

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the
2 "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to establish the Refugee and International Students
3 Equalization (RISE) program to provide for funding and wraparound services for eligible
4 students; to provide for the definition of "international student"; to establish a program
5 weight and teacher-student ratio for the RISE program in the QBE funding formula; to
6 provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Quality
11 Basic Education Act," is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "20-2-156.1.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'international student' means any school-age
14 child, regardless of his or her citizenship or immigration status, who:

15 (1) Was born outside of the United States;

16 (2) Currently resides in this state;

17 (3) Is currently enrolled in a public school in this state; and

18 (4) Within the previous 36 months, enrolled for the first time in a public school in this
19 state.

20 Such term shall include, but shall not be limited to, unaccompanied alien, asylum seeking,
21 and refugee children, as defined under federal immigration law, who meet the criteria set
22 forth in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this subsection.

23 (b) The State Board of Education shall create a program for international students, subject
24 to appropriation by the General Assembly. The purpose of such program is to provide
25 wraparound services, including education, housing, medical, counseling, nutrition, and
26 transportation services, directly to international students to support their elementary and
27 secondary education. The State Board of Education shall prescribe such rules and
28 regulations regarding eligibility criteria and standards as may be needed to carry out the
29 provisions of this Code section. This program may also be referred to as the Refugee and
30 International Students Equalization (RISE) program."

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-161, relating to the Quality Basic
33 Education Formula, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

34 "(b) As the cost of instructional programs varies depending upon the teacher-student ratios
35 and specific services typically required to address the special needs of students enrolled,
36 state authorized instructional programs shall have the following program weights and
37 teacher-student ratios:

38	(1) Kindergarten program.	1.6724
39		weight and
40		1 to 15
41		ratio
42	(2) Kindergarten early intervention program.	2.0678
43		weight and
44		1 to 11
45		ratio
46	(3) Primary grades program (1-3).	1.2948
47		weight and
48		1 to 17
49		ratio
50	(4) Primary grades early intervention program (1-3).	1.8180
51		weight and
52		1 to 11
53		ratio
54	(5) Upper elementary grades program (4-5).	1.0390
55		weight and
56		1 to 23
57		ratio

58	(6) Upper elementary grades early intervention program (4-5).	1.8125
59		weight and
60		1 to 11
61		ratio
62	(7) Middle school program (6-8)...	1.1380
63		weight and
64		1 to 20
65		ratio
66	(8) High school general education program (9-12)	1.0000
67		weight and
68		1 to 23
69		ratio
70	(9) Career, technical, and agricultural education	
71	laboratory program (9-12).	1.1830
72		weight and
73		1 to 20
74		ratio
75	(10) Program for persons with disabilities:	
76	Category I...	2.4118
77		weight and
78		1 to 8
79		ratio

80 (11) Program for persons with disabilities:
81 Category II. 2.8402
82 weight and
83 1 to 6.5
84 ratio

85 (12) Program for persons with disabilities:
86 Category III. 3.6188
87 weight and
88 1 to 5
89 ratio

90 (13) Program for persons with disabilities:
91 Category IV. 5.8710
92 weight and
93 1 to 3
94 ratio

95 (14) Program for persons with disabilities:
96 Category V. 2.4737
97 weight and
98 1 to 8
99 ratio

100	(15) Program for intellectually gifted students:	
101	Category VI.	1.6794
102		weight and
103		1 to 12
104		ratio
105	(16) Remedial education program	1.3576
106		weight and
107		1 to 15
108		ratio
109	(17) Alternative education program	1.4881
110		weight and
111		1 to 15
112		ratio
113	(18) English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) program	2.5892
114		weight and
115		1 to 7
116		ratio
117	<u>(19) Refugee and International Students Equalization (RISE) program.</u>	<u>1.2000</u>
118		<u>weight and</u>
119		<u>1 to 7</u>
120		<u>ratio"</u>

121

SECTION 3.

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This Act shall become effective July 1, 2024, and shall be applicable beginning in the

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2025-2026 school year and each school year thereafter.

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SECTION 4.

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