

1 HB486
2 210481-1
3 By Representatives Scott and Meadows
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 02-MAR-21

SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Extended Learning Opportunities Act.

This bill would provide a process for public K-12 students to participate in extended learning opportunities outside of the typical classroom, as approved by the State Board of Education, a local board of education, or a public charter school, and to receive credit for that participation.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To create the Extended Learning Opportunities Act; to add Chapter 46C to Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for the enrollment of students in extended learning opportunities; to provide a means for allowing students to request and receive credit for participation in extended learning opportunities; to provide a process for awarding

1 certificates of completion; and to authorize the State Board
2 of Education to adopt rules as necessary to implement the act.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. Chapter 46C is added to Title 16 of the
5 Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

6 §16-46C-1. This chapter shall be known and may be
7 cited as the Extended Learning Opportunities Act.

8 §16-46C-2.

9 The Legislature finds and declares all of the
10 following:

11 (1) Students attending schools in this state would
12 benefit from experiencing extended learning opportunities
13 outside of the traditional classroom.

14 (2) Students are capable of learning both inside and
15 outside of the traditional classroom.

16 (3) Students should earn credit for approved
17 extended learning opportunities that facilitate their mastery
18 of required skills or fulfilling state standards.

19 §16-46C-3.

20 For the purposes of this chapter, the following
21 terms shall have the following meanings:

22 (1) EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY. An
23 out-of-classroom learning experience, approved by the State
24 Board of Education, a local board of education, or a public
25 charter school, that provides a student with any of the
26 following:

27 a. Enrichment opportunities.

1 b. Career readiness or employability skills
2 opportunities, including internships, pre-apprenticeships, and
3 apprenticeships.

4 c. Any other approved educational opportunity.

5 (2) STUDENT. Includes elementary and secondary
6 school students attending K-12 non-charter public schools and
7 public charter schools, as those schools are defined in
8 Section 16-6F-4.

9 §16-46C-4.

10 Commencing with the 2021-2022 school year, the State
11 Board of Education and each local board of education and
12 public charter school shall routinely inform students and
13 their parents of the ability to earn credit for participating
14 in extended learning opportunities. Employees of the State
15 Board of Education, local boards of education, and public
16 charter schools may assist students, and their parents, in
17 completing any enrollment processes required for participating
18 in approved extended learning opportunities. Permission is not
19 required from the local board of education or public charter
20 school in which the student is enrolled and attending, for a
21 parent to enroll his or her student in any approved extended
22 learning opportunity; however, before participating in an
23 extended learning opportunity, both parent and student shall
24 sign an agreement detailing all program requirements, in a
25 form provided by the State Board of Education.

26 §16-46C-5.

1 (a) An extended learning opportunity shall count as
2 credit toward graduation requirements and the achievement of
3 applicable state standards for students, upon approval of the
4 extended learning opportunity by the State Board of Education,
5 a local board of education or public charter school. To
6 receive credit, a student shall submit a written request for
7 credit and proof of successful completion of the approved
8 extended learning opportunity, to the designated administrator
9 of the school he or she is attending. The State Board of
10 Education shall adopt, and each local board of education and
11 public charter school distribute and implement, an extended
12 learning opportunities policy that provides all of the
13 following:

14 (1) An application process for accepting and
15 approving extended learning opportunities offered for credit
16 by outside entities.

17 (2) A list of entities that are eligible to submit
18 applications for offering extended learning opportunities.
19 Eligible entities shall include, but not be limited to, all of
20 the following:

- 21 a. Nonprofit organizations.
- 22 b. Businesses with established locations in the
23 state.
- 24 c. Trade associations.
- 25 d. Any of the Armed Forces of the United States,
26 subject to applicable age requirements.

1 (3) A process for students to follow for requesting
2 credit.

3 (4) Criteria the local board of education or public
4 charter school shall use to determine whether a proposed
5 extended learning opportunity shall be approved to count
6 toward credit.

7 (5) Criteria the local board of education or public
8 charter school shall use to award a student a certificate of
9 completion and credit for completing an approved extended
10 learning opportunity. The criteria shall include, but not be
11 limited to, allowing a student to demonstrate competencies
12 through performance-based assessments and other methods
13 independent of instructional time and credit hours.

14 (b) An entity approved by the State Board of
15 Education to offer an extended learning opportunity shall be
16 automatically qualified to offer that extended learning
17 opportunity for all local boards of education and public
18 charter schools in the state.

19 (c) A student who successfully completes an approved
20 extended learning opportunity, and satisfies criteria
21 established for the award of a certificate of completion and
22 credit pursuant to subdivision (a) (5), shall be considered to
23 have completed all of the required coursework for the
24 particular course. If an approved extended learning
25 opportunity satisfies all required coursework for a high
26 school course, the student shall also be considered to have

1 satisfied the equivalent number of credits toward his or her
2 graduation requirements.

3 §16-46C-6.

4 Any policy or procedure adopted by the State Board
5 of Education, a local board of education, or a public charter
6 school for participating in an extended learning opportunity,
7 shall provide every student an equal opportunity to
8 participate and satisfy established time lines and
9 requirements for purposes of transcribing credits and state
10 reporting.

11 §16-46C-7.

12 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as
13 necessary to implement this chapter.

14 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
15 first day of the third month following its passage and
16 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.