

House Bill 912

By: Representatives Wilkerson of the 38<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Carter of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, Ballard of the 147<sup>th</sup>, Cox of the 28<sup>th</sup>, and others

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 provide for up to \$500,000.00 in matching grants by the State Board of  
4 Education to local units of administration for the purpose of providing home reading  
5 programs for students in kindergarten through fourth grade; to authorize the State Board of  
6 Education to receive and administer federal funds for such grants; to provide for eligibility;  
7 to require the State Board of Education to develop rules and regulations; to provide for  
8 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other 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 adding a new Code section to read as follows:

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14 "20-2-259.1.

15 (a) Subject to available funding, the State Board of Education shall provide matching  
16 grants to qualified local units of administration to provide an eligible home reading  
17 program for students in kindergarten through fourth grade. Such matching grant funds  
18 shall be distributed by the Department of Education.

19 (b) A home reading program is eligible for matching grant funds provided pursuant to this  
20 Code section if it is provided in partnership with an affiliated local unit of administration  
21 by a nonprofit organization that meets the following requirements:

22 (1) Delivers an evidence based, self-selected reading program consisting of independent  
23 reading level books that are individually mailed to the residences of or made available for  
24 electronic download to students in kindergarten through fourth grade on a weekly basis;

25 (2) Incorporates at least weekly telephone calls, texts, or application notifications in  
26 multiple languages to a parent or guardian to drive parental and family engagement  
27 throughout the duration of the program;

28 (3) Builds on pedagogical principles of literacy instruction to scaffold fluency and  
29 improve reading comprehension with student exercises;

30 (4) Includes a customizable portal to generate individualized data reports for analysis of  
31 student progress by program providers, affiliated local units of administration, and  
32 parents and guardians;

33 (5) Collects, disaggregates, and distributes detailed data on all metrics of the program,  
34 such as engagement of parents or guardians, books read, and allowable demographic data;

35 (6) Provides a summary of data on all students served by the program to the Department  
36 of Education;

37 (7) Agrees to secure the required matching funds from the participating local unit of  
38 administration and maintain auditable verification of the receipt; and

39 (8) The combined total cost of the program, including district matching funds, does not  
40 exceed \$50.00 per student per semester.

41 (c) The total amount of matching grant funds provided by the State Board of Education  
42 pursuant to this Code section shall not exceed \$500,000.00 each state fiscal year.

43 (d) The State Board of Education is authorized to receive and administer federal funds to  
44 provide matching grant funds pursuant to this Code section. The Department of Education  
45 shall serve as a state level flow through point for any available federal funding.

46 (e) The State Board of Education shall prescribe criteria, policies, and standards deemed  
47 necessary for the effective implementation of this Code section."

48 **SECTION 2.**

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