at Resident LEA)

\$ Funding distributed by resident school system

\$ CSS Program earnings (required):

- Proportional share of QBE formula earnings, QBE grants, and Federal funds earned by resident school system (based on student segments)

\$ CSS Program earnings (authorized):

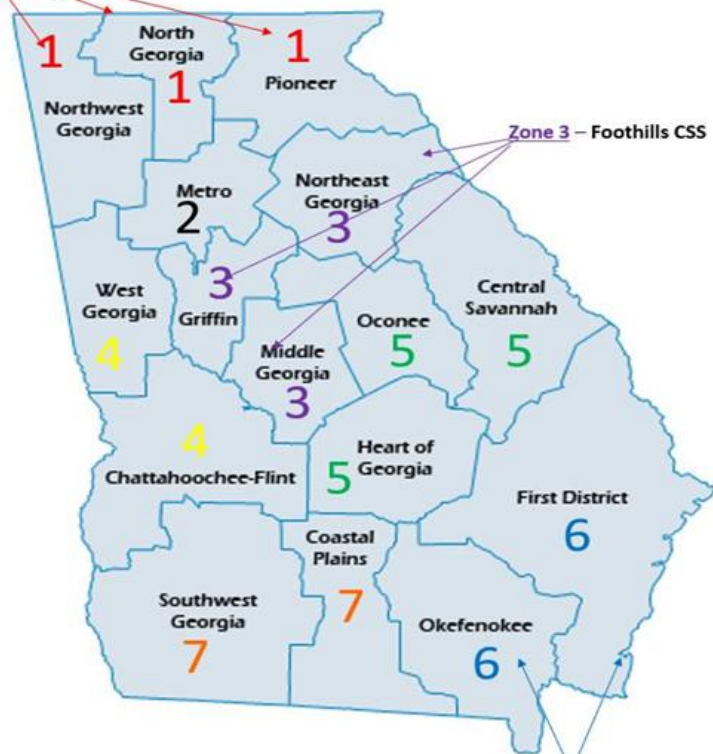
- Local funds to supplement state and federal funds provided
- In-kind services (ex. shared use of facilities, technology and resources)

# CSS Attendance Zones

- Established seven (7) attendance zones throughout the state for CSS operation
- Attendance zones outlined by RESA service areas
- Only one CSS may operate in each attendance zone;
- Exceptions/Considerations:
  - State Board may permit school **to continue** operating outside of attendance zone until new completion school in operation or June 30, 2028, whichever earlier;
  - State Board may permit school to operate outside of attendance zone to provide services for students in Youth Challenge Academy or students in custody of correctional facility, detention facility, jail, prison, or other lawful place of confinement. State Board may choose which school provides services.
  - State board may permit student to attend school outside of attendance zone if student lives in a county contiguous to the school **and** the school is closer than the next completion school.

