

# STEWART COUNTY SCHOOLS PROCEDURES FOR HB91

\*A person who is no longer enrolled in a Georgia public school and who previously failed to receive a high school diploma in this school system or was denied graduation solely for failing to achieve a passing score on one or more portions of the graduation tests may petition the Stewart County Board of Education by completing the Stewart County Schools O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281.1 PETITION FORM and submitting it to the **Stewart County High School Counseling Department** via mail at **Stewart County High School, P.O. Box 706, Lumpkin, Georgia 31815** or in person at **Stewart County High School, 7062 Green Grove Road, Lumpkin, Georgia 31815** to determine his or her eligibility to receive a high school diploma, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281.1, based on the graduation requirements in effect when the student first entered ninth grade. Questions shall be directed to the High School Counselor at (229) 838-4301.

\*Once the High School Counselor under the guidance of the local board of education confers a diploma upon an individual meeting such requirements, the local board shall transmit to the Georgia Department of Education, in accordance with department procedures, the number of diplomas awarded.

\*The local board of education may date the high school diploma as the expected year of graduation or the date the diploma was actually conferred.

\*Students receiving diplomas pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281.1 shall not be counted as graduates in the graduation rate calculations for affected schools and school systems, either retroactively or in current or future calculations.

\*Stewart County School System will report annually by July 15, of each year, the total number of diplomas awarded during that fiscal year to students who previously failed to receive a high school diploma in this state or were denied graduation solely for failing to achieve a passing score on the graduation tests. Reporting cycles will follow the state fiscal year from July 1 through June 30. Stewart County School System needs only to report the total aggregate number of diplomas awarded for that fiscal year. For the report due on July 15, 2015, Stewart County School System will report the total number of diplomas awarded pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281.1 from March 30, 2015, through June 30, 2015.

\* Stewart County School System shall annually advertise the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281.1, one time no later than January 15, 2016, one time no later than January 15, 2017, and one time no later than January 15, 2018. Such advertisement shall be made in a local newspaper of general circulation, which shall be the same newspaper in which other legal announcements of the local board of education are advertised. At a minimum, such notice shall consist of two columns measuring at least ten inches in length and measuring at least four and one-half inches in combined width, and include:

- a. A headline printed in at least a 24 point boldface type;
- b. An explanation of who qualifies for the petitioning option;
- c. An explanation of the petition process;
- d. A contact name and phone number; and
- e. Indicating that there is no deadline by which a petition may be submitted.