

**ADOPTED**

Senator Hickman of the 4th offered the following amendment:

1 *Amend the House substitute to SB 464 (LC 55 0302S) by replacing lines 1 through the end*  
2 *with following:*

3 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to  
4 revise the "Georgia Early Literacy Act"; to provide for five members of the Georgia Council  
5 on Literacy to be designated as voting members; to revise provisions for constituting a  
6 quorum for such council to conduct business; to provide for the identification of up to five  
7 universal reading screeners, one of which shall be a free universal reading screener, for use  
8 by public schools and local school systems; to provide for approval of a memorandum of  
9 agreement; to provide for the adoption, use, and administration of a universal reading  
10 screener; to establish the School Supplies for Educators Program, subject to appropriation  
11 by the General Assembly and the availability of other funds for such purpose; to provide for  
12 a short title; to require the State Board of Education to establish a program for the  
13 Department of Education to allocate funds for eligible educators to purchase school supplies  
14 online; to require the State Board of Education to establish policies, rules, and regulations;  
15 to provide for the State School Superintendent, in collaboration with the Department of  
16 Administrative Services, to identify one or more authorized software services providers to  
17 offer and support a user-friendly online ecommerce platform for educators to purchase school  
18 supplies; to require the Department of Education to establish processes for implementation  
19 of the program; to provide for educator eligibility to participate in the program; to provide  
20 for local school systems and public schools to certify educator eligibility; to provide for  
21 definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal  
22 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

24 **SECTION 1.**

25 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in  
26 Article 4 of Chapter 1, relating to Council on Literacy, by revising subsection (b) of Code  
27 Section 20-1-43, relating to meetings, transacting business, and expenses, as follows:

28 "(b)(1) From among the members provided for in Code Section 20-1-42, five shall be  
29 designated as an executive committee of voting members of the council as follows:

30 (A) One designated by the Governor;

31 (B) One designated by the President of the Senate;

32 (C) One designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

33 (D) The member who is the representative of the State Board of Education appointed  
34 by the Governor as provided in subparagraph (a)(1)(C) of Code Section 20-1-42; and

35 (E) The chairperson of the council, who shall serve as the chairperson of such  
36 executive committee.

37 (2) A quorum for transacting business of the council shall be a majority of the voting  
38 members of the council provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection."

39 **SECTION 2.**

40 Said title is further amended by adding two new paragraphs to subsection (b), revising  
41 subsection (c), and repealing and reserving subparagraph (d)(3)(B) of Code Section  
42 20-2-153.1, relating to Georgia Early Literacy, definitions, uniform grade appropriate metrics  
43 to measure literacy, role of school boards, and accommodations, to read as follows:

44 "(1.1) 'Center' means the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy.

45 (1.2) 'Council' means the Georgia Council on Literacy."

46 (c)(1) The board, in consultation with the department and the Office of Student  
47 Achievement, shall establish such policies, rules, and regulations as necessary to  
48 implement uniform grade-appropriate metrics for measuring literacy.

49 (2)(A) As soon as practicable but not later than January 1, 2024, the board shall:

50 (i)(A) Approve high-quality instructional materials to be used for teaching students in  
51 kindergarten through third grade to read; and

52 (ii)(B) Establish a procedure for each public school and local school system to annually  
53 certify to the department that such school or school system's locally approved  
54 instructional materials and content, as defined in subsection (a) of Code Section  
55 20-2-1017, constitute high-quality instructional materials.

56 (3)(A) As soon as practicable but not later than January 1, 2024, the department shall  
57 establish qualifications, time lines, and submission procedures for education service  
58 providers to submit one or more universal reading screeners to be considered for  
59 inclusion on the board's list of approved universal reading screener providers provided  
60 for in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

61 (B) As soon as practicable but not later than July 1, 2024, the board shall approve the  
62 memorandum of agreement between the council and the department, as provided for  
63 in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4) of this subsection, for a list of no more than five  
64 universal reading screeners, one of which shall be a free universal reading screener, for  
65 use by public schools and local school systems as part of their comprehensive literacy  
66 programs which meet the following criteria:

67 (i) Capable of providing relevant information to assist teachers with targeting  
68 instruction based on student needs;

69 (ii) Capable of measuring foundational literacy skills;

70 (iii) Capable of identifying students who have a significant reading deficiency,  
71 including, but not limited to, identifying students with characteristics of dyslexia;

72 (iv) Prescribed parameters on the time required to administer a universal reading  
73 screener with the primary objective of such prescription being to minimize impacts  
74 on instructional time; and

75 (v) Capable of progress monitoring.

76 (4)(A) As soon as practicable but not later than ~~August 1~~ July 15, 2024, the department  
77 shall publish on its public website ~~a list of board approved providers of universal~~  
78 ~~reading screeners for use by public schools and local school systems, including the free~~  
79 ~~universal reading screener provided by the department~~ and the list of other approved  
80 universal reading screeners, one of which each public school and local school system  
81 shall adopt and administer in order to comply with the requirements of subparagraph  
82 (d)(3)(C) of this Code section.

83 (B) The ~~department shall provide~~ council, in collaboration with the center and the  
84 Office of Planning and Budget, shall identify a free universal reading screener that  
85 meets the criteria established by the board as provided in subparagraph (B) of  
86 paragraph (3) of this subsection. The council shall enter into a memorandum of  
87 agreement with the department to make such ~~Such~~ universal reading screener ~~shall be~~  
88 ~~made~~ available for use free of charge to public schools and local school systems ~~and~~  
89 ~~shall be included on the list provided for in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.~~

90 (5) The department shall, in consultation with the University System of Georgia, the  
91 Professional Standards Commission, the Office of Student Achievement, Georgia's  
92 Regional Education Service Agencies, and literacy experts, develop or procure one or  
93 more training programs for kindergarten through third grade teachers on the science of  
94 reading, structured literacy, and foundational literacy skills that enable students to  
95 develop reading skills required to meet state standards in literacy. Such training  
96 programs shall be developed or procured to promote teachers' knowledge and skills for  
97 teaching all students to read, including students with dyslexia, and to ensure teachers

98 have the knowledge and skills necessary to use approved universal reading screeners and  
99 to use assessment data to inform instruction based on student needs.

100 (6) The department shall provide technical assistance to aid public schools and local  
101 school systems in implementing the provisions of this Code section.

102 (7) Beginning April 1, 2026, the department shall provide an annual report on the  
103 impacts of the implementation of the provisions of this Code section, including, but not  
104 limited to, reporting the results by school and school system of:

105 (A) The research based formative assessments with a summative component that is tied  
106 to performance indicators in English language arts and reading in grades one and two  
107 provided for in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-281;

108 (B) The comprehensive summative assessment program for third grade students  
109 provided for in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-281;

110 (C) The nationally ~~norm-referenced~~ norm-referenced instruments in reading for third  
111 grade students provided for in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-281; and

112 (D) The formative reading assessments for first and second grade students provided for  
113 in Code Section 20-2-280.

114 Such report shall also include analyses of the ~~the~~ impact of use of universal reading  
115 screeners, the use of high-quality instructional materials, and instructional practices  
116 grounded in the science of reading. Such report shall be provided to the Governor, the  
117 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairperson of  
118 the House Committee on Education, the Senate Education and Youth Committee, the  
119 House Committee on Higher Education, the Senate Higher Education Committee, and the  
120 board, and shall be made available on the department's website for access by the public."

121 **SECTION 3.**

122 Said title is further amended in Article 17 of Chapter 2, relating to teachers and other school  
123 personnel, by adding a new part to read as follows:

124 "Part 13

125 20-2-989.30.

126 This part shall be known and may be cited as the 'School Supplies for Educators Act.'

127 20-2-989.31.

128 As used in this part, the term:

129 (1) 'Authorized ecommerce vendor' means an ecommerce vendor that has been approved  
130 by the Department of Education in accordance with policies, rules, and regulations  
131 established by the State Board of Education.

132 (2) 'Ecommerce' means a commercial transaction, which may include the transmission  
133 of funds or data or both, conducted electronically via the internet.

134 (3) 'Eligible educator' means a teacher, paraprofessional, or school administrator  
135 employed in good standing at a public school in this state.

136 (4) 'School Supplies for Educators Program' or 'program' means the program established  
137 pursuant to this part to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible educators  
138 who purchase school supplies online as provided in this part.

139 (5) 'User' means an eligible educator who is certified by a participating local school  
140 system or public school as eligible to participate in the program and who has a user  
141 account.

142 (6) 'User account' means the unique platform account assigned by the Department of  
143 Education to each eligible educator.

144 20-2-989.32.

145 (a) The School Supplies for Educators Program is established to provide financial and  
146 technical assistance to educators who purchase school supplies online as provided in this  
147 part.

148 (b) The requirements of this part shall be subject to appropriation of funds by the General  
149 Assembly or the availability of other funds for such purpose.

150 20-2-989.33.

151 (a) The State Board of Education shall:

152 (1) Establish a program for the Department of Education to allocate funds for eligible  
153 educators to be used at the discretion of such educators for the online purchase of school  
154 supplies as provided in this part;

155 (2) Establish such policies, rules, and regulations as necessary for the implementation  
156 of this part; and

157 (3) Authorize the State School Superintendent, in collaboration with the Department of  
158 Administrative Services, to identify one or more authorized software services providers  
159 to offer and support a user-friendly online ecommerce platform that:

160 (A) Processes the allocation of funds by the Department of Education to the user  
161 accounts of eligible educators for the online purchase of school supplies from  
162 authorized ecommerce vendors; and

163 (B) Includes appropriate fiscal management and payment systems and reporting and  
164 training tools, as required by the State Board of Education.

165 (b) The Department of Education shall:

166 (1) Ensure that purchases using program funds are restricted to online purchases of  
167 school supplies from authorized ecommerce vendors;

168 (2) Promulgate guidelines and provide technical assistance to facilitate local school  
169 systems, public schools, and educators utilizing the program and to ensure program  
170 purchases are restricted to allowable expenses; and

171 (3) Establish processes as necessary for the implementation of the program consistent  
172 with the provisions of this part and with the policies, rules, and regulations of the State  
173 Board of Education.

174 (c) Each local school system or public school shall certify, as required by the Department  
175 of Education, the eligibility of each educator employed by such local school system or  
176 public school who requests a user account; provided, however, that to be eligible for a user  
177 account an educator shall be employed in good standing at a public school."

178 **SECTION 4.**

179 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
180 without such approval.

181 **SECTION 5.**

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