

Senate Bill 464

By: Senators Dixon of the 45th, Payne of the 54th, Still of the 48th, Echols of the 49th,  
Anavitarte of the 31st and others

**AS PASSED SENATE**

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 revise the "Georgia Early Literacy Act"; to  
3 establish the School Supplies for Educators Program, subject to appropriation by the General  
4 Assembly and the availability of other funds for such purpose; to provide for a short title; to  
5 require the State Board of Education to establish a program for the Department of Education  
6 to allocate funds for eligible educators to purchase school supplies online; to require the State  
7 Board of Education to establish policies, rules, and regulations; to provide for the State  
8 School Superintendent, in collaboration with the Department of Administrative Services, to  
9 identify one or more authorized software services providers to offer and support a  
10 user-friendly online ecommerce platform for educators to purchase school supplies; to  
11 require the Department of Education to establish processes for implementation of the  
12 program; to provide for educator eligibility to participate in the program; to provide for local  
13 school systems and public schools to certify educator eligibility; to provide for definitions;  
14 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
15 for other purposes.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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17

**SECTION 1.**

18 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
 19 secondary education, is amended by adding a two new paragraphs to subsection (b), revising  
 20 subparagraphs (c)(3)(B), (c)(4)(A), and (c)(4)(B), and repealing and reserving subparagraph  
 21 (d)(3)(B) of Code Section 20-2-153.1, relating to Georgia Early Literacy, definitions,  
 22 uniform grade appropriate metrics to measure literacy, role of school boards, and  
 23 accommodations, to read as follows:

24 "(1.1) 'Center' means the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy.

25 (1.2) 'Council' means the Georgia Council on Literacy."

26 "(B) ~~By May 15, 2024~~ As soon as practicable but not later than July 1, 2024, the board  
 27 shall approve the memorandum of agreement between the council and the department,  
 28 as provided for in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4) of this subsection, for a free a list  
 29 of universal reading screeners ~~screeener to be used for use~~ by public schools and local  
 30 school systems as part of their comprehensive literacy programs which meet the  
 31 following criteria:"

32 "(4)(A) ~~As soon as practicable but not later than August~~ By June 1, 2024, the  
 33 department shall publish on its public website a list of board approved providers of  
 34 universal reading screeners for use by public schools and local school systems,  
 35 including the free universal reading screener provided by the department that each  
 36 public school and local school system shall adopt and administer in order to comply  
 37 with the requirements of subparagraph (d)(3)(C) of this Code section.

38 (B) The ~~department shall provide~~ council, in collaboration with the center and the  
 39 Office of Planning and Budget, shall identify a universal reading screener that meets  
 40 the criteria established by the board as provided in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3)  
 41 of this subsection. The council shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the  
 42 department to make such ~~Such~~ universal reading screener ~~shall be made~~ available for

43 use free of charge to public schools and local school systems ~~and shall be included on~~  
44 ~~the list provided for in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph."~~

45 **SECTION 2.**

46 Said chapter is further amended in Article 17, relating to teachers and other school personnel,  
47 is amended by adding a new part to read as follows:

48 "Part 13

49 20-2-989.30.

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

51 20-2-989.31.

52 As used in this part, the term:

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

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

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

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

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

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

68 20-2-989.32.

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

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

74 20-2-989.33.

75 (a) The State Board of Education shall:

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

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

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

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

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

89 (b) The Department of Education shall:

- 90 (1) Ensure that purchases using program funds are restricted to online purchases of  
91 school supplies from authorized ecommerce vendors;
- 92 (2) Promulgate guidelines and provide technical assistance to facilitate local school  
93 systems, public schools, and educators utilizing the program and to ensure program  
94 purchases are restricted to allowable expenses; and
- 95 (3) Establish processes as necessary for the implementation of the program consistent  
96 with the provisions of this part and with the policies, rules, and regulations of the State  
97 Board of Education.
- 98 (c) Each local school system or public school shall certify, as required by the Department  
99 of Education, the eligibility of each educator employed by such local school system or  
100 public school who requests a user account; provided, that to be eligible for a user account  
101 an educator shall be employed in good standing at a public school."

102

**SECTION 3.**

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

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**SECTION 4.**

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