# CSS Attendance Zones

Zone 1 – Mountain Education CSS



Zone 6 – Coastal Plains CSS

# CSS Governance Structure

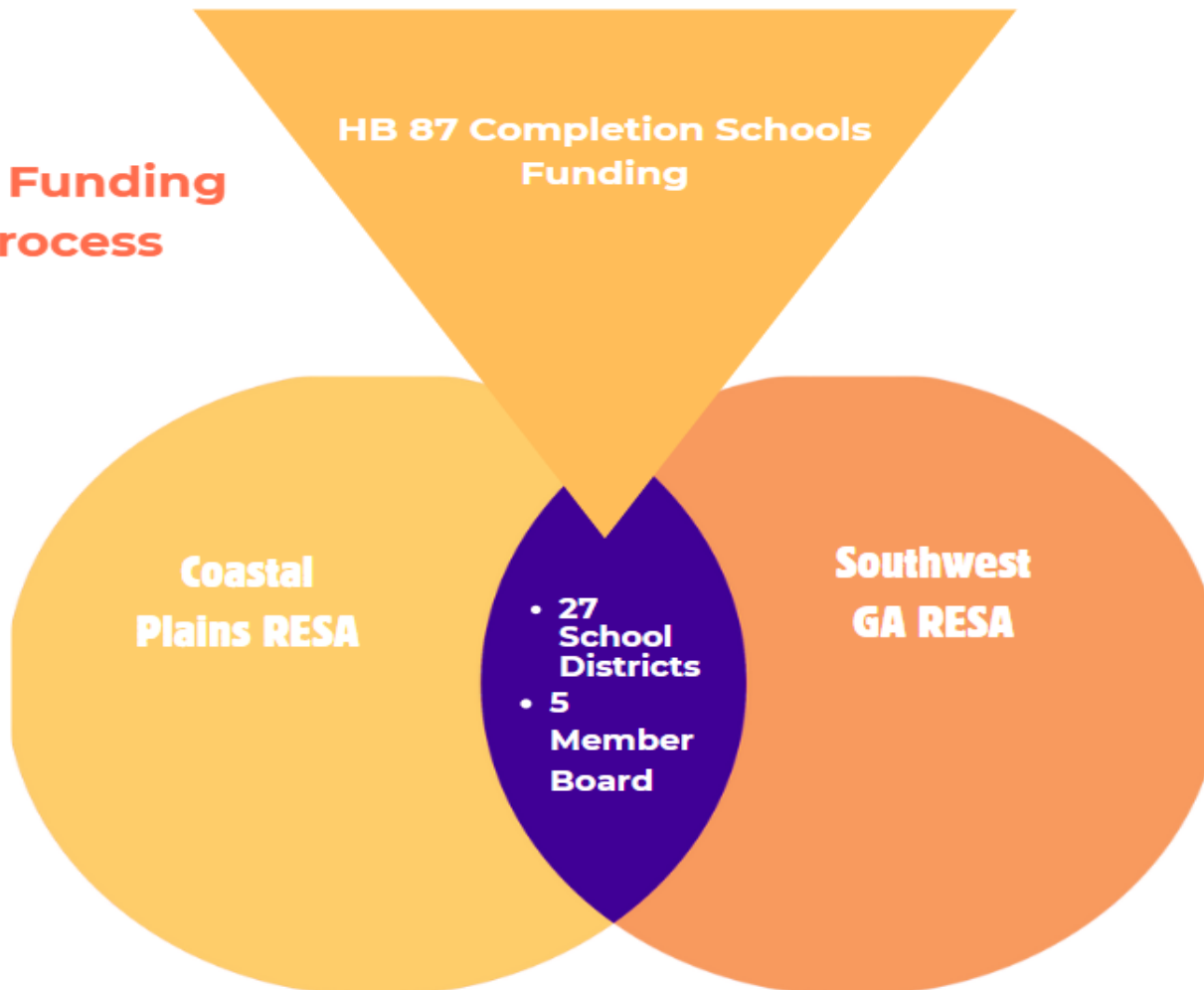
## CSS Governing Board Membership

- **Ex-Officio members** - Each district superintendent with a collaborative operating agreement
- **Voting Members** – Five members elected by board
  - If fewer than five ex-officio members – all members vote
  - Two-year staggered terms beginning July 1 and ending June 30
- **Chairperson** – elected by the voting members
  - First chairperson serves until June 30<sup>th</sup> after elected
  - All other chairpersons serve two-year terms, beginning July 1 and ending June 30

## CSS Superintendent

- Appointed by state board upon recommendation from State School Superintendent and CSS governing board
- Written contract for at least one year but no more than three years
- Cannot be immediate family member of governing board member
- May concurrently serve as principal, teacher, or other staff position as directed by the governing board

## **The Funding Process**





## HB 87



### SWG RESA

Baker  
Calhoun  
Decatur  
Dougherty  
Early  
Grady  
Lee  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Pelham  
Seminole  
Terrell  
Thomas  
Thomasville  
Worth



### Coastal Plains Resa

Ben Hill  
Berrien  
Brooks  
Colquitt  
Cook  
Echols  
Irwin  
Lanier  
Lowndes  
Tift  
Turner  
Valdosta

# OPERATIONS

- Create school name; mission & vision statements; colors; logo.
- Obtain facility, building, program and school codes.
- Establish central office location; select sites; update building and technology infrastructure; order and outfit sites with furniture and equipment.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with resident school districts.
- Create website; create school calendar; establish online application process.
- Establish and publish internal policies, student and employee handbooks, and operational guidance.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

- Recruit and hire a CFO.
- Establish bank account for drawdown of funds.
- Establish a processes for staff recruitment, hiring and onboarding.
- Establish procedures for payroll and annual compliance.
- Perform as fiscal agent for all Title funds.



# CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- Select standards based digital learning management system.
- Select an EOC test preparation and diagnostic tool.
- Ensure student progress and data are monitored across all educational and LMS platforms.
- Employ hybrid learning environments to include digital, remote, and one to one instruction.
- Seek Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC) accreditation.

# INSIGHTS GAINED

- Team approach is non-negotiable.
- Communication is crucial when managing a remote staff.
- Experienced central office staff is vital; knowledge of aspect of alternative education is key.
- Train all site personnel (site directors, teachers, counselors, success coaches, receptionist, registrars) on specific job duties.
- Research online learning management systems thoroughly.
- Always inspect what you expect.

# WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- 5 sites (Ben Hill, Lanier, Pelham, Valdosta, and Irwin)-- continuing to work towards expanding Zone 7.
- 25 SY24 graduates; graduation rates for sites between 50% - 71%; 87% average attendance rate for all sites.
- Fully certified staff- both central office and site based.
- DRHS accredited through Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC).
- Employee Orientation <https://secure.smores.com/n/jeu98>
- Professional Learning Schedule <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1k5ZI5a3Oof0Ay0TNeKJTQEKa3Dui3uqB/edit>

# DRHS—OUR WHY



**discoveryregional.org**

**Questions & Comments**