

House Bill 200

By: Representatives Bazemore of the 69th, Ballard of the 147th, Hugley of the 141st, Miller of the 62nd, Jones of the 25th, 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 2

18 20-2-335.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (6) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
42 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.