

House Bill 200

By: Representatives Bazemore of the 69<sup>th</sup>, Ballard of the 147<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Miller of the 62<sup>nd</sup>, Jones of the 25<sup>th</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 the State Board of Education to  
3 establish a three-year pilot immersive writing program for eligible public elementary schools;  
4 to provide for eligibility; to provide for grant funds for eligible public elementary schools to  
5 develop and implement immersive writing programs for students in grades two through five;  
6 to provide for applications and selection to participate in the pilot program; to provide for  
7 assessment and reporting on the impacts of the pilot program; to authorize the State Board  
8 of Education to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the pilot program; to provide  
9 for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal  
10 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
14 secondary education, is amended in Article 7, relating to additional state aid, by designating  
15 Code Sections 20-2-330 through 20-2-334 as Part 1 and by adding a new part to read as  
16 follows:

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"Part 220-2-335.

(a)(1) The State Board of Education shall establish a pilot immersive writing program for students in grades two through five in order to:

(A) Provide funding for all public school students in grades two through five to participate in programs that provide for immersive writing experiences that are aligned with writing standards established by the State Board of Education and can be integrated into existing curricula;

(B) Improve literacy skills of elementary school students and motivate them to engage in writing projects; and

(C) Study the impacts of such pilot writing program.

(2) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the pilot program shall include funding for up to \$2 million in grants each school year, for up to three school years beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, to participating public elementary schools.

(3) To be eligible to participate in the pilot program, a public elementary school shall:

(A) Serve students in any grades two through five; and

(B) By January 1, 2026, submit an application to participate in the pilot program, which application shall include such school's statement of intent for the use of grant funds.

(4) The State Board of Education shall establish pilot program requirements and criteria for selecting eligible public schools to participate in the pilot program in accordance with the provisions of this Code section.

(5) The State Board of Education shall be authorized to establish reporting requirements for the public schools participating in the pilot program.

(6) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Code section.

43 (b)(1) By October 1, 2025, the Department of Education shall develop an application  
44 process and seek applications from eligible public schools for the pilot program to be  
45 submitted no later than January 1, 2026.

46 (2)(A) The Department of Education shall monitor and annually assess the status of the  
47 pilot program with cooperation and input from the public schools and local school  
48 systems participating in the pilot program.

49 (B) Beginning no later than June 1, 2027, and by June 1 of each year thereafter, the  
50 Department of Education shall provide to the State Board of Education a report of the  
51 annual assessment provided for in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

52 (c) This Code section shall stand repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2029."

53 **SECTION 2.**

54 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

55 **SECTION 3.**

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