

House Bill 1208

By: Representatives Orrock of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Taylor of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 133<sup>rd</sup>, Jamieson of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Porter of the 143<sup>rd</sup> and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for salary increases for certain school  
3 social workers who are certified as Certified School Social Worker Specialists; to provide  
4 for leave for preparing documentation required for certification; to provide for  
5 reimbursement of the program participation fee; to provide for repayment in certain  
6 circumstances; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
7 purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
11 secondary education, is amended by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code  
12 Section 20-2-212.4 to read as follows:

13 "20-2-212.4.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, 'national certification' means certification as a Certified  
15 School Social Worker Specialist by the National Association of Social Workers.

16 (b) Any person who:

17 (1) Is currently a school social worker in a Georgia public school and holds a valid  
18 Georgia professional service certificate in school social work;

19 (2) Has completed three years of employment as a school social worker in Georgia  
20 public schools;

21 (3) Has not previously received state funds for participating in any certification area in  
22 the national certification program; and

23 (4) Has successfully completed the requirements for and has received national  
24 certification

25 shall receive not less than a 10 percent increase annually in state salary for each year such  
26 person holds national certification. Such increase shall be awarded at the commencement

1 of the school year following such national certification, and each such year thereafter. The  
2 increase in state salary provided by this Code section shall be in addition to any other  
3 increase for which the person is eligible.

4 (c) A school social worker shall be granted two days of approved paid leave to prepare the  
5 documentation required for national certification.

6 (d) The state shall reimburse a school social worker for the national certification program  
7 participation fee upon certification if the school social worker is eligible for a salary  
8 increase pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section.

9 (e) A school social worker for whom the State of Georgia pays the participation fee and  
10 who does not serve as a social worker in a Georgia public school for at least one year after  
11 receiving national certification shall repay the participation fee to the state. Repayment is  
12 not required if the school social worker is unable to complete the additional year of school  
13 social work due to the death or disability of the school social worker."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.