

Senate Bill 596

By: Senators Mangham of the 55th, Jones II of the 22nd, Wicks of the 34th, Parkes of the 7th and Orrock of the 36th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 9 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to grants for educational programs under the "Quality Basic education  
3 Act," so as to require the State Board of Education to establish a program of state-wide  
4 coordinated support for summer literacy programs offered by local school systems and other  
5 public schools; to provide for eligibility for such program; to require the Department of  
6 Education to develop a plan to implement such program and to submit such plan to the  
7 General Assembly; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Part 9 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
12 relating to grants for educational programs under the "Quality Basic education Act," is  
13 amended by revising Code Section 20-2-255, which is reserved, as follows:

14 "20-2-255.

15 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a program of state-wide coordinated  
16 support for summer literacy programs offered by local school systems and other public

17 schools to students in kindergarten through grade three. The program shall include, but  
18 shall not be limited to, grants for eligible local school systems and other public schools.

19 (b) To be eligible to receive grant funds under the program established pursuant to this  
20 Code section, local school systems and other public schools shall submit an application to  
21 the Department of Education on a form and in a manner determined by the Department of  
22 Education, which details:

23 (1) The summer literacy program or programs to be offered to students in kindergarten  
24 through grade three;

25 (2) How only high quality instructional materials and instructional practices aligned to  
26 the science of reading shall be used;

27 (3) How student progress will be measured; and

28 (4) What particular strategies will be deployed to provide prioritized supports for  
29 students who are identified as significantly at risk of not attaining grade level reading  
30 proficiency, as provided for in Code Section 20-2-153.1.

31 (c)(1) By November 1, 2026, the Department of Education shall consult with local  
32 school systems and other public schools, the Office of Student Achievement, and the  
33 regional educational services agencies (RESAs) to develop a plan for implementing the  
34 program required by this Code section. Such plan shall:

35 (A) Include a request for appropriations sufficient to provide for the program required  
36 by this Code section and a proposal for the most effective method of awarding grants  
37 to local school systems and other public schools in order to maximize positive impacts  
38 on student progress; and

39 (B) Detail how:

40 (i) The Department of Education, working in conjunction with local school systems  
41 and other public schools, the Office of Student Achievement, and the regional  
42 educational services agencies (RESAs), will provide state-wide coordinated support

43 for summer literacy programs offered by local school systems and other public  
44 schools to students in kindergarten through grade three;

45 (ii) Existing state and federal funding sources may be used for purposes of the  
46 program;

47 (iii) Additional appropriations by the General Assembly would be used for purposes  
48 of the program;

49 (iv) Students who are identified as significantly at risk of not attaining grade level  
50 reading proficiency, as provided for in Code Section 20-2-153.1, will receive  
51 prioritized supports; and

52 (v) Student progress will be measured and reported by local school systems and other  
53 public schools to the Department of Education.

54 (2) The plan required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be provided by  
55 November 1, 2026 to the chairpersons of the House Committee on Education, the Senate  
56 Education and Youth Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the  
57 Senate Appropriations Committee. Reserved."

58 **SECTION 2.**

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