



Student Attendance & School Climate Committee (SASCC)

Georgia Senate Study Committee on
Combating Absenteeism in Schools

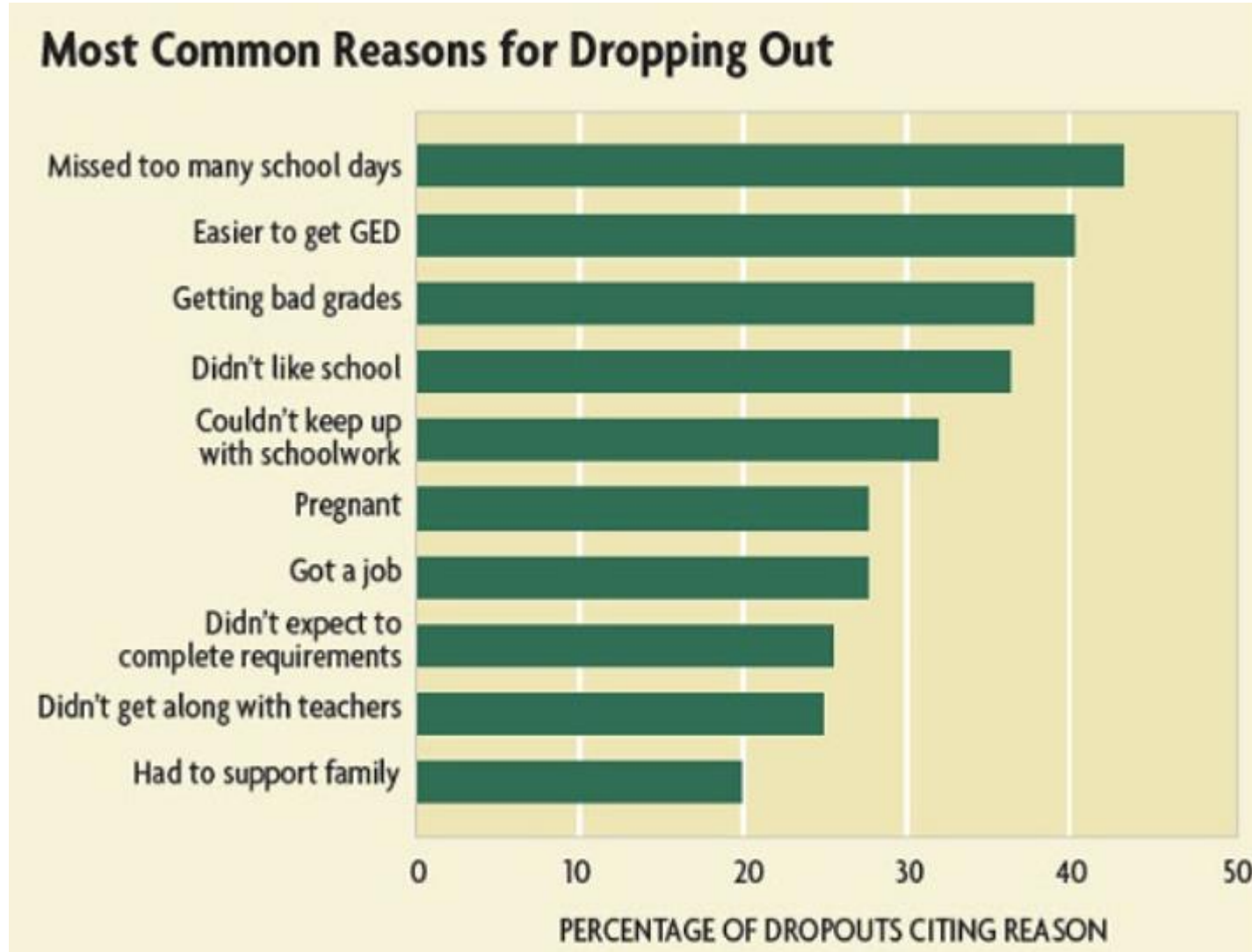
Honorable Ann B. Harris
Chief Judge, Superior Court of Cobb County

September 22, 2025

SASCC: Addressing the Canary



Addressing the Barriers



Source: Richmond Federal Reserve

Cobb SASCC Protocol Development

- **Collaboration among key stakeholders to develop roles and responsibilities within the protocol:** school district representatives, the local DFACS office, Juvenile Court Judges, Administrator and Staff Attorney.
- **Consultation to refine protocols and ensure alignment with the statute:** Juvenile Court Judge and designees worked with Superior Court Chief Judge and Court Administrator.
- **Committee Launched January 29, 2025:** Superior Court Chief Judge Ann Harris convenes first official meeting of the Cobb County SASCC
- **Protocol Adopted:** SASCC written protocol signed and formally adopted and distributed to local educational agencies and the Department of Education.

Key Takeaways



Identify authoritative positions from each agency required by statute.

Who will sign the protocol?



Identify key staff within participating agencies who possess operational knowledge of key content areas.

Who will coordinate the facilitation of committee meetings and operations?



Identify staff member(s) responsible for coordinating development of SASCC protocol.

Leverage assistance of Superior Court Chief Judge and Juvenile Court Judge in convening stakeholders



Evidence tells us that absenteeism results in learning loss and poor work habits

In turn, this affects the development of our community's future workforce.

Cobb: Post Protocol Signing Activity

- **Selected SASCC Committee Leadership:**

Chair - Juvenile Court Judge Wayne Grannis

Co-Chair - Juvenile Court Judge Amber Patterson

Secretary - Juvenile Court Sr Staff Attorney Jill Roth

- **Created Two Subcommittees:** Mandatory participation by all SASCC members.

- **Convened Second SASCC Meeting in July:**

Legislative update (SB 123 and HB 268)

CCSD provided absentee data and overview of functions and responsibilities of school social workers; highlighted Ga DOE “Insights” website for statewide information sharing.

- **Applied for CJCC grant funds** to assist with implementing community-based risk reduction panel and to provide services to middle and high school children in juvenile court truancy cases.

Two SASCC Subcommittees in Cobb

- **Subcommittee to Identify and Address Barriers to Attendance and to Improving School Climate:**
 - Focus is on collecting and analyzing data related to school attendance and climate
 - Data to be presented and discussed at next subcommittee meeting
- **Subcommittee to Identify Community Resources and Responses Available to Combat Chronic Absenteeism and Improve School Climate:**
 - Focus is on compiling comprehensive list of community resource information and data
 - Information to be presented at next subcommittee meeting.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2025

Next Steps for Cobb Committee

- Identify schools within Cobb that meet the 15% local school attendance team threshold.
- Review coordination strategies of local student attendance teams.
- Explore how to incorporate students and families in SASCC Subcommittees.
- Discuss workplan for updating Protocol to reflect SB 123 changes and updated local plans (due November 2026).
- Establish “Project Pivot:” a multiagency community-based risk reduction panel involving juvenile court staff, schools, social services, parents, and community agencies to collaboratively address the root causes of truancy